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persevere

persevere, persist are both used in reference to persons in the sense of to continue in a given course in the face of difficulty or opposition. Persevere nearly always implies an admirable quality; it suggests both refusal to be discouraged by failure, doubts, or difficulties, and a steadfast or dogged pursuit of an end or an undertaking (I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood—Shak.) (for, strength to persevere and to support, and energy to conquer and repel—these elements of virtue, that declare the native grandeur of the human soul—Wordsworth) (I do not intend to take that cowardly course, but, on the contrary, to stand to my post and persevere in accordance with my duty—Sir Winston Churchill) Persist (see also continue) may imply a virtue (this is the poetry within history, this is what causes mankind to persist beyond every defeat—J. S. Untermeyer) but it more often suggests a disagreeable or annoying quality, for it stresses stubbornness or obstinacy more than courage or patience and frequently implies opposition to advice, remonstrance, disapproval, or one’s own conscience (persist in working when ill) (it is hard to see how they can have persisted so long in inflicting useless misery—Russell)

Ana *continue, abide, endure, last

Con vary, *change, alter: waver, vacillate, falter, *hesitate

persiflage *badinage, raillery

Ana bantering or banter, chaffing or chaff (see BANTER): ridiculing or ridicule, twitting, deriding or derision (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

persist 1 *persevere

Ant desist —Con discontinue, cease, *stop, quit

2 *continue, last, endure, abide

Ant desist —Con *stop, cease, discontinue

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WEBSTER'S NEW DICTIONARY OF SYNONYMS is newly edited and entirely reset but based upon Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms, which rapidly became a favorite book among readers and writers who wish to understand, appreciate, and make nice discriminations in English words that are similar in meaning. The earlier book filled a widespread need for a work devoted to synonymy with accessory material in the form of word lists of various kinds. The editors of this new and revised edition have rewritten and sharpened the discriminations, have increased the number of articles, and have more than doubled the number of authors quoted. Particular attention has been given to updating the quotations so that they accurately reflect today's English.

The core of this book is the discriminating articles. It is not its purpose to assemble mere word-finding lists for consultants with but a vague notion of the sort of word they seek, but rather to provide them with the means of making clear comparisons between words of a common denotation and to enable them to distinguish the differences in implications, connotations, and applications among such words and to choose for their purposes the precisely suitable words. (Compare the discussion of Roget's aims beginning on page 14a following.) In addition to the central core of discriminations this book provides auxiliary information of three types, in the form of analogous words, antonyms, and contrasted words. These three types are explained on pages 26a–31a.

Every word discussed in an article of synonymy is entered in its own alphabetical place and is followed by a list of its synonyms, with a reference (by means of an asterisk or a direction introduced by "see") to the entry where the discussion of these listed words is to be found. The words listed as analogous and those listed as contrasted are always displayed in groups, each group having a clear reference (asterisk or "see") to the term under which an article of synonymy is to be found.

The writing of the articles has been done chiefly by two associate editors of the Merriam-Webster editorial staff: Dr. Philip H. Goepp and Dr. Mairé Weir Kay. Their principal assistants were Miss Ervina E. Foss, in charge of cross-referencing, and Mr. E. Ward Gilman, in charge of proofreading, both assistant editors. Mrs. Betty Meltzer was the principal editorial assistant. Some of the articles on scientific terms were written by Mr. Hubert P. Kelsey, associate editor. All of these editors took part in the editing of Webster's Third New International Dictionary. The historical survey and the introductory analysis of the problems and issues in the field of English synonymy are largely the work of the late Rose F. Egan, sometime assistant editor, and have been taken over from the first edition with only minor changes. To her clear analysis and understanding this book still owes much of its quality although all of her discriminations have been revised in varying degrees.

PHILIP B. GOVE
Editor in Chief
INTRODUCTORY MATTER

SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH SYNONYM

Consultation of a work on synonyms is made easier if the consultant has a reasonable background of the theory and of the technique that have developed since the first English synonymy was published. The following essay [first published in 1942] is, so far as we know, the first attempt to survey broadly the course of that development from its beginnings to the present. It is not intended to be exhaustive. Some good books have been published which have not been specifically discussed because they have played no essential part in this development or have advanced no new ideas which, by challenging attention or debate, have led to further clarification of the problems involved. The purpose of this article has been primarily not to praise or to denounce but to lead up to the exposition of principles which have dominated the writing of this book. These principles, we believe, are founded upon the practice of those who have seen and known clearly what could be accomplished by a book of synonyms: there are others who disagree, but we have tried to present their case fairly.

It was not until the second half of the eighteenth century that the first book on synonyms appeared in English. The Rev. John Trusler (1735–1820) was its author, The Difference between Words Esteemed Synonymous its title, and 1766 its date. Its source is definitely established. In 1718, the Abbé Gabriel Girard (1677–1748) had published in France La Justesse de la langue francçoise ou les Différentes significations des mots qui passent pour être synonymes, a work which had great vogue not only in France but also abroad, especially in England. That Trusler's book was based upon it is evidenced not only by the likeness of the titles but also (in the first edition) by an English version of Girard's preface and by the admission in the author's preface that he had translated as much of the articles as was in keeping with the peculiar genius of the English language. The second edition of 1783, however, increases the divergence between the two books: the prefaces are consolidated and the result is given as the work of the author, although many passages from Girard are included without being quoted. There are, too, many new articles dealing with peculiarly British terms, such as those which concern the church and daily life in England; but these, although they represent an enrichment of vocabulary, add little to the originality of the work, which still remains an imitation. A clear-cut distinction which sharply reveals the meanings of synonymous French terms often becomes a forced distinction when applied to English. In fact, Trusler never knew whether it was his aim to point out the “delicate differences between words reputed synonymous” or to give the particular idea of each word “which constitutes its proper and particular character.” He claims both aims as one, not realizing that often they are divergent.

The next significant work was the British Synonymy of Hester Lynch Piozzi (1741–1821), better known as Mrs. Thrale, the close friend of Dr. Johnson. It first appeared in 1794 and was succeeded by at least two editions, the best known of which was published in Paris in 1804. That it was immediately popular is evident from the testimony of its 1804 editors, who asserted its merits on the ground of “the successive editions it has passed through being the best proof of the estimation in which it is held.” That it was not written without a knowledge of Girard's work we know on the authority of these same editors.

The editors imply, however, that Mrs. Piozzi's work is something better than had yet been given to the public. “But it was only in the year 1794,” they continue, in a tone that implies contempt for the “imitation,” “that Mrs. Piozzi (formerly Mrs. Thrale) so well known in the literary world for her different publications, and her intimacy with the learned Dr. Johnson, brought out the work we have now the pleasure of presenting to our Readers, and which is totally grounded on the structure of the English language.” There is no reason to suppose, however, that she depended much on the influence of Dr. Johnson, who had died in 1784.

Mrs. Piozzi's book reveals an independence of spirit and a feminine disregard of advice. It is, in fact, never profound: it is full of errors or dubious assertions, and it is often absurdly naive. More than this, it frequently takes issue with Dr. Johnson or, in a sprightly manner, casts doubt on his judgments. There

1 Mrs. Piozzi in her own preface (p. vii) mentions Girard and says, “I should be too happy, could I imitate his delicacy of discrimination, and felicity of expression.”
is the story of the milliner’s apprentice who saved her chicken bones to feed a horse. Johnson contended that such an action showed that she was ignorant, but Mrs. Piozzi maintained that it proved her senseless. “I thought her an id\textit{e}ot [sic]” was, for her, the last word on the matter.

Great as was her respect for Dr. Johnson in his own field, she believed that she also had her field and that it was incumbent on her to remain within the limits she had set for herself. Her object is very clear. Like Girard and Trusler, she was distinguishing not synonyms (that is, words identical in meaning) but words so similar in meaning as to be “apparently synonymous.” The subtitle of her book announces her aim and reveals a further limitation of purpose: “An attempt at regulating the choice of words in familiar conversation.” Her preface to the 1794 edition develops these ideas:

If then to the selection of words in conversation and elegant colloquial language a book may give assistance, the Author . . . modestly offers her’s; persuaded that, while men teach to write with propriety, a woman may at worst be qualified—through long practice—to direct the choice of phrases in familiar talk.

Her book, she modestly claimed, is “intended chiefly for a parlour window” and is “unworthy of a place upon a library shelf,” but it may be of help to others “till a more complicated and valuable piece of workmanship be found to further their research.” She wished in particular to help those who desired to converse elegantly and to save foreigners from ridiculous mistakes in speech. “If I can in the course of this little work dispel a doubt, or clear up a difficulty to foreigners . . . I shall have an honour to boast.”

For this reason she could not see that her method of discrimination had much in common with that of the lexicographer and the logician. Theirs was to define: hers was to indicate propriety in the use of words. It was not her intent to establish differences in meaning but to indicate the fitness of words for use, often depending on “the place in which they should stand” but sometimes depending on their relative fineness, strength, force, or the like. She makes a distinction between the methods of the definer and the methods of the synonymist by giving, first, two definitions of the word \textit{fondness}, one from “an eminent logician” and one from Dr. Johnson, and, secondly, by an ideal synonymy in which she reveals the same word’s meaning by showing it in use along with similar words. This was not invariably her method, but it illustrates what in the main she was trying to achieve.

. . . I have before me the definition of \textit{fondness}, given into my hands many years ago by a most eminent logician. . . .

“\textit{Fondness},” says the Definer, “is the hasty and injudicious determination of the will towards promoting the present gratification of some particular object.”

“\textit{Fondness},” said Dr. Johnson, “is rather the hasty and injudicious attribution of excellence, somewhat beyond the power of attainment, to the object of our affection.”

Both these definitions may possibly be included in \textit{fondness}; my own idea of the whole may be found in the following example:

Amintor and Aspasia are models of true love: ‘tis now seven years since their mutual passion was sanctified by marriage; and so little is the lady’s affection diminished, that she sate up nine nights successively last winter by her husband’s bed-side, when he had on him a malignant fever that frighted relations, friends, servants, all away. Nor can any one allege that her tenderness is ill repaid, while we see him gaze upon her features with that \textit{fondness} which is capable of creating charms for itself to admire, and listen to her talk with a fervour of admiration scarce due to the most brilliant genius.

For the rest, ‘tis my opinion that men love for the most part with warmer \textit{passion} than women do—at least than English women, and with more transitory \textit{fondness} mingled with that passion. . . .

It was in her simpler versions of this method that she developed a formula that has been followed by many of her successors in the discriminated synonymy—not always felicitously. We will have opportunity to return to this method later when it becomes an object of attack and will call it for the sake of convenience the Piozzi method. At present let examples of her usage suffice:

\textbf{TO ABANDON, FORSAKE, RELINQUISH, GIVE UP, DESERT, QUIT, LEAVE . . .} though at first sight apparently synonymous, conversing does certainly better shew the peculiar appropriation, than books, however learned; for . . . familiar talk tells us in half an hour—That a man forsakes his mistress, abandons all hope of regaining her lost esteem, relinquishes his pretensions in favour of another . . . we say a lad of an active and diligent spirit, or else of an assiduous temper, or sedulous disposition . . . we say that reports are confirmed, treaties ratified, and affairs settled.

a hard question puzzles a man, and a variety of choice perplexes him: one is confounded by a loud and sudden dissonance of sounds or voices in a still night; embarrassed by a weight of clothes or valuables, if making escape from fire, thieves, or pursuit.

The gentleman who discharges a gaming debt in preference to that of a tradesman, apparently prefers \textit{honour} to another virtue, \textit{justice}. . . .
It seems a fair statement of her aim to say that she was attempting to indicate and establish idiomatic English. However, in determining such English, she had only two tests to apply: the drawing-room usage of her time and her own instinct. To literary use in general she was indifferent. Therefore her judgments are nearly always subjective and sometimes arbitrary. Moreover, she discounted the great help that discrimination of meanings is to the synonymist. "We must not meantime retard our own progress," she wrote in her preface, "with studied definitions of every quality coming under consideration... although the final cause of definition is to fix the true and adequate meaning of words or terms, without knowledge of which we stir not a step in logic; yet here we must not suffer ourselves to be so detained, as synonymy has more to do with elegance than truth..."

Her judgments are often limited or partial, for they represent her personal feelings or the predilections of her age. Yet, within those limits, she frequently hit upon an exact meaning of a word in a particular sense and gave it life and color. What she seldom saw was that a word might have more meanings than the one which was illustrated (as honor in her example of the tradesman) or that a good but narrow instance of use might be taken as idiomatic by her readers (as when by implication puzzle suggests a question or problem needing determination and perplex a variety of choices). The danger of her work is not in the falsity of the example, for it is usually true or just, but in its inadequacy in suggesting other instances of good use.

Yet in her refusal to accept her age's theory of definition and in her approach to a concept of good usage we must recognize an independent spirit. The time was not ripe for a fully developed conception of the differences between logic and lexicography, yet she was somewhat nearer the present conception than some later and cleverer persons, and she had at least a feeling of rightness in the use of language that suggested, even if it did not consciously approach, the later theory of good usage as a test of such rightness. Besides, her book has an engaging quality, often lacking in books of this character, which is not necessarily a sign of the levity with which critics have charged this book, but rather of a spirited challenge to the ideals of a hidebound age.

Mrs. Piozzi's book was followed by William Perry's Synonymous, Etymological, and Pronouncing English Dictionary, published in 1805. On its title page and in its preface the editor explicitly offers his work as derived from The Dictionary of Samuel Johnson. Perry was the compiler of the better known Royal Standard English Dictionary brought out in England in 1775 and in America in 1788.

The Synonymous Dictionary, as we will call the 1805 book, evidently did not achieve the fame or popularity of the Royal Standard. Chauncey Goodrich, Noah Webster's son-in-law, referred to it in 1847 in his preface to the royal octavo volume of Webster as "entirely out of print." There is no evidence to show that it passed beyond the first edition. On its title page it is described as "an attempt to Synonymise his [Johnson's] Folio Dictionary of the English Language." In its preface Perry claims that it contains "the only synonymous vocabulary ever offered to the public" and that "To the philological, critical, and other interesting observations of the above learned author [Dr. Johnson], we have superadded two exclusive advantages to our publication; the one—as a synonymous, the other—as a pronouncing nomenclature. The former is new and unique..."

The work, he informs us, was begun in 1797, three years, therefore, after the publication of the first edition of Mrs. Piozzi's British Synonymy. Yet there is no indication of knowledge of that work or of the work of Girard; in fact, Perry recognized no predecessor save Johnson. From Johnson, by explicit credit, he extracted his vocabulary and his explanations of meanings. Not so openly, however, did he extract the synonyms themselves: for example, his entry good is followed by Johnson's definition of sense 1, but the synonyms are taken from all of Johnson's succeeding twenty-nine senses. Nor does he provide many citations, and these are chiefly in entries at the end of the book; elsewhere, at the end of an entry or in parentheses, he cites the authors Johnson quoted but not the passages.

In addition he adopted an original method of presenting his material. There were two types of entries, one in lowercase and one in capitals. The latter, which he called "radicals," were followed by an exhaustive list; the former were succeeded by a much shorter list, but one word was printed in small capitals to indicate it was the radical. Thus "marches," a lowercase entry, has "borders, limits, confines, BOUNDARIES" as its synonyms: "BOUNDARY," an entry in capitals, has a much longer list which includes "limit, bound, bourn, term, mere, but, abuttal, border, barrier, marches, confines, precinct, line of demarcation, utmost reach or verge of a territory; a landmark, a mere-stone." If, then, one wished all the synonyms of a lowercase entry such as marches or abbreviation, one must turn to BOUNDARY or ABRIDGMENT, the word entered as the radical.

There are two things to notice here that are important. Perry was not merely greatly extending the traditional definition of synonym (as one of two or more words of identical meaning or of apparently identical meaning) and broadening it to include a group of words which have resemblances in meaning, but was doing so in what seems to be a misunderstanding of Dr. Johnson's purposes in adding such words to his definitions and in ignoring of what he supplied as a corrective. The fact
The work is, as a whole, uneven, but a few articles in it are not only better than any others written up to this conviction that no English work the equal of certain foreign treatises on synonyms had as yet been written. Discriminated is the result of his studies in German, French, Italian, and other languages and of his con-

That was the difficulty. Synonyms would not perfectly satisfy the need either when the word defined had many meanings or when the word defining had more significations than the one intended, for in either case one must be too broad and the other too narrow. They were needed. Usually, also, he knew when his etymology was grounded on fact and when it was merely by no means contend, that the whole of the explanations collected under such initial words as...we call RADICALS, are all strictly synonymous; neither, on the other hand, can we agree with those who roundly assert, that there are not two words in the whole English language of precisely the same signification; but this we take upon us to say, that we have no less than Dr. Johnson's authority for their selection and dis-

Dr. Johnson's example, great as was its authority and prestige at that time, was an unstable prop when his statements were misunderstood. Perry perhaps indirectly rendered a service by raising the issue as to whether the term "synonym" needed redefinition, since it was being broadened in its extension: he may also have done a service in showing to others the values implicit in word-finding lists. But he did not see that he had raised those issues, and what purports to be a dictionary succeeds chiefly in being a word finder.

Between 1805 and 1852 (the latter the date of publication of Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases*) several works on synonyms appeared. Some were of the word-finding list type, and among these there was nothing of particular importance. On the other hand, there were as many as five works discriminating synonyms of which at least four stand out for one reason or another: *English Synonymes Discriminated* by William Taylor (1813), *English Synonymes Explained* by George Crabb (1816), *English Synonymes Classified and Explained* by George F. Graham (1846), and *A Selection of English Synonymes* by Miss Elizabeth Jane Whately (1851). Both Crabb's and Whately's books are still influential and have been re-

William Taylor (1765–1836), the author of the first of these books, is better known as the translator of Burger's *Lenore*, Lessing's *Nathan the Wise*, and Goethe's *Iphigenia in Tauris* and as one of the leading promoters of knowledge of contemporary German literature during the romantic era. His *English Synonymes Discriminated* is the result of his studies in German, French, Italian, and other languages and of his conviction that no English work the equal of certain foreign treatises on synonyms had as yet been written. The work is, as a whole, uneven, but a few articles in it are not only better than any others written up to that time but the equal of any that were to be written for over ninety years. A favorite theory of his was that if one is thoroughly grounded in the original meaning of a term, one "can never be at a loss how to employ it in metaphor." Consequently, etymologies became for him an important means of showing this original meaning. They formed not an invariable part of his discrimination but a very useful part when they were needed. Usually, also, he knew when his etymology was grounded on fact and when it was merely hypothetical. His method at its best is exemplified in the article covering austere, severe, and rigid, which we give here in abridged form:
Austerity (says Blair^2) relates to the manner of living: severity, of thinking, rigour, of punishing. To austerity is opposed effeminacy: to severity, relaxation; to rigour, clemency. A hermit is austere in his life; a casuist, severe in his decision; a judge, rigorous in his sentence.

In this discrimination there is little exactness. Austerity is applied not only to habit, but to doctrine, and to infliction. Solitary confinement is a severe form of life, and a severe punishment. Rigid observances, rigid opinions, are oftener spoken of than rigid sentences.

A hermit is austere, who lives harshly; is severe who lives solitarily; is rigid who lives unwaveringly. A casuist is austere who commands mortification, severe, who forbids conviviality, rigid, whose enactions are unqualified. A judge is austere, who punishes slight transgressions; severe, who punishes to the utmost; rigid, who punishes without respect of persons and circumstances.

Why this? Austerity is an idea of the palate; it means crabbedness. . . . These modes of life which are painful to the moral taste, are called austere. . . . Austerity is opposed to suavity.

Severity is not traced back to the sensible idea in which the word originates. Se and verceor, to bend down apart, are perhaps the component ideas. The lying prostrate apart is not only characteristic of the praying anchoret, and of public penance, but of cruel infliction: and to all these cases severity is accordingly applied.

To severity is opposed remissness.

Rigour is stiffness: rigid means frozen; stiff with cold. . . . To rigour is opposed pliancy.

Religious competition renders sects austere, priests severe, and establishments rigid.

With the exception of severe (the ultimate origin of which is still doubtful) the words, in the main, conform to their etymology. Austere does originally mean something like “bitter-tasting” and rigid means “stiff,” though not necessarily “stiff with cold”; also, something that is austere is not sweet or suave, and something that is rigid is not pliant or flexible. He has caught the essential difference here, and the proper application follows. If Taylor had been able to maintain this method and the penetration it involved, he might have changed the course of synonymizing. But three years later English Synonymes Explained, by George Crabb (1778–1851), appeared and caught the public favor. For thirty-seven years Taylor’s book remained unreprinted: then between 1850 and 1876 there were three new editions. For a few years it attracted some attention and then disappeared from favor.

Crabb’s book, while still highly regarded by some, meets much adverse criticism from others. In his own day it was thought of generally as the best work available, although Crabb complicated matters somewhat by frequent revisions which changed its character. In his introduction to the first edition he complained of the lack of a work on English synonyms in which the subject is treated “in a scientifick manner adequate to its importance.” Englishmen though great in literature and philology had in this field fallen short of the French and Germans, who “have had several considerable works on the subject.” He did not wish “to depreciate the labours of those who have preceded” him; rather he claimed to “have profited by every thing which has been written in any language upon the subject; and although I always pursued my own train of thought, yet whenever I met with any thing deserving of notice, I adopted it, and referred it to the author in a note.”

Crabb’s English Synonymes Explained is both the most laborious and the most ambitious work of its kind. In spirit and objective it is a far remove from Mrs. Piozzi’s British Synonymy, few as are the years which intervened between their publication. For Mrs. Piozzi represented the old temper where sprightliness, elegance, and ease were paramount and Crabb the new temper in which the world had grown solemn and serious under the influence of many currents, such as the pressure of momentous events, the influence of Continental (especially German) thinkers, and the spread of all the new ideas spoken of collectively as romanticism. When the best philosophers and philosophic poets of the age were seeking to answer the questions what is beauty, what is poetry, what is art, what is genius and were discriminating the beautiful and the sublime, the naïve and the sentimental, imagination and fancy, the ugly and the grotesque, what synonymist could in conscience say that “synonymy has more to do with elegance than truth”? Crabb was undoubtedly concerned with truth rather than elegance. He was stimulated by the thinking of his age and, like many persons of his time, responded with joy to the new philosophy that deepened and enriched the concepts of beauty, poetry, and truth. Although he was in no sense a philosopher, he had a smattering of philosophical knowledge, a small philosophical vocabulary, and a deep love of philosophical distinctions. He was also interested in philology as it was understood in his time. In the study of synonyms he found satisfaction of all these interests, all the more so since he had come to regard synonyms not as words of the same meaning but as “closely allied” words between which there are “nice shades of distinction.” Discrimination not only gave him profound intellectual satisfaction: it also afforded him great opportunities. In his introduction he wrote:

My first object certainly has been to assist the philological inquirer in ascertaining the force and comprehension of the English language; yet I should have thought my work but half completed had I made it a

^2 Hugh Blair, rhetorician, 1718–1800.
milk. While others seize every opportunity unblushingly to avow and zealously to propagate opinions destructive of good order, it would ill become any individual of contrary sentiments to shrink from stating his convictions, when called upon as he seems to be by an occasion like that which has now offered itself.

His justification for "the introduction of morality in a work of science" is very ingenious. In answer to anticipated objections he wrote, "a writer, whose business it was to mark the nice shades of distinction between words closely allied, could not do justice to his subject without entering into all the relations of society, and showing, from the acknowledged sense of many moral and religious terms, what has been the general sense of mankind on many of the most important questions which have agitated the world."

It is not easy to find in Crabb proofs that he was discriminating historical meanings (the interpretation that may be given to his "acknowledged sense"), but one can readily discover evidence that often he was supporting an older conception he favored rather than a new conception he heartily disliked. A good example of this is found in his discrimination of SOUL and MIND.

There are minute philosophers, who... deny that we possess any thing more than what this poor composition of flesh and blood can give us; and yet, methinks, sound philosophy would teach us that we ought to prove the truth of one position, before we assert the falsehood of its opposite; and consequently that if we deny that we have any thing but what is material in us, we ought first to prove that the material is sufficient to produce the reasoning faculty of man. ... (He continued this line of argument through several sentences.)

But not to lose sight of the distinction drawn between the words soul and mind, I simply wish to show that the vulgar and the philosophical use of these terms altogether accord, and are both founded on the true nature of things.

Poets and philosophers speak of the soul in the same strain, as the active and living principle.3

Arguments of this character were mostly occasional with Crabb, but the method of discriminating things which the words named or to which they were applied was characteristically infixed. He could not, for instance, mark the distinctions between finical and foppish but between a finical gentleman and a foppish gentleman.

A finical gentleman clips his words and screws his body into as small a compass as possible to give himself the air of a delicate person...: a foppish gentleman seeks by extravagance in the cut of his clothes, and by the tawdriness in their ornaments, to render himself distinguished for finery.

He could not discriminate beautiful, fine, handsome without determining what is the beautiful, the fine, the handsome.

The beautiful is determined by fixed rules; it admits of no excess or defect; it comprehends regularity, proportion, and a due distribution of colour, and every particular which can engage the attention: the fine must be coupled with grandeur, majesty, and strength of figure; it is incompatible with that which is small; a little woman can never be fine: the handsome is a general assemblage of what is agreeable; it is marked by no particular characteristic, but the absence of all deformity. . . .

Even simple words were so discriminated; each one had an abstract reference which was the test of its right use no matter how little cultivated writers and speakers respected that test.

The gift is an act of generosity or condescension; it contributes to the benefit of the receiver: the present is an act of kindness, courtesy, or respect; it contributes to the pleasure of the receiver.

What we abhor is repugnant to our moral feelings; what we detest contradicts our moral principle: what we abominate does equal violence to our religious and moral sentiments. . . . Inhumanity and cruelty are objects of abhorrence; crimes and injustice of detestation; impiety and profanity of abomination. . . .

Crabb's habitual attitude to words as names of things, or for what he might have called "true concepts of things," vitiates his entire work. It has made it of negligible value in our time when lexicography has become an independent science with clearly defined objectives and functions, the chief of which is to respect the meanings men have agreed to give words rather than the notions individuals have concerning the things named or described by those words. His concepts, however interesting, are still subjective and have not been tested to any extent by actual written or spoken language. There are many citations in his work, but the sensitive reader often finds little relevancy between the word as used there and the sense defined. For example, in illustrating the meaning of the "soul" as "the active and living principle" he cites Thomson:

"In bashful coyness or in maiden pride,
The soft return conceal'd, save when it stole
In side-long glances from her downcast eyes,
Or from her swelling soul in stifled sighs"

3 This paragraph did not appear in the first edition.
Introduction

But here *soul* as cited means simply and narrowly the rising emotions and not "the active and living principle."

His synonymies are, on the whole, hard reading because confused and inconsistent. As a rule they attempt too much yet do not fully apprehend the greatness of the task and leave the reader without any clear or definite impression or without any remembered distinctions. Also, they excite rebellion in a reader who can give any number of citations to show that Crabb's dogmatic assertions are not justified by usage. Despite these fundamental defects which, with the passage of time and changes in the basic conceptions, have come to be more and more striking, Crabb deserves recognition for some additions to the art of synonymizing. Even these, however, may not be entirely his contributions: a bit here and a bit there may have been done by others. Taylor, for example, gave etymologies when they served his purpose. Moreover, after Crabb the work of perfecting often remained to be done and many others are responsible for deeper insight into the possibilities of the method or the extent to which each possibility is serviceable. The chief contributions are three:

1. The addition of an etymology to the article. Much more, however, needed to be known before certain words could be correctly etymologized and before they could be related to the sense to be defined. In some cases Crabb's etymologies are "learned" additions to the article, in no way reflecting the words' semantic development.

2. The addition of a statement (usually introductory) as to how far the words are equivalent in meaning. There was an approach to this in the work of Mrs. Piozzi, but it was hardly of the same character. Crabb's method was not only clearer and firmer but was much less subject to idiosyncrasies. Since this was his most enduring contribution, a few examples may be given to illustrate his method.

   INGENUITY, WIT. . . . Both these terms imply acuteness of understanding, and differ mostly in the mode of displaying themselves. . . .

   TO DISPARAGE, DETRACT, TRADUCE, DEPRECIATE, DEGRADE, DECRY. . . . The idea of lowering the value of an object is common to all these words, which differ in the circumstances and object of the action. . . .

   DISCERNMENT, PENETRATION, DISCRIMINATION, JUDGMENT. . . . The first three of these terms do not express different powers, but different modes of the same power; namely the power of seeing intellectually, or exerting the intellectual sight. . . .

   In clearness of statement, in pointedness, in "hitting the nail on the head" nearly all of these introductions leave something to be desired. Nevertheless, they are historically important because they represent the first tentative formulation of what has proved to be an important and essential part of the discriminated synonymy at its best.

3. In the arrangement of his word lists Crabb claims to have moved from the most comprehensive to the less comprehensive. In such articles as those discussing *form, ceremony, rite, observance*; and *short, brief, concise, succinct, summary* the principle is clear, but in others, such as those for *apparel, attire, array*; and *belief, credit, trust, faith*; and *execute, fulfill, perform*, the procedure is not perfectly clear. In general, however, he seems to have had a plan and to have stuck to it when he could.

   There are other devices used by Crabb which in later and defter hands proved valuable, but these three are the ones on which he has exerted his powers and with which he had greatest success. That the success was not complete is not entirely his fault. The English language is not a symmetrical language: it was never execute, fulfill, perform, belief, credit, trust, faith; the procedure is not perfectly clear. In general, however, he seems to have had a plan and to have stuck to it when he could.

   His book continued to be held in high regard for many decades. In fact, a centennial edition in honor of the first (1816) was published in 1917 in the United States. Its editors' names are not given, but it contains an eloquent introduction by John H. Finley, then commissioner of education in New York state, which ends with the sentence: "Long life to Crabb and to that for which his name is as a synonym!"

   By this time—that is, particularly between the first edition of Crabb's work and the first edition of Whately's book—keen interest was being displayed in the use of synonyms in education. Several texts suitable for use in the schools were prepared. Not necessarily the best of these but the most thoughtful and suggestive was *English Synonymes Classified and Explained with Practical Exercises Designed for School and Private Tuition* by George F. Graham. The emphasis in the book is entirely upon discrimination. Since there is no attempt to supply as many synonyms as possible and every effort to make differences clear, two words only are given in each article. Although this has the effect of making the book seem purely pedagogical, it admits employment of a method of classification which would break down if more words were to be added. It is, therefore, only by courtesy that Graham's book can be called a synonymy.

   The study of synonymy ought, according to Graham, to begin in the elementary schools. In the hope of
making this possible, he divides all pairs of synonyms into five classes marking the relationships of these words. He calls his classes General and Specific, Active and Passive, Intensity, Positive and Negative, and Miscellaneous. The classification is obviously not clean-cut and the classes are not necessarily mutually exclusive. As illustrations of General and Specific relationships he compares answer and reply, bravery and courage; as instances of Active and Passive relationships he discriminates burden and load, and actual and real; and as examples of Intensity in relationships he considers agony and anguish, and intention and purpose.

It is needless to say that a rigid classification begets a rigid method of discrimination. Sometimes, it serves to bring out a real distinction between the words, but more often it serves to confuse them by bending them to suit a set purpose. It is the best example we have had so far of the futility of applying a rigid method to the direct study of anything so nonrigid and living as a language.

Crabb's supremacy as a synonymist seems not to have been seriously threatened by a slight book which appeared in 1851, won general praise, and has been listed in practically every bibliography since that time. This book, usually called "Whately's book on synonyms," has never, so far as we know, been properly esteemed for its own values, nor has its true author ever been adequately recognized. Credit for its authorship is often given to the famous logician Richard Whately (1787–1863), Anglican archbishop of Dublin; rightly, it belongs to his daughter, Elizabeth Jane Whately. A modern but undated edition (before 1928) from the Boston house of Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard confuses both details of title and authorship by calling it on the title page "English Synonyms Discriminated, by Richard Whately, D.D." It has two prefaces, one the editor's preface signed, in the characteristic fashion of Anglican bishops, "Richard Dublin"; the other the preface by the author, which is unsigned.

The editor's preface is very short and abstruse but pregnant with meaning. The archbishop took occasion to say that "this little work has been carefully revised by me, throughout" and that though "far from presuming to call it perfect, it is, I am confident, very much the best that has appeared on the subject." Some of its readers will acknowledge its value in the "cultivation of correctness and precision in our expressions." There will be those, however [we are paraphrasing, amplifying, and interpreting his very cryptic statements], who are so blinded by their adoption of "the metaphysical theory of ideas" that they will regard words as of little importance in themselves, and the ideas named as of great significance. There are others, such as himself, who regard words as "an indispensable instrument of thought, in all cases, where a process of reasoning takes place." Words are the symbols which men use in discourse. For the most part they do not name real things, for abstractions, such as the one called "beauty," or the generalized notion, such as the one called "tree," exist nowhere except in the mind and have not reality. Only in particular things can beauty be found: only particular objects which are classed together under the name "tree" exist. Therefore, if words are to serve as convenient instruments of discourse, they must often be regarded as signs not of real things but of notions of things and must have a fixed and generally accepted content. Otherwise human minds could never come together in discourse. Moreover, actual discourse is often futile because words are loosely or incorrectly used.

The preface by the author, though it avoids all references to philosophy, is in general based on the same premises. The author, as has been said, is the archbishop's daughter, and the proper title of the book is A Selection of Synonyms. To her, as well as to her father, words are, for the most part, the names for human ideas or concepts of things. There may be words which name approximately the same thing but which, because of differences in human points of view, are distinguishable by slight differences in meaning. Synonyms, or as she preferred to call them "pseudo-synonyms," have "sufficient resemblance of meaning to make them liable to be confounded together. And it is in the number and variety of these that...the richness of a language consists. To have two or more words with exactly the same sense, is no proof of copiousness, but simply an inconvenience." A language, in her estimation, should have no more words than it needs, just as a house should have no more chairs or tables than required for convenience.

Differences in meaning she found even in words which denote exactly the same object, act, process, quality, emotion, and the like. Such words often have different connotations. "Swine's flesh," she says, is prohibited by the Mosaic Law, for "it is plain that it presents to the mind a gross idea, which does not." Some words may denote the same thing but their different origins or their varying historical associations give them a distinct character which better fits one than the other for use in certain contexts. In polite phrases such as "May I take the liberty?" the Latin derivative liberty is more suitable than the Saxon freedom. A heathen or an atheist may be called just but not righteous because Biblical use of the latter word has narrowed its application. Much more acute is her observation that two words may name the same thing but differ because they regard that thing from opposite points of view. She instances inference and proof.

Whoever justly infers, proves; and whoever proves, infers; but the word 'inference' leads the mind from the premises which have been assumed, to the conclusion which follows from them: while the word 'proof' follows a reverse process, and leads the mind from the conclusion to the premises.

In a footnote she refers to Aristotle's admirable parallel between anger and hatred, but after summing up
his distinctions, she adds significantly:

His [Aristotle's] example...has not been followed in this work...because, though the two passions may often be confounded together, and mistaken one for the other, the two words are not liable to be mistaken; and it is with words that we have now to do.

There, one is forced to comment, is the lexicographer speaking and not the would-be philosopher who would use definition or discrimination of words as an instrument for the expression of his own ideas.

Here and there in her preface and in her synonymies, without evident plan or intention, Miss Whately advanced ideas which when brought together indicate a conception of the synonymist's function and equipment far beyond any yet presented. Not only was she, in effect if not by design, distinguishing lexicography from philosophy but she was defining and enriching the concept of the ideal synonymy and the ideal synonymist. And she did so by flying in the face of all Crabb's admirers and imitators.

Although she realized the importance per se of the "history of the derivation of words," she omitted etymologies "which are generally appended to every group of synonyms as an almost essential part of it." She questioned the value of "this procedure" because it tends "to confuse the subject it was intended to clear," for "in inquiring into the actual and present meaning of a word, the consideration of what it originally meant may frequently tend to lead us astray." Nevertheless, she made good use of her knowledge of etymology when it helped in the discrimination of words.

'Contentment' may be classed among those words in the English language which adhere strictly to their etymology. Its root was undoubtedly the verb 'to contain,' and the substantive and its adjective have not departed from this meaning. A contented person does not indulge in fruitless wishes for what is beyond his reach; his desires are limited by what he possesses.

'Satisfaction' implies more: this word has likewise retained the signification of its root, and means that we have obtained all we want; not that our desires are limited, but that they have been gratified. A poor and needy man may be 'contented,' but he cannot feel 'satisfaction' with his condition.

Her illustrations are many and reveal wide reading, a broad linguistic background, and a deep interest in developments of meaning, in differences in meaning between words of the same origin in different languages (e.g., between the English defend and the French défendre which means not only to defend but also to forbid), and in English words which have "corresponding origins" yet are "widely different in their significations," such as substance (printed as substantia in her book), understanding, and hypostasis. She was interested also in the notions which gave names to things, as "'Heaven'...conveyed with it the idea of something heaved or lifted up. . . . 'Coelum'...referred to something hollowed out or vaulted."

All these variations of meaning...are valuable and curious; but though they may occasionally help us, they must not be allowed to influence our decisions with respect to the significations of words. Our question is, not what ought to be, or formerly was, the meaning of a word, but what it now is; nor can we be completely guided by quotations from Shakespeare or Milton, or even from Addison or Johnson. Language has undergone such changes, even within the last sixty or seventy years, that many words at that time considered pure, are now obsolete; while others...formerly slang, are now used by our best writers. . . .The standard we shall refer to in the present work, is the sense in which a word is used by the purest writers and most correct speakers of our own days.

Although Miss Whately cannot be said to be the first to discriminate meanings of synonyms, she was, so far as we know, the first in England to make that the avowed aim of a book of synonyms and to realize clearly the distinction between the meaning of a word and the thing or idea for which it stood.

Unfortunately, Miss Whately was not so successful in finding a method of synonymizing as she was in expounding its principles. She had, in theory, thrown off the yoke of Crabb, but in practice she occasionally submitted to it. Nor had she, any more than Crabb, been able to discard completely or to transform to her own use what has been called the Piozzi method of illustration. Some of the difficulty arises from her use of other writers and from the reviser (her father) who, though sympathetic in principle, did not always agree with the exposition in detail and made many heavy-handed changes. But these sources of difficulty are superficial: the real but unassignable reason probably has its roots in something that lies in temper and lack of experience. Yet, in spite of everything, she made several significant advances not only in the theory but in the art of synonymizing. Summed up, they are:

1. The principle that knowledge of meanings and all the background that such knowledge implies (derivations, historical development of senses, usage of purest writers and speakers, especially of one's own period, the associations that affect connotations, etc.) are indispensable elements of the synonymist's equipment, to be used or discarded as the occasion warrants.

2. The principle that the synonymist goes beyond the definer, in a difference of purpose. It is the function of the one who would define a word to estimate truly the meanings men have agreed should be given to it: it is the function of the synonymist to point out the differences between words with meanings so nearly alike.
that he not only gives help in their correct use but promotes precision of expression so necessary to the thinker and writer.

3. A clearer conception of the ways in which synonyms differ:
(a) Because of differences in implications.

"Both obstinacy and stubbornness imply an excessive and vicious perseverance in pursuing our own judgment in opposition to that of others; but to be obstinate implies the doing what we ourselves chose. To be stubborn denotes rather, not to do what others advise or desire." (Quoted from Sir James Mackintosh.)

A trifling matter is one merely of small importance; a trivial matter is a small matter made too much of. The word 'trivial' implies contempt, which 'trifling' does not. By saying, 'He never neglects a trifling matter,' we are rather supposed to praise; but in blaming a person for frivolity, we often say, 'He is always engrossed with trivial concerns.'

(b) Because of differences in applications.

"Obstinacy is generally applied to the superior; stubbornness to the inferior...Obstinacy refers more to outward acts, and stubbornness to disposition." (Quoted from Sir James Mackintosh.)

Strictly speaking, 'expense' should be applied to the purchaser, and 'cost' to the thing purchased....Many persons are tempted to buy articles...because they are not costly, forgetting that...these purchases may still be too expensive.

'Delightful' is applied both to the pleasures of the mind and those of the senses: 'delicious' only to those of the senses. An excursion, a social circle, a place of abode, may be 'delightful'; a perfume, or a fruit, 'delicious.'

(c) Because of differences in extension, or range of meaning.

'Timid' is applied both to the state of mind...in which a person may happen to be at the moment, and to the habitual disposition; 'timorous,' only to the disposition. 'Timid' is therefore, the more extensive term, and comprehends the meanings of 'timorous.'...

TO UNDERSTAND, TO COMPREHEND. The former of these verbs is used in a much more extended sense than the latter. Whatever we comprehend, we understand; but 'to understand' is used on many occasions in which to comprehend would be inadmissible....It would be quite correct to say, 'I did not comprehend his exposition, or his arguments, although I understood the language, and the grammatical import of each sentence.'

(d) Because of differences in association or origin and, therefore, in connotations.

FATHERLY, PATERNAL; MOTHERLY, MATERNAL...are formed from corresponding roots in Latin and Saxon....the Latin word being the more polite and cold, the Saxon the more hearty and cordial....We speak of 'a paternal government'—'maternal duties'; but of 'a fatherly kindness of manner'—'a motherly tenderness.'

RIGHTIOUS, JUST...a Saxon and a Latin term, whose roots exactly correspond in meaning; but they have even more curiously diverged than many other pairs of words. 'Righteous' is now exclusively applied to rectitude of conduct drawn from religious principle, while 'just' is simply used for moral uprightness. A heathen or atheist may be called just, but not righteous.

(e) Because of the difference in the point of view from which the same thing is regarded.

'Anger' is more correctly applied to the inward feeling: 'wrath' to the outward manifestation....We should not speak of the 'anger,' but of the 'wrath' of the elements. We therefore speak of the 'wrath of God,' more correctly than of his anger. We cannot attribute to Him passions like those of men: we can only describe the external effects which in man would be produced by those passions.

In 1852, the year after Whately's Selection of Synonyms was published, appeared the first edition of the Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, by Peter Mark Roget (1779–1869), a book that was to exert very great influence on the development of interest in synonyms and to provoke a new interest in opposite or contrasted terms. The modern consultant of the Thesaurus, accustomed to depend on the elaborate index (provided in 1879 by the compiler's son John L. Roget), has little knowledge of the original plan of the book, though it has in no way been disturbed by revisers of the Roget family. But this plan is obviously hard to use and few consultants of the Thesaurus, if any, now avail themselves of it. It depends upon a classification of all words into six main categories, those dealing with Abstract Relations, Space, Matter, Intellect, Volition, and Affections, each of which is divided into smaller and appropriate subdivisions until an appropriate heading, such as Interpretation or Lending, gives the clue for the left-hand column of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs gathered under it and an appropriate heading, such as Misinterpretation or Borrowing, gives the clue for the right-hand column of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs that are theoretically opposed or in contrast. But Roget did not call these word lists Synonyms and Antonyms (the latter word indeed had not yet been coined): his usual name was "Analogous Words" for those in the left-hand column and "Correlative Words" for those in the right-hand column. Despite this, other revisers than those of the Roget family have consistently misinterpreted this volume as a book of synonyms and antonyms and have rearranged it or alphabetized it in the hope of making this clear.
It is, therefore, merely because of its historical connections with the treatment of synonyms and antonyms that this book is of immediate significance to us. Only when it is clear that the book purports to be a supplier of words—technically, a “word finder”—and nothing else, are we able to estimate correctly the heresy that has arisen out of its misunderstanding. To reach this end we must know very clearly just what Roget tried to accomplish by this book and just what he ruled out as extraneous to his purpose.

As early as 1805 Roget realized that what he needed for his own writing was a classified list of words in which he might find not only the right words to express his ideas but words that would help him in clarifying or formulating confused or vague ideas. He found the lists he made so useful to himself that he came to believe that they would prove, if amplified, of great value to others. For nearly fifty years he had this project in mind, but only at the age of seventy, after his retirement in 1849 from his position as secretary of the Royal Society of London for the Advancement of Science, was he able to realize it.

He held from the start that what was needed was not a dictionary of synonyms. Roget had in mind a consultant who not only did not know a near word but could not even recall a word somewhat similar in meaning to the word desired or only vaguely apprehended an idea because of the want of the right word or words to help him in formulating it. For example, a geologist who has found a rock, probably hitherto undiscovered, because it fitted into no known classification might be at a loss for the exact terms to describe its peculiar texture. Such a person could hope to find in the section headed “Matter” the concrete adjective he needed (such as fissile, friable, splintery). No word, no phrase, was too narrow in its meaning to serve Roget’s purpose, or too archaic, or too slangy, or too erudite. Whether one was writing a technical treatise or a witty essay, a historical novel or a definition for a dictionary, one might hope to discover in this Thesaurus the expressions “which are best suited to his purpose, and which might not have occurred to him without such assistance.” For words, “like ‘spirits from the vasty deep’ . . . come not when we call”; “appropriate terms, as fissile, friable, splintery).

No word, no phrase, was too narrow in its meaning to serve Roget’s chief object in phrasing his definition of antonym, synonym which he disregarded in favor of the Alphabetical Index.” Yet, brief as is that statement, it reveals that he thought word-finding lists of synonyms and of “apparently synonymous” terms would be too meager to suit the purposes he had in mind.

As for the discrimination of synonyms, that was entirely foreign to the purpose of his book. He was very explicit about that:

The investigation of the distinctions to be drawn between words apparently synonymous, forms a separate branch of inquiry, which I have not presumed here to enter upon; for the subject has already occupied the attention of much abler critics than myself, and its complete exhaustion would require the devotion of a whole life. The purpose of this Work, it must be borne in mind, is not to explain the signification of words, but simply to classify and arrange them according to the sense in which they are now used, and which I presume to be already known to the reader. I enter into no inquiry into the changes of meaning they may have undergone in the course of time. I am content to accept them at the value of their present currency, and have no concern with their etymologies, or with the history of their transformations; far less do I venture to thrid [thread] the mazes of the vast labyrinth into which I should be led by any attempt at a general discrimination of synonyms.

It is also important to notice that Roget believed himself without a precursor “in any language.” He may have known Perry and many others who worked in the word-finding field before 1852: like other cultivated men he probably knew Crabb and others working on the discrimination of synonyms; but he always thought of himself as doing something quite distinct from both. In fact, he gave his successors many reasons for refusing to believe that his two series of word-supplying lists were synonyms or antonyms or were capable of discrimination as synonyms or of opposition as antonyms.

Despite that, his purpose was misunderstood and his book misinterpreted. In 1867 appeared a small book called A Complete Collection of Synonyms and Antonyms, by the Rev. Charles J. Smith, which gave evidence that here and there men were quietly substituting their judgment of Roget’s work for his own. It is true that there is only one sentence in the preface of Smith’s book to support this inference, and that concerns the reason why its author has chosen the dictionary method of presenting his material, “from finding that the abstract classifications of words, under certain broad ideas, according to the plan of Dr. Roget, seems invalidated by the necessity, in his well-known Thesaurus, of numberless cross-divisions, and is practically disregarded in favor of the Alphabetical Index.” Yet, brief as is that statement, it reveals that he thought his work and Roget’s had a common purpose—to give synonyms and their opposites or, to use the word which he now coined, their “antonyms”—and that the difference between the two books was merely a matter of method.

There is no evidence that Smith realized that he was changing the time-honored definition of synonym. His chief object in phrasing his definition of synonym was to set that term in opposition to antonym, which he regarded as its antithesis. Nevertheless, in so doing, he introduced a subtle and important change in the
Words which agree in expressing one or more characteristic ideas in common [with the entry word] he [i.e., Smith himself] has regarded as Synonyms, those which negative one or more such ideas he has called Antonyms.

The inference that he changed the traditional definition of synonym is supported not only by this statement but also by his method of selecting synonyms. One example must suffice:

ACCELERATE, v.t. Ad and celer, quick. To quicken the speed or process of events, objects, or transactions.

The important thing to notice about these lists is not their parallelism, nor even how good or bad the synonyms or antonyms are, but their selection according to a new principle. The synonyms are not all closely allied words differing only in minor ways or words which are essentially alike in meaning, but some, such as urge and promote, are words which come together only in some part of their meaning and that not necessarily their essential meaning. Nor are the antonyms necessarily opposed to the essential meaning of accelerate. It is quite possible that neither Smith nor anyone else at the time fully realized what a radical change in definition he had made. In his Synonyms Discriminated, the work with which four years later (1871) he followed his Synonyms and Antonyms, he adhered to the orthodox definition of synonym. The later work proved the more popular, and it is probable that the inconspicuousness of Synonyms and Antonyms helped to obscure its definition of synonym, buried as it was in the preface.

Moreover, in the same year as Synonyms Discriminated appeared another book of indiscriminated synonyms, Richard Soule's A Dictionary of English Synonymes and Synonymous or Parallel Expressions (1871), which attracted far more attention than had Smith's Synonyms and Antonyms. New editions appeared in rapid succession, and it was revised in 1891 by Professor George H. Howison and in 1937 by Professor Alfred D. Sheffield.

Although Soule acknowledged help from Roget's Thesaurus and a number of other works such as the dictionaries of Webster and Worcester and the books by Crabb, Whately, and others discriminating synonyms, he claims in no particular instance to have followed them strictly or to have been influenced by them in any way. If we judge from the words of Professor Howison, who, nearly twenty years after the first edition, undertook revision at the request of Soule's family, he "found little more to do than to carry out to a greater completeness the lines of Mr. Soule's original design." That Soule's original design was clear and definite and that he saw himself as doing something quite different from Roget, on the one hand, and from Crabb and Whately, on the other, is obvious from what Professor Howison has further to say:

A perfect manual of that sort is impossible within the compass of a single work of convenient size and arrangement. . . . A work on Synonymes may thus have for its purpose either an alphabetic list of all the more important words in the language, with their various meanings or shades of meaning set down under them, each followed by its appropriate synonymes; or a list of general notions, duly named and properly divided and subdivided, with the words and phrases that belong to the expression of each collected under them as fully as possible; or, again, the collocation of words allied in meaning with subjoined disquisitions on the shades of difference between them. The latter conception has been the prevailing one among English makers of synonymic dictionaries, and is represented by the well-known work of Crabb, as well as by any; the second is that of Roget's Thesaurus; while the first is that of Soule.

Consequently, we are not surprised to find that Soule's definition of synonym approaches the orthodox one. True, he gives us no detailed definition, but he does say enough to show that he does not mistake the relation between words of the same part of speech in the left-hand or the right-hand column of Roget (he is obviously not interested in their cross relation), and he does not show any knowledge—much less any interest—in Smith's definition of a synonym as a word which agrees in expressing one or more characteristic ideas in common with a given word. A synonym, he says, has "the same meaning as" the entry word under which it is listed "or a meaning very nearly the same." Within limits his lists of synonyms are about as good as is possible when they are not submitted to the test of discrimination.

Even though Soule's Dictionary of Synonyms has been the model for a great many works issued in imitation of it, some claiming to have improved upon it, it still remains, in both its original and its revised forms, the best dictionary of synonyms that does not provide discriminations. Like Roget's work, within its own limits it has not yet been bettered.

But beyond those limits, both in the realm of books providing discriminating synonymies and in the realm of books providing synonyms and antonyms without discriminations, there has arisen a state of affairs which makes us believe that we are at a point where a stand must be taken if we are to avert chaos in the field.
In the forefront of this battle are the American general dictionaries and certain manuals written by men who have been at one time or another members of their staffs.

The general dictionaries have so far been omitted from this survey. Not that they were inactive—for, almost from the start, they were not. A few ventures were merely tentative, such as that in James Barclay's Complete and Universal Dictionary issued in England in 1774. This work Chauncey Goodrich (in his preface to Webster's A Pronouncing and Defining Dictionary, 1856, an abridgment of the 1828 Webster) notices with the observation that discriminations of "synonymous words" were "first introduced into a general dictionary by Barclay, though in a very imperfect manner." Goodrich also calls attention to the fact that Noah Webster had often successfully used the method of discrimination as part of his definitions. But these attempts do not merit the honor of being the first discriminating synonymies in the general dictionary. No one in fact laid serious claim to their introduction before Joseph Worcester who, in 1855, issued his Pronouncing, Explanatory, and Synonymous Dictionary. The slight foundation for the claim is evident from the following typical examples:

DEFEND. . . Syn.—Defend the innocent; protect the weak; vindicate those who are unjustly accused; repel aggression.

FIGURE. . . Syn.—A fine figure; regular shape; circular form; a carved statue; a graven image.—A metaphor is a figure of speech; a lamb is an emblem of innocence; the paschal lamb was a type of Christ.

One year later (1856) William G. Webster and Chauncey A. Goodrich, the son and son-in-law of Noah Webster, brought out abridged editions of his American Dictionary for school, business, and family use. Short discriminating synonymies were introduced, all of them written by Chauncey Goodrich. A few typical illustrations will indicate how much better a title he had than had Worcester to the claim of having introduced such synonymies into a dictionary:

Things are adjacent when they lie near to each other without touching, as adjacent fields; adjoining when they meet or join at some point, as adjoining farms; contiguous when they are brought more continuously in contact, as contiguous buildings.

Liveliness is an habitual feeling of life and interest; gayety refers more to a temporary excitement of the animal spirits; animation implies a warmth of emotion and a corresponding vividness of expressing it; vivacity is a feeling between liveliness and animation, having the permanency of the one, and, to some extent, the warmth of the other.

The first serious attempt in a general dictionary at discriminating synonymies on a par with those published by Piozzi, Crabb, Whately, and others, came in 1859 with the publication by G. & C. Merriam Co. of a "provisional edition"4 of Webster as a preparation for the first complete revision (issued in 1864) of the American Dictionary. These also were written by Chauncey A. Goodrich (1790-1860), whose articles in the smaller dictionaries of 1856 had been, according to the publishers' preface of 1859, "so highly appreciated by distinguished scholars" that they had prevailed upon him in his capacity as editor of the 1859 edition to add a treatment of synonyms to this book. For some years Goodrich had been engaged on "a distinct work on this subject" and it was the material gathered for this project that was developed and presented in the table of synonyms as part of the "front matter" of the 1859 edition.

These synonymies, with slight changes in phrasing and many additions, served for the two ensuing complete revisions of Merriam-Webster dictionaries, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary of 1864 and Webster's International Dictionary of 1890, both under the editorship of Noah Porter. In these books the articles on synonymy, instead of being grouped in the front matter, were distributed through the main vocabulary.

In the publishers' statement in the 1859 edition of the American Dictionary, note was made of the great advance in Goodrich's synonymies over those of preceding writers:

This is only an application on a broad scale of one mode adopted by Dr. Webster, for giving clearness and precision to his definitions. It is also peculiarly appropriate in a work like this, which aims at great exactness as a defining dictionary; since it affords an opportunity of giving in connection with the leading terms of our language, those nicer discriminations and shades of thought which it is impossible to reach in the way of ordinary definitions. . . . Unless the distinctive meaning of the several words is previously given, little or no aid is afforded as to their proper use and application, by adding such passages. This will be seen by turning to such a work as Platt's Dictionary of English Synonyms,5 which is framed chiefly upon this plan. On the first page, we find under the words abandon, desert, leave &c., such examples as these: "Men are abandoned by their friends; we desert a post or station; leave the country," &c. But these words may be

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4 As stated in the preface to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (1864).
5 A small work for use in schools, published 1825.
equally well interchanged. Men may be deserted by their friends; we may abandon a post or station, &c. Such examples, therefore, afford no light or guidance as to the proper use of these words. So, if the phrase be given "the officer abandoned his post," the question may arise whether he really abandoned, or deserted, or surrendered, or left it. He may have abandoned it on the approach of an enemy, or as no longer important to maintain; he may have deserted it unworthily or treacherously; he may have surrendered it to a superior force; he may have left it temporarily.

The criticism clearly shows that the chief defect of the current discriminating synonymy was a defect in method: it was not a defect in the definition of synonym or in the selection of synonyms. But in the thirty years following there were signs that Perry's vague conceptions of a synonym, and Smith's freer definition were beginning to enter the minds of synonymists. Neither Perry nor Smith was largely responsible for this change in definition. Roget, because of the enormous popularity of his work, or rather those who misinterpreted Roget's aim, must be considered as originating the trend and be blamed for it. By 1889 the first evidence of its more general acceptance had made its appearance.

In that year was published the first edition of the Century Dictionary, and in 1894 followed Funk and Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary. Both were new ventures in dictionary making and had the advantage of being in the limelight. Both followed the initiative of the Merriam-Webster dictionaries and introduced discriminating synonymies as an essential part of their contribution. But neither followed Webster in its adhesion to the traditional definition of synonym.

Although the Century Dictionary attempted many new things in the way of dictionary making, such as an encyclopedic character and a format of several volumes, it placed little stress on its treatment of synonymies. The writer of these articles, Henry Mitchell Whitney, was the brother of the editor in chief, William Dwight Whitney (1827-1894): his work was given only a four-line notice in the editorial preface:

Discussions of synonymies treating of about 7000 words. . .will be found convenient as bringing together statements made in the definitions in various parts of the dictionary, and also as touching in a free way upon many literary aspects of words.

It was probably because of the division of the Century Dictionary into several volumes that its editors could entertain the idea that the function of a discriminating synonymy is to assemble definitions of comparable terms from various parts of the dictionary, but such a function, because of its accidental character, has no inherent value. As a matter of fact, the synonymist of the Century often depended on cross reference to definitions for support or amplification of his statements and, therefore, invalidated the description (quoted above) by William Dwight Whitney in the editorial preface. Nor do his synonymies "touch in a free way upon many literary aspects of words." In the first place, it is not quite clear what is meant by that statement, and, in the second, there is no consistent proof of anything like it in the articles themselves. As a general rule, with the possible exception of Whately, synonymists had not yet felt strongly any difference between the literary and colloquial use of words.

There is not only the lack of a clearly defined policy in the preface, but there is also the lack of one in the synonymies themselves. Yet Henry M. Whitney seems to have had in him the makings of a good synonymist but to have been suffering from conditions over which he had no control. It may be that his job was too big for one man or for the time set for its completion and that he had little leisure to think through its problems: it may be that what he considered a good synonymy was not in accord with the opinion of the editor in chief. At any rate, his synonymies vary greatly in method, aim, and accomplishment. The most that can be said is that he was experimenting with different methods and aims and that he never reached definite conclusions as to the superiority of one over the other.

The most vital problem which concerned him was the selection of synonymy. Sometimes he provides a very limited selection, as at the noun adept, where he gives only expert, leaving out such words as master, proficient, and specialist, which might well have been treated as synonyms. In other places he gives a much longer and more heterogeneous list, as at ample: ample, copious, plenteous, spacious, roomy, extensive, extended, wide, capacious, abundant, sufficient, full, enough, unrestricted, plenary, unstinted. Only the italicized words are discriminated, it is true, but the others are given as synonyms. The average reader may doubt the justification of many of these words as synonyms, though he will readily find a relationship in meaning.

There was good reason for H. M. Whitney's uncertainty, in that around the eighteen-seventies and eighties synonymists were confronted with a problem that had not particularly concerned their predecessors. The demand then was not only for discriminating synonymies but for word-finding lists more or less in the manner of Roget and Soule. Crabb's work was still influential, but was not satisfying those who wanted more words synonymized and more synonymy for each word. Roget was immensely popular but extremely difficult to use, not only because of his classificatory method but because he supplied no definitions. In 1879 a "new and elaborate Index, much more complete than that which was appended to the previous editions" had been
added by Roget's son, in the belief that "almost every one who uses the book finds it more convenient to have recourse to the Index first." In this way the major difficulty, the classificatory system which the elder Roget had pertinaciously believed in, became no longer an obstacle. The other difficulty, the lack of discrimination, was not touched and, in view of Roget's primary purpose, was not likely to be.

As a result there followed an attempt to provide synonyms which would combine the virtues and value of the discriminating synonymies and yet would deal with word lists that approached in number and variety those of Roget. Henry M. Whitney more or less played with the problem, but James C. Fernald (1838-1918), the editor of synonyms for Funk and Wagnalls' *Standard Dictionary* (1894) and author of a manual, *English Synonyms and Antonyms* (1896), attacked it with vigor and offered what seemed to him a solution. Fernald and the editors of the *Standard Dictionary* set out to increase markedly the number of synonyms and antonyms at each entry. Hitherto, from two to eight words represented the norm in each of these lists; in the *Standard Dictionary* the average number lies between ten and twenty. First of all, they believed that they were justified in extending the definition of *synonym* to include both words of identical or closely allied meaning (the time-honored definition) and words which agree in some part of their meaning. The definition of *synonym* in the 1894 edition of the *Standard Dictionary* (slightly changed in later editions) reads:

A word having the same or almost the same meaning as some other; oftener, one of a number of words that have one or more meanings in common, but that differ either in the range of application of those meanings or in having other senses not held in common; opposed to antonym. . . Words of this class may often be used interchangeably, but discrimination in their choice is one of the most important characteristics of a good writer.

The discriminating synonymy given at the entry of *synonymous* in the main vocabulary reads:

**Synonyms**: alike, correspondent, corresponding, equivalent, identical, interchangeable, like, same, similar, synomymic. In the strictest sense, *synonymous* words scarcely exist; rarely, if ever, are any two words in any language *equivalent* or *identical* in meaning; where a difference in meaning can not easily be shown, a difference in usage commonly exists, so that the words are not *interchangeable*. By *synonymous* words we usually understand words that coincide or nearly coincide in some part of their meaning, and may hence within certain limits be used interchangeably, while outside of those limits they may differ very greatly in meaning and use. It is the office of a work on synonyms to point out these correspondences and differences, that language may have the flexibility that comes from freedom of selection within the common limits, with the perspicuity and precision that result from exact choice of the fittest word to express each shade of meaning outside of the common limits. To consider *synonymous* words *identical* is fatal to accuracy; to forget that they are *similar*, to some extent *equivalent*, and sometimes *interchangeable*, is destructive of freedom and variety.

It is possible that definition and synonymy were designed to avoid provoking criticism from those who adhered to the commonly accepted definition of *synonym* yet at the same time to extend the sense to accord with what was believed to be Roget's practice and to satisfy the demands of those who urged more words. It may be granted that this is a legitimate practice, provided it does not force the issue, but represents a genuine change in conception among a large or even a small class of those who use the term *synonym*. That the growing demand was for more synonyms cannot be questioned but that a change in the conception of *synonym* had occurred, from the one that had been in vogue since Crabb's time, may justly be disputed. At any rate, let us see how it affected the *Standard Dictionary*'s choice of synonyms. Two lists will illustrate its practice:

| ADEQUATE    | able, adapted, capable, commensurate, competent, equal, fit, fitted, fitting, qualified, satisfactory, sufficient, suitable. |
| HARMONY     | accord, accordance, agreement, amity, concord, concurrence, conformity, congruity, consent, consistency, consonance, symmetry, unanimity, uniformity, union, unison, unity. |

The *Standard Dictionary*'s definition justifies the selection of such lists of "synonyms." Each is a word which has one or more meanings in common with the introductory word (adequate or harmony). But if adequate means exactly commensurate with the requirements, only sufficient and competent (in one of its senses) with the addition of enough approach it in content. A person may be adequate if he is able, capable, competent (in another sense), or qualified; a person or thing may be adequate if he or it is adapted, fitted, or suitable; a thing may be adequate if it is equal to the requirement by being fit or satisfactory: but in all these cases, he or it may also be more than adequate or less than adequate, in some way, or the question of adequacy may never arise. Harmony in its musical sense may be related to accord, concord, consonance, in its aesthetic sense to symmetry and other terms not in this list; but what relation there is between it and amity, uniformity, unanimity, agreement, concurrence, congruity, etc., except as a cause or result or concomitant, needs to be proved. A word-finding list may consist of terms which, by agreeing in some implications and connotations, overlap, for those lists serve their purpose in helping the user to locate his word. But when
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the object is discrimination, only those words serve the purpose whose basic likeness can be proved by showing that they have a common denotation as well as not readily discerned differences.

It is true that Fernald found no difficulty here. His clearest expression of the method of discrimination is found in the preface to his English Synonyms, Antonyms, and Prepositions:

The great source of vagueness, error, and perplexity in many discussions of synonyms is, that the writer merely associates stray ideas loosely connected with the different words, sliding from synonym to synonym with no definite point of departure or return, so that a smooth and at first sight pleasing statement really gives the mind no definite resting-place and no sure conclusion. A true discussion of synonyms is definition by comparison, and for this there must be something definite with which to compare. When the standard is settled, approximation or differentiation can be determined with clearness and certainty.

What type of synonymy Fernald was criticizing is not clear. It was probably what may be called "the chain-formula type." When a synonymist had made so poor a selection of synonyms that there could be no common ground and his list presented an array of associated rather than synonymous terms, he often fell into the habit of giving a series of definitions with a factitious relation. A repetition of a previous word was usually enough to make a connection. This was the defect of certain synonymies into which all writers of articles, good as well as bad, fell at one time or another and is probably the type to which Fernald referred when he described the "easy sliding from synonym to synonym." Yet it is not always bad: when one word carries a general meaning which serves as a substitute for the common denotation, it is possible to use it with good effect. A short example from The New Century Dictionary (1927) must suffice for the good use:

BANTER is good-humored jesting. . . .RAILLERY is often sharp, sarcastic banter; PLEASANTRY, delicate and pleasant banter; BADINAGE, diverting and purposeless banter; PERSIFLAGE, light, frivolous, or flippant banter.

With lists such as Fernald's own it would be impossible to avoid this formula, unchanged. It was necessary for him to find some way of varying "the chain formula" so that he could secure the desired qualities, "unity of the group" and "some point of departure and return." Therefore, he devised the method whereby one word would be selected as the key word and all the other words should be compared or contrasted with it. A good example is afforded by his article at money:

MONEY. SYN.: bills, bullion, capital, cash, coin, currency, funds, gold, notes, property, silver, specie. Money is the authorized medium of exchange; coined money is called coin or specie. What are termed in England bank-notes are in the United States commonly called bills; as, five-dollar bill. The notes of responsible men are readily transferable in commercial circles, but they are not money; as, the stock was sold for $500 in money and the balance in merchantable paper. Cash is specie or money in hand, or paid in hand; as, the cash account; the cash price. In the legal sense, property is not money, and money is not property; for property is that which has inherent value, while money, as such, has but representative value, and may or may not have intrinsic value. Bullion is either gold or silver uncoined, or the coined metal considered without reference to its coinage, but simply as merchandise, when its value as bullion may be very different from its value as money. The word capital is used chiefly of accumulated property or money invested in productive enterprises or available for such investment. Compare PROPERTY; WEALTH.

Nothing could be clearer than that these words are not synonyms in the generally accepted sense. They include names of kinds of money (coin, specie, bills), names of material used for money or, in figurative language, meaning money or wealth (gold, silver), and words denoting things that have some intimate association with money (bullion, property, capital). The article keeps more or less consistently before the reader the relation of these to the key word money. The reader is bound to see and understand the distinctions and carry away a unified impression. There can be no quarrel with such articles on the ground of their not giving useful information. It may even be argued that a discrimination of terms that coincide in some part of their meaning may be in itself a valuable thing. But neither justification touches the issue raised by the Fernald synonymies. The ground of valid objection to them is that they offer as synonyms many words which even by the loosest of definitions cannot be accepted as such. The point of absurdity is reached at spontaneous, where the key word is so important that voluntary and involuntary, free and instinctive, automatic and impulsive are included.

By 1909, the date of publication of the next complete revision of the Merriam-Webster® dictionaries (the first edition of Webster's New International Dictionary), there had been time for consideration of these matters and for a more sober judgment. The Goodrich synonymies clearly needed revision on account of the growth of the language and, partly, because the synonym lists could be enriched. The work was entrusted to John Livingston Lowes (1867–1945; then at Washington University, St. Louis, but later at Harvard University) under the advisory supervision of George Lyman Kittredge (1860–1941) of Harvard. They were to deal only with general senses, but a few technical articles written by specialists were to be submitted to them, so as to insure uniformity in manner and method. The articles thus prepared were included in
Certain points of agreement were established by Lowes and Kittredge early in the course of their partnership. Very early in the writing of these articles Lowes called Kittredge's attention to the Fernald list at adequate and the Century list, adequate, sufficient, enough. "Is not the Century's list adequate?" he wrote. "I did not notice the test my question affords, but none of the other words in the Standard's list can be substituted for 'adequate.' Are they not better distributed among other articles? The longer I study the material, the more strongly I feel that more articles, each discriminating fewer words, are advisable. The longer articles are, as a matter of fact, confusing, and seem to have led often to strained attempts to find a single common factor for words which fall more naturally into several groups." Kittredge agreed fully. Thus, the Webster tradition of discriminating synonyms that are synonyms in the accepted sense was followed. Looser synonyms or closely related words were still given in the word-finding lists, and these also were revised by Lowes, whose interests, however, were concentrated on the articles discriminating synonyms.

By temperament and training Professor Lowes was especially fitted for the task assigned him. He excels all his predecessors in philosophic grasp and powers of analysis, yet he never confuses synonymizing with philosophizing or moralizing; he outstrips them all in the range of his knowledge of literature and of his contacts with language as the medium of expressing ideas and emotions; great scholar though he was, his work is utterly free of the pedantry, dogmatism, and heaviness that so often mar the work of lesser men. Though not a lexicographer by training or experience, he almost perfectly adapted the art of synonymizing to the methods of lexicography, so that whatever can contribute in either to the advantage of the other was brought out in his articles.

It is in the clarification of the differences between terms that are to a large extent equivalent in denotation that Lowes made the greatest advances in the art of synonymizing. Practically every synonymist before him had inklings of the kinds of differences that he saw clearly; many of them, such as Miss Whately, had used the language adopted by him, but no one so fully realized its possibilities. Rambling, persistent missing of the real differences and constant confusion of the content of the word itself with the concept for which that word stood were characteristic and prevalent faults of many earlier writers of synonymies. With Lowes, direct attack at each problem became possible and, with it, swift, sure shafts that rarely fail to make the desired cleavage.

It may be said that as a rule he was careful in his synonymies to state the ground of agreement; but sometimes he neglected to do so when the likeness was obvious. But in regard to differences he was extremely particular and rarely departed from the aim he held before him. His most frequently used method may be illustrated by an excerpt from the article at foretell in Webster's New International Dictionary (1909):

FORETELL (Saxon) and predict (Latin) are frequently interchangeable; but predict is now commonly used when inference from facts (rather than occult processes) is involved; as, "Some sorcerer... had foretold, dying, that none of all our blood should know the shadow from the substance" (Tennyson); "Mr. Brooke's conclusions were as difficult to predict as the weather" (G. Eliot); an astronomer predicts the return of a comet. Prophecy connotes inspired or mysterious knowledge, or great assurance of prediction; as, "ancestral voices prophesying war" (Coleridge); "Wrinkled benchers often talked of him approvingly, and prophesied his rise" (Tennyson). Forecast connotes conjecture rather than inference; presage implies shrewd forecast, sometimes presentiment or warning; as, "Who shall so forecast the years?" (Tennyson); "I presage, unless the country make an alarm, the cause is lost" (Scott). Portend... implies obscure prescience or premonition (esp. of evil); portend... threaten or ominous foretokening; as, "His heart forebodes a mystery" (Tennyson); "My father put on the countenance which always portends a gathering storm" (Richardson).

If we supply the common denotation of all these words—"to indicate what will happen"—the difference lies in other ideas involved in their meaning. In each case this difference forms part of the word's definition, the other part of which will be the common denotation. Indeed, although the dictionary definition may be presented from another point of view, a good and fair definition may be made according to this method. The synonymist, however, should find it the best method when his job is merely to show how far words agree and then to point out their individual differences. Other methods are conceivable, indeed some are necessary in special cases, but as yet no better method has been devised for the general run of synonyms. Miss Whately is largely responsible for it, but Lowes has greatly improved it.

It was (and is), however, impossible always to be equally exact, clear, and direct. This is especially true when the differences are less a matter of meaning than of coloring, as by historical and literary associations, or a matter of idiomatic usage. The difference in coloring or, in other terms, the difference in connotations—is especially difficult, requiring not only great knowledge but fine perceptions, imagination, and taste. Few

From manuscript notes in the editorial files of G. & C. Merriam Company.
would dare to attempt to distinguish connotations, but Lowes, whose feeling for these differences is not equaled by any synonymist, is especially successful in their handling. Many of these could not be incorporated in a dictionary definition, but they must be felt if the word is to be used with the accumulated power that has been stored in it. A particularly effective synonym of this type is to be found at idiot.

Idiot, imbecile, fool, simpleton are here compared esp. in their connotations; for technical distinctions, see defs. Idiot (a learned word become popular) implies absence, commonly congenital, of intellectual or reasoning powers; it is often less strictly used to characterize one who is felt to have acted with utter stupidity; imbecile (less common as a popular term) implies great mental feebleness or (in its looser derogatory sense) entire fatuity; fool, the more vigorous word, is wholly popular, and frequently suggests lack of sense or wisdom rather than of brains; from its Biblical use, it still connotes, in elevated style, grave, pitying, or scathing condemnation; in colloquial usage, as a term of contempt, it is strongly offensive; simpleton (also wholly popular) implies silliness or (sometimes) unsophisticatedness; it is often used lightly as a term of indulgent contempt; as, “He said you were...a senseless, drivelng idiot” (Wycherley); “What an idiot am I, to wait here for a fellow who probably takes a delight in mortifying me” (Goldsmith); “custom’s idiot sway” (Cowper); cf. an idiotic grin; “The petty passions, the imbecile desires...daily moving her contempt” (G. Eliot); “She’s a fool to stay behind her father” (Shak.); “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread” (Pope); “They look upon persons employing their time in making verses...as simpletons easily to be deceived” (V. Knox); poor, innocent little simpleton! “The ‘Great simpleton!’...of Mr. Newman, and the ‘Thou fool!’ of the Bible, are something alike; but ‘Thou fool!’ is very grand, and ‘Great simpleton!’ is an atrocity. So too...Shakespeare’s ‘Poor venomous fool, be angry and dispatch!’ is in the grand style” (M. Arnold). ... .

Differences in idiomatic usage are oftentimes not a matter that can easily be presented by definition. Many terms in a dictionary are defined almost in the same words, though written by various editors, the only clue to difference consisting in the illustrations. The consultant is often at a loss, because he does not see that these examples may constitute the only uses of the term, or a few such uses, and are not representative of a large number of uses. It was in such cases that the method which we have called the Piozzi method was first used, but without a full understanding of its dangers and limitations. Lowes avoided this method except where he was dealing with fixed idioms. Then he safeguarded his statement with a parenthetical elimination such as “one ascends (not mounts) a mountain; one mounts (not ascends) a horse.” The sparing use of this method did not, however, lead to his ignoring the problem presented by such synonyms as are definable in almost identical terms yet are incapable of discrimination in implications and connotations. To get at his method let us examine parts of certain synonymies where his effectiveness is most apparent:

One excuses (either as a superior or as an equal) small faults, minor omissions, or neglects, esp. in social or conventional obligations; one pardons (as a superior, or by act of mercy or generosity) serious faults, crimes, or grave offenses, esp. against laws or morals; as, to excuse an unintentional oversight, an absence from a required exercise; “Excuse my glove” (Sheridan); to pardon a thief; to pardon a theft; “Apollo, pardon my great profaneness ‘gainst thine oracle” (Shak.).

Stop...applies primarily to action, or to that which is thought of as moving; cease applies also to states and conditions, or to that which is thought of as being; as, a train stops, but does not cease; the noise it makes both stops and ceases; one’s love may cease, but scarcely stop.

Fast and rapid are often used without distinction; but fast frequently applies to the moving object, whereas rapid is apt to characterize or suggest the movement itself; as, a fast horse, a fast train, boat; a rapid current, a rapid gait, rapid progress.

Hateful and odious are sometimes used with little distinction. But hateful more frequently applies to that which excites actual hatred, odious, to that which is excessively disagreeable, or which awakens repugnance; as, “Why shouldn’t we hate what is hateful in people, and scorn what is mean?” (Thackeray)... “There was something more odious to him in her friendship than her hatred” (Thackeray).

In these discriminations the original contribution of Lowes is the generalization regarding usage or application. An occasional synonymist before him had experimented with it, but no one before him succeeded. He knows how to guard the expression, never claims too much, and yet, in spite of all the difficulties involved, makes statements that are just and therefore convincing. There seems to have been no inclination on his part to overstate the case. If there must be inexactness, he preferred it on the side of understatement. “This is as much as it is safe to say” was a not infrequent comment of his.7 Much more could be said about the interesting technique developed by Lowes. Much more could be said also about other excellences and some defects which characterize his work. But when all is said and done there still remains his superiority as a discriminator, as manifested in his selection of methods according to his material. Whether his synonyms differed in implications, in connotations, or in applications or, more probably, some in one way, some in another, he was seldom at a loss.

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7 In manuscript notes in the editorial files of G. & C. Merriam Company.
Just a word about antonyms. There is no evidence at hand to prove that Lowes was ever asked to enter antonyms in *Webster's New International Dictionary*. He did, however, incorporate a few (though not by that name) in his articles under the general formula of "opposed to . . ." when the difference between synonyms (usually very general ones) could be apprehended more easily by knowing the term which was the direct opposite of each. He does this several times, as at base, where base is "opposed to high-minded," vile is "opposed to pure, noble," and mean is "opposed to generous, magnanimous." It is possible to guess his definition of antonym, but no more. The antonyms in *Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition* (1934) were added by an office editor.

There is no need to go further in the history of synonymy. Further synonymists there have been, some very good, some not quite so good, and some very bad; but they have all taken sides, either with those who support the traditional definition of synonym as one of two or more words having the same essential meaning or with those who favor its extension to one of two or more words which coincide in some part of their meaning. There has been no compromise: it might even be said that the break has scarcely been noticed. Nevertheless, it is apparent that, unless there be some clarification in definitions, especially of synonym and antonym, the prevailing popular misunderstanding will increase—with what results no one can estimate. This clarification we propose to undertake in the essays that follow.

It is because we firmly believe in the values implicit in the study of synonyms, antonyms, and word-finding lists (in this book divided into analogous words and contrasted words) that this dictionary has been written. We hope, therefore, that it not only carries some steps forward the admirable work accomplished by Goodrich and Lowes but also removes some sources of confusion or perplexity which have arisen outside of their work. The old defect inherent in synonymies, the overuse of illustration without a sufficient background in differences of implications (which we have called the Piozzi method), has not entirely disappeared from more recent writing, but, at least, the snake was scotched by the publishers' preface of the 1859 edition of *Webster's Dictionary*. In its place has come an uncertainty in the definitions of synonym and antonym which is even more insidious. In the three essays that follow we, therefore, make clear our own position. In the first of these essays we define synonym briefly, in order to show what effect that definition has had on our choice of words to be discriminated and on the technique of discrimination. In the second we define antonym at length, for the reason that this term has never been clearly examined and that the definitions in the major dictionaries are all at variance with Smith's tentative definition and with the selections of many of his successors. In the third we explain our aims and practices with respect to the word-finding lists.

**SYNONYM: ANALYSIS AND DEFINITION**

The chief reason for including in this introduction an article on synonyms is not to phrase a new definition of that term. It is rather to make a protest as to the loosening of the definition within the last fifty or sixty years and to restate very clearly what we believe to be the true and generally accepted meaning. In addition we will show briefly the effect of this definition upon our method.

For approximately one hundred years in the history of English synonymy there was very little real difference of opinion as to what a synonym is or as to what words should be the material of discrimination. It is true that John Trusler discriminated "words esteemed synonymous," Mrs. Piozzi "words apparently synonymous," and Miss Whately "pseudo-synonyms." Roget, who held that discrimination was foreign to his purpose, claimed that "the investigation of the distinctions to be drawn between words apparently synonymous forms a separate branch of inquiry." Nevertheless, all four made a distinction between true or actual synonyms (that is, words identical in meaning) and the terms which they discriminated or, in the case of Roget, which were discriminable (that is, terms that are so nearly alike that they appear to be synonyms). For all practical purposes, however, the words which were discriminated were not at all different from the "words closely allied" in meaning between which, according to Crabb, it is the business of the synonymist "to mark the nice shades of distinction"; nor is there any clash with Soule's simple definition.

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of a synonym as that which has "the same meaning as" the entry word under which it is listed "or a meaning very nearly the same."

It is also true that these synonymists did not always agree in their choice of synonyms. In part this was due to some confusion as to the limits of their scope, but mostly it is the result of conditions which still, to a degree, prevail. Some advances have been made in precision, but the truth was and is that there are too many factors entering into the selection of synonyms to make for absolute certainty or perfect accuracy in their choice. But these synonymists were not so far wrong as William Perry, who accepted Johnson's "proximate words" as synonyms and made no distinction between them in reference to sense. The failure of his Synonymous... Dictionary may be ascribed to this cause.

The error Perry made has renewed itself, though with slightly more justification. This renewal, also, is initially the result of the misinterpretation of a highly popular work, Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, and of a belief that Roget presented two lists of terms, those that were alike (synonyms) and those that were opposed. It was to give voice to this interpretation that Charles J. Smith coined the word antonym for the opposed terms and gave to the world in 1867 his small book A Complete Collection of Synonyms and Antonyms. But because he was not following Roget in the arrangement of his material, choosing the dictionary (alphabetical) method rather than the classificatory method, he defined synonym (and antonym) in such a way that it would apply to Roget's lists (so far as they were of the same part of speech) and to his own. Synonyms are, in Smith's definition, "words which agree in expressing one or more characteristic ideas in common" (with the entered word). It is possible that he believed he was more careful in his selection than Roget. In line with his definition he gives lists of synonyms, such as that at accelerate, which are, it is true, less diverse than Roget's but which are still susceptible of criticism as synonyms. There are, for example, some that are not questionable, such as speed, quicken, and hasten, but there are others, such as promote, urge, expedite, facilitate, and dispatch, that are open to question. Accelerate means to make go faster; so do speed, hasten, and quicken. But promote, for example, stresses aid given in attaining an end and only occasionally implies to make go faster; urge throws the emphasis upon the force that impels rather than upon the result, which usually, but not always, is to make go faster; expedite stresses the removal of impediments so that a progress or process is not delayed longer than is necessary or normal and therefore usually means to make go faster than it might. But in all these three cases a making go faster may or may not be implied; if implied, this notion is subordinate to the main implication of the word. Agreement "in one or more ideas" is a poor basis for the selection of synonyms, for these may or may not form a part of the essential meaning.

As the demand grew for a large number of synonyms, even agreement in one or more characteristic ideas tended to break down. Twenty-five and more years later certain synonymists of repute were offering groups of words as synonyms of one word rather than of one another and were not restricting those words to one sense of their key term. For instance, one synonymist of this period gave as the synonyms of blot, stain mists have escaped and to tighten the method of discrimination so that it will be very clear at points where pediments so that a progress or process is not delayed longer than is necessary or normal and therefore confusing. They have no value in teaching the precise use of language: their only merit is to indicate some of words as synonyms of one word rather than of one another and were not restricting those words to one or more ideas" is a poor basis for the selection of synonyms, for these may or may not form a part of the essential meaning.

It is against a definition so loose as that favored by Smith or implied by others who went even further that this book makes a protest. In line with the tradition of the Merriam-Webster® dictionaries we believe that such a definition is destructive of all the values that have come to be recognized in synonyms. We hold that only by a clear return to something like the time-honored definition can we conserve these values and recognize a synonym when we see it. To emphasize this aim we propose in this dictionary to restate that this book makes a protest. In line with the tradition of the Merriam-Webster® dictionaries we believe that such a definition is destructive of all the values that have come to be recognized in synonyms. We hold that only by a clear return to something like the time-honored definition can we conserve these values and recognize a synonym when we see it. To emphasize this aim we propose in this dictionary to restate that definition fully and unequivocally so that none of the loopholes may be left through which some synonymists have escaped and to tighten the method of discrimination so that it will be very clear at points where even the best of synonymists have, in the past, unconsciously permitted vagueness.

A synonym, in this dictionary, will always mean one of two or more words in the English language which have the same or very nearly the same essential meaning. This is not a matter of mere likeness in meaning, for words may have some implications (ideas involved in their meaning) in common and yet not be synonymous. It is rather a likeness in denotation, which may be inadequately defined as the meaning which includes all the important implications but which is more strictly defined as the meaning or signification of a term as expressed in its definition. The denotation must include more than a summary of implications: it must indicate the part of speech and the relations of the ideas involved in a term's meaning.
Synonyms, therefore, are only such words as may be defined wholly, or almost wholly, in the same terms. Usually they are distinguished from one another by an added implication or connotation, or they may differ in their idiomatic use or in their application. They may be and usually are interchangeable within limits, but interchangeability is not the final test, since idiomatic usage is often a preventive of that. The only satisfactory test of synonyms is their agreement in denotation. This agreement is seldom so perfect as to make the words absolutely identical in meaning, but it is always so clear that the two or more words which are synonyms can be defined in the same terms up to a certain point.

Consequently, the statement of this common denotation is of the greatest importance. In the discriminating articles in this dictionary it is, as a general rule, presented in the first sentence, but sometimes when there is need of a preliminary statement it is put in the second sentence. For example, at nice, the common denotation of the words to be discriminated (nice, dainty, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, particular, fussy, squamish, persnickety, pernickety) is given as “exacting or displaying exacting standards (as in selection, judgment, or workmanship)”; at object (where object, protest, remonstrate, expostulate, kick are discriminated) it is “to oppose something (as a course, a procedure, a policy, or a project), especially by making known one’s arguments against it”; at delusion (where delusion, illusion, hallucination, mirage are discriminated) it is “something which is believed to be or is accepted as being true or real but which is actually false or unreal.” Each of these sentences is so worded that the part of speech of the words discriminated is made clear. For example, the wording is in the form of a definition of an adjective where the words discriminated are adjectives, in the form of a definition of a verb where the words discriminated are verbs. Some of these synonyms have other senses than the one here given, but in each such meaning the word has other synonyms and another common denotation. A distinct attempt, it may be said here, has been made to select synonyms according to their range of meaning. It has not always been possible to do so, since, occasionally, the more general word has no synonyms except more specific words (compare let in the list: let, allow, permit, suffer, leave). As a rule, however, a division between words of wide range and words of narrow range of meaning has been made, because it permits a more definite denotation for the narrower terms and makes for closer agreement and fewer differences. It is for this reason that we have separated the general terms for a political or legal agreement (agreement, accord, understanding) from those that are very explicit (contract, bargain, compact, pact, treaty, etc.), and have separated the general terms large, big, great from terms which specify unusual size (huge, vast, immense, enormous, etc.) and from terms which imply size and impressiveness (grand, magnificent, imposing, stately, etc.). But the difference between groups of synonyms is not always dependent on generality: it often implies a different emphasis or a different combination of implications. There have been many times when it was a serious question whether to add a word as a synonym to one group or to another, the arguments on both sides being of equal cogency. In such cases (for example, hellish and fiendish) the decision has usually depended on many factors, such as basic rather than derived meaning and the fact that, if certain words were treated separately, terms which are synonyms of one but not of the other could be added. Occasionally when a shared meaning makes a word a logical candidate for two synonymy groups but usage, connotation, or implication set the two aspects distinctly apart it has been included in two groups. For many reasons the problem of selecting synonyms has not been an easy one, but we have always tried to base our judgment upon evidence that was not affected by any personal prejudices or predilections.

Not all the words discriminated in this dictionary are synonyms. A few articles discuss a group of words that are sometimes wrongly taken as synonyms because they are confused or their actual meanings are misunderstood or because they once had one or more meanings which made them synonymous. In articles discussing such words the reason for their not being synonyms, whatever it may be, is stated clearly and unambiguously in the first or second sentence of the article. We have added these groups not merely because we believe them useful but because we believe that they come rightly within the province of the discriminator.

The method of discrimination is not invariable, for every set of synonyms presents its own problems. But, in general, the points of distinction are in: (1) implications—here, mostly minor ideas involved in the meaning of the word; (2) connotations—the ideas which color the word’s meaning and are the product of various influences, such as etymology, language of origin, and historical and literary association; (3) applications—the restrictions in a word’s use as prescribed by idiom or in accordance with the nature of the other words with which it may be associated, as when an adverb may be used to modify only certain kinds of verbs or when a verb may take only certain kinds of nouns as its subject or its object. Not all of the words discriminated in a single article differ in only one of these ways, however; some may differ in implications, some in connotations, some in applications, and some in more than one way. For no method adopted by the discriminator should be so artificial as to foster merely theoretical distinctions. The distinctions drawn should be real distinctions based on the evidence of recorded use—and it is such evidence, we cannot too strongly emphasize, that has guided the editors of this dictionary and has determined the distinctions set forth in its discriminating articles.
ANTONYM: ANALYSIS AND DEFINITION

There are probably few words more generally used with less understanding of their meaning than the word antonym. True, all the dictionaries define it, but often in such terms that the definition may be interpreted to include radically different conceptions. Is an antonym theoretically only one word or, at the most, one of two or three words which can be opposed to another word in a definite sense or is it any one of several words which may be opposed to it or to a group of synonymous terms? Probably because the latter conception is the easier one it has gained widespread acceptance, but still the dictionary definitions incline to back up the opinion of those who think of an antonym in the abstract as something more specialized and nearer to the former conception.

No one will dispute the right of a person to coin a term that fills a definite need or to give to that term the meaning he desires, though one may question whether the meaning assigned accords with the term's etymology, as in the case of antonym. For C. J. Smith who, in his ...Synonyms and Antonyms (1867), introduced this term (which, in his own phrasing, "he has ventured, not to coin, but to reissue") adopted it primarily because of its analogy to synonym and knew that only by considerable stretching could the meaning he proposed for it be made to approach the meaning of what he thought of as its Greek original. Despite his recognition of this fact, the term seemed to Smith preferable to counterterm, though he acknowledged that some persons might still prefer the latter. As for definition, he related synonym and antonym. "Words," he wrote, "which agree in expressing one or more characteristic ideas in common [that is, with a given term] has regarded as Synonyms, those which negative one or more such ideas he has called Antonyms."

Therefore, no one is likely to dispute the right of a later investigator to examine anew the meaning of a coined word questionably grounded and vaguely defined that has become established in the language. In fact, there is not only the right but a duty on the part of such an investigator when, as in the case of antonym, he finds that there is a great difference between the theory, as manifested in the definition, and the practice, as manifested in selection. There will always be strict constructionists and loose constructionists but, in this case at least, the difference is more apparent than real, for many of the latter have been forced into this position by the practical difficulties confronting them in the selection of antonyms, rather than by indifference to the concept involved.

What we propose to do here, then, is to examine the word antonym, to determine the concept it involves, and to state its definition in as clear terms as possible. When we find a term like this used frequently with such qualifying words as exact and true (the "exact antonym" of this word; the "true antonym"), we must suspect an attempt on the part of men to approximate an ideal.

Modern unabridged dictionaries, without exception, define antonym with comparative strictness. It is "a word of opposite meaning" (Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition\(^9\)), "a term which is the opposite or antithesis of another, a counter-term" (Oxford English Dictionary), "a word directly opposed to another in meaning; a counterterm: the opposite of synonym" (Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary), "a counterterm; an opposite; an antithetical word: the opposite of synonym" (Century Dictionary), and "a word that is an opposite in meaning of a particular word" (New Century Dictionary). In all of these definitions, the burden is on the word opposite or opposed; and, it should be added, all differences of opinion as to the criteria for determining antonyms are due to uncertainty as to what is meant by opposite or opposed. The physical connotations of these words always stand in the way of a strict definition of their abstract senses. How complex is the concept of opposition may be seen from the following analysis of its physical connotations.

Opposition is a relation involved when two things are so placed that: (1) they may be connected by a straight line (straightness as distinguished from obliquity being determined by external conditions such as the lines of a room) drawn from one to another (as, opposite windows); (2) they lie at either end of an axis, diameter, or the like (as, opposite points on the earth's surface); (3) they are contiguous but reversed in position (as, the opposite halves of the globe); (4) they face each other, the distance apart being of no consequence (as, partners stand opposite); (5) they depart or diverge from each other (as, to go their opposite ways); (6) they work against each other (as, opposite forces); (7) they cannot exist together, because they reverse or undo each other (as, the opposite processes of growth and decay); (8) they represent the obverse and the reverse (as, the opposite faces of a coin).

What this relation is both materially and immaterially and in all instances is, frankly, hard to determine. It is not invariably the confrontation of one with another, for "persons who go their opposite ways" and "the opposite processes of growth and decay," for example, do not respond to this test; it is hardly complete divergence or difference, for "the opposite halves of the globe" and "the opposite faces of a coin" represent difference only in one or more particulars, otherwise remaining fundamentally alike; it is still

\(^9\) Same in Webster's Third New International.
less antagonism or irreconcilability, for there is no hint of either in the opposite position of partners in a dance or in opposite windows. Although some of these ideas exist as implications distinguishing meanings of the word opposite, they do not yield any fundamental meaning which is involved in every sense. One can go no further than to say that opposite represents a setting of one thing against another so as to sharpen their differences or to reveal their divergencies.

It will be necessary, therefore, to get at what is meant by “opposite meaning” in another way. First, let us take the words listed as antonyms in the dictionaries and manuals of synonyms and antonyms and see into what classifications they fall. When possible, we will offer a classification known to logic, but when not possible, we will form our own, naming it in unambiguous terms.

A large number of words listed as antonyms fall into two well-known logical categories, those of contradictory terms (or contradictories) and contrary terms (or contraries).

1. Contradictory terms are so opposed to each other that they are mutually exclusive and admit no possibility between them. If either is true, the other must be false; if either is false, the other must be true. Examples:—A thing is either perfect or imperfect: no matter how slight or how extensive the imperfection, the fact remains that the thing cannot be called perfect if any flaw, blemish, or defect exists. If a person is asked for his opinion, he may agree with that of others, or he may disagree, or differ: it is unimportant whether the disagreement is radical or superficial or the difference concerns a major or a very minor point; he cannot be said to agree.

2. Contrary terms are so opposed in meaning that the language admits no greater divergence. They are the true “diametrical opposites.” But they must be of or must apply to things of the same genus or fundamental kind. Thus, white and black represent the extremes in color, the former, as popularly understood, implying the absorption of all colors and the latter implying the privation of every vestige of color. Prodigal and parsimonious represent extremes in expenditure (chiefly of money), but prodigal implies excessive extravagance and parsimonious excessive frugality. Superiority and inferiority represent extremes judged by a standard of what is good. Between these extremes represented by each of these pairs of examples, there are many words which may more truly describe or designate the person or thing in question.

Other classes are the following:

3. Many words are listed as antonyms that normally appear in pairs. Some are what the logician calls relative terms, pairs of words which indicate such a relationship that one of them cannot be used without suggesting the other; as, parent and child, husband and wife, predecessor and successor, employee and employer. Others are complementary terms involving, usually, a reciprocal relation or the incompleteness of one unless the other follows; as, question and answer, attack and defend, stimulus and response.

4. An important class of words sometimes listed in antonyms may be called for want of a better name reverse terms: these comprise adjectives or adverbs which signify a quality or verbs or nouns which signify an act or state that reverse or undo the quality, act, or state of the other. Although they are neither contradictory nor contrary terms, they present a clear opposition. Their addition is usually justified in this way: if the antonym of admit is reject, what shall we do with eject which implies not the negative but the reverse of admit?: if the antonym of destructive is harmless, must we ignore constructive, which goes further and implies either the reverse or the undoing of destructive? Many words of the reverse type are often equal in value; sometimes they are even stronger than the first.

5. There is still a class of words listed as antonyms, which are neither contradictories nor contraries nor reverse terms, which do, however, present a sharp contrast—for example, such pairs as rich and destitute, dry and moist, and keep and abandon. This is one of the most perplexing of classes and one that appears very frequently in antonym lists. Such words may be designated contrasted terms. We shall return to them later.

6. The last class of so-called antonyms is very inclusive. Words in this class might be called “loosely contrasted terms,” since when they are presented side by side with the word of which they are given as antonyms, they never fully clash but show a difference in only a small part of their meaning (as, abstruse and superficial, frank and hypocritical, vigilant and careless). For the sake of uniformity, however, we will call them incompatibles, for they usually cannot both at the same time be said of or applied to the same person or thing. Frank means open and free in one’s talk and uninhibited by any restraints, such as fear, whereas hypocritical means presenting an appearance of being other and usually better than one is; abstruse means so remote from the range of ordinary human experience that there is difficulty in comprehension, while superficial, in this limited sense, means not penetrating below the surface or exterior so as to unveil what lies behind. So put, there is not the slightest sign of a clash in meaning, yet the difference which confuses, though slight, is there, for the person who is called frank gives the appearance of sincerity and the person who is called hypocritical is adjudged insincere. Similarly, a work that is spoken of as abstruse differs from a work that is spoken of as superficial in that the one is profound, the other shallow. It is sincere and insincere (not frank and hypocritical), and profound and shallow (not abstruse and superficial) which clash.
in meaning. Since this class is based upon a mistake in analysis, it will be eliminated from the discussion.

If, then, we were to make a definition of antonym according to the type of word which dictionaries and manuals select as such, it would be phrased something like this: "An antonym is a word that so differs from another word that it represents its contradictory, its contrary, its relative (or counterpart), its complement, its reverse, its contrasted term, or its incompatible in some way or degree." That this is too inclusive a definition is obvious. No one, it seems fair to state, would define in terms as broad as this the word antonym as it is understood in concept; yet everyone who has made it his business to select antonyms is aware of the dangers involved and of the difficulty in avoiding the questionable types. An easygoing attitude is not chiefly responsible for this wide diversity. The English language was clearly not made to measure: it was not devised to show likenesses or differences. The discovery both of words which are closely alike and of words which are sharply different is, for the most part, the product of the need for expressing ideas or of understanding expressed ideas. No mechanical shaping power sets words right before men begin to use them.

It must be remembered that the task of selecting antonyms is imposed upon a living structure, in a desire to know its resources and so far as possible bend it to our needs. The selection not only of antonyms but also of synonyms is similar, at least in aim, to the scientist's classification of animals into orders, families, genera, and species. Both help us in the understanding and mastery of the material involved. When an old system breaks down in its study of the animal world, a new one must arise. None is perfect, but each is a help in bringing within the range of human understanding something that would otherwise be too vast for study and beyond the range of experience of any one man. So we proceed to study synonyms, words which closely resemble each other not in particular ways but in the very heart of their meaning, that we may know them better and use them more wisely, more precisely, and more effectively.

We should like to do the same thing with antonyms. It is good, we feel, to know the exact antonym of a word, for not only will it give us a firmer grasp of the meaning of the word to which it is opposed but inversely, of itself. Is there any test that will help us in discovering such words, that we may be enabled not only to speak and to write more expressively but to have a richer understanding of the pages of men who have known how to express themselves? There is a word in Smith's definition of antonym which may give us the clue, "those [words] which negative one or more such ideas he has called Antonyms." In fact, even today, some persons argue that an antonym is "the exact negative" of a word. It is not clear just what this is intended to mean. Taken quite literally and expressed in the phraseology of logic an "exact negative" is a word's contradictory term. But this is too narrow, as even those who vigorously support this definition must agree. By the terms of its definition, a word's contradictory must be the equivalent in meaning of its not-compound. Otherwise the two terms (a word and its contradictory) could not be mutually exclusive. Let us see this in tabular form.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>word</th>
<th>not-compound</th>
<th>contradictory</th>
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<tr>
<td>colored</td>
<td>not-colored</td>
<td>colorless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perfect</td>
<td>not-perfect</td>
<td>imperfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>not-agree</td>
<td>disagree or differ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So put, it is obvious that there is no disagreement between the not-term and contradictory: in this case the negative and the opposite agree. The trouble comes, however, with the naming of the antonym. As a matter of practical policy, if we accept the "exact negative" as the antonym, we must restrict ourselves to the very few contradictories which have an independent form, and to the very few in-, un-, dis- and similar compounds which are obviously contradictory terms. But if we wish completeness, we must supply antonyms for the vast majority of English words by constructing a not-form. That might do in logic, but it would not do when greater knowledge of the English language exists as our clear aim. Moreover, we feel the lack of the clash that gives so much savor to the antonym.

On the other hand, it is clear that the other terms listed as antonyms do not equal the "exact negative." The logical contradictory of white (not-white) may include any chromatic color or any other achromatic color, yet the contrary, or diametrical opposite, is only black: the logical contradictory of parsimonious (not-parsimonious) may include many terms, such as liberal, extravagant, prodigal, yet the contrary, or diametrical opposite, is prodigal; not-liking may include both indifference and aversion, but no one will question that aversion is the contrary of liking. Even more obvious is the difference between the logical contradictory and the relative or the complementary term, for in this case they neither represent nor include the same thing. Not-attack, for example, does not equal defend; not-husband is not the equivalent of wife; and not-stimulus does not in any way approach response.

More important than relative and complementary terms (most of which may be doubted, with good reason, to be the antonyms of each other) are the terms which take a reverse as the opposite. While the not-
term in these cases often equals or includes a word that is called the term's *antonym*, it is never equivalent with what may be called the "reverse antonym." For instance, *not-admit* equals *reject*, but it does not cover the reverse of *admit*, which may be either *eject* or *expel*; *not-abandon* may include *keep*, but it cannot be interpreted to cover the reverse of *abandon*, which is *reclaim*.

One class of words listed as antonyms remains for our consideration, contrasted terms. As has been said, this class covers a large number of words the listing of which as antonyms puzzles rather than enlightens the reader. It is easy to prove that they cannot be "exact negatives." For example, *keep*, which is often given as the antonym of *abandon*, is not its contradictory, for the logical contradictory (*not-keep*) also includes *sell*, *lose*, *give away*, and many other words; *rich* is not the contradictory of *destitute*, for the logical contradictory *not-rich* includes *needy*, *indigent*, *poor*, *comfortable*, and many other terms as well as *destitute*. But this does not get at the heart of the matter and display what is wrong with these terms. Obviously also, they are not contraries, for they do not represent extremes of divergence as do *parsimonious* and *prodigal* or *white* and *black*. What is the matter with them? In answering this question, we will find the clue to the solution of our problem.

Superficially viewed, these contrasted terms differ sharply in some part, but not in all parts, of their meaning. They do not clash full force. One term covers more ground than the other, or one term is more explicit in its implications than the other. The logician would say that they equal each other neither in extension nor in intension. Put more simply, they differ (1) in their range of application or applicability, one being general, the other specific, or one being more inclusive or less inclusive than the other, and (2) in their depth of meaning—that is, in the number and quality of implications contained in the terms. It is clear that *keep* is more general than *abandon* and that to equal it in generality and at the same time to negate (or, much better, to negate) its implications, *relinquish* would be a better choice: it is clear that *abandon* has more specific implications than are found in *keep*, such as surrender of possession or control and relegation to the mercy of others, and that a word which exactly equates these implications in number and quality yet, at the same time, negates them must be the true antonym. There seems to be no term that fills these demands except a "reverse term," one that undoes what has been accomplished by the act of abandoning. That term is *reclaim* in its definite sense of regaining control or possession of something and giving it full care and attention. *Rich* is too broad and general to pair with the very explicit *destitute*. There are many implications in the latter which have no clear parallel in *rich*. Only *poor* could be opposed to *rich* in breadth of extension and in vagueness of intension, because *rich* suggests more possessions than one needs, and *poor* suggests fewer possessions than one requires and so negates in full the meaning of the other. On the other hand, *opulent* could be opposed to *destitute* in narrowness of extension and in explicitness of intension, for *destitute* suggests the miserable condition where one is deprived of all that is needed for bare existence and *opulent* the felicitous condition where everything that is desired is possessed in abundance. Though *rich* and *poor* come close together (the dividing line being marked by such a word as *comfortable*) and *destitute* and *opulent* are very far apart, being in fact "diametrical opposites," each represents the negation of the other.

In this way *wet*, because it equals *dry* in range of meaning and negates *dry* in number and quality of implications, is the antonym of *dry*, whereas *damp* and *moist* are merely contrasted terms to *dry*; *alleviate* for the same reasons is the antonym of *aggravate*, and *mitigate*, *assuage*, and *allay* are nothing more than contrasted terms; *elevation* in the sense of promotion is the antonym of *degradation* in the sense of demotion, for it contains implications not found in *preferment* or *advancement*.

In selecting antonyms, therefore, one should be on guard to match in range of meaning the word from which one starts and to negate every one of its implications so that the opposition is complete. Otherwise the opposing words do not clash full force, one word covering more or less ground than the other or exhibiting differences not apparent in the other. It is for this reason that in this dictionary we have preferred to give *contrasted words* as distinct from *antonyms*, not denying or ignoring the value of the former in word study but emphasizing the unique, disciplinary value of the latter.

It is for a similar reason that we have ruled out relative and complementary terms as antonyms of each other. Pairs of words of this class are, it is true, usually matched in extension, but one of the pair seldom negates the intension of the other. Rather they suggest union, convergence, or completion when taken together. *Husband* and *wife*, *employer* and *employee* are different elements in a combination, which we may call opposites not in the sense of negating each other but of fulfilling each other. The same is true of *stimulus* and *response*, of *question* and *answer*. Without the former the latter could not be: without the latter the former remains incomplete. An occasional instance, however, remains, such as *attack* and *defend*. Since these come as close to reverse terms as they do to complementary terms, they may be treated as the former.

The foregoing analysis would seem to leave us with three classes as possible antonyms: contradictory, contrary, and reverse terms. It is true that, in general, all antonyms may be fitted into each of these classes. But, as the first two classes are the creation of logicians, who are dealing with symbols rather than with
words, they are somewhat too rigid or too artificial for our use. Whether good and bad, right and wrong, true and false are contradictions or contraries might be disputed: it is wiser, for our purposes, not to raise this issue. They still remain antonyms according to our tests. So do a large number of more specific terms, which are equated in range of meaning and are negated in their specific implications, such as extol and decry, aboveboard and underhand, constant and fitful (as applied to things), adulation and abuse. The designation "reverse term" may also be dropped now that its purpose in exposition has been served. There are only three tests which should be applied to a word selected as the antonym of another word, and these are stated in the following definition:

An antonym is a word so opposed in meaning to another word, its equal in breadth or range of application, that it negates or nullifies every single one of its implications.

It is this definition that has guided the selection of antonyms in this dictionary. Not every entry, of course, exhibits an antonym, for there are many words that have no antonym. In some few cases, moreover, we have been unable to supply any word that meets the three tests of the above definition or have been obliged to resort to an approximation. In such cases, we always welcome intelligent criticism that may enable us to supply these gaps. But, for the most part, where an antonym is listed, the editors rely upon its self-justification to the consultant who will apply these tests.

THE TREATMENT OF ANTONYMS

A few words should be added to clarify the practice of this dictionary in regard to antonyms. They form an important part of its makeup; but, as they do not require much space, their significance may be overlooked. It must be emphasized that each antonym is directly related to its entry word in the special sense in which that word is discriminated. It bears not a loose relation but a very close one to that word, and even though it may also be the antonym of some other word (especially of a synonym of the entry word) it must be judged only by the relation it bears to the entry word with which it is associated. Sometimes, however, the antonym fits that word only when it is used in a narrowed sense or in a narrow application. This limitation is indicated in a parenthetical phrase with words in italics. Thus, at abet, we have as antonym "deter (with a personal subject)" and at actuate, "deter (with a motive or fear as the subject)." A simpler instance is the antonym at brilliant, in the sense of bright, which reads "subdued (of light, color)." At other times, the entry word is so inclusive that it takes more than one antonym to cover it. Then some indication is given of the differing collocations in which each antonym appears. Thus, check, as a synonym of restrain, has for its antonyms "accelerate (of speed): advance (of movements, plans, hopes): release (of feelings, energies)." A cross reference (introduced by "see") following an antonym is merely an indication of the sense in which it is used. Thus, close, as a synonym of silent and reticent, takes open as its antonym, but the sense in which open is used here is made clear by the cross reference to frank, where the word open is discriminated.

ANALOGOUS AND CONTRASTED WORDS

The essential part of this dictionary consists of the synonyms and their discriminations and of the antonyms of the words thus discriminated. With these, judged from the point of view of one who is interested in the clarification of the differences in meaning between synonyms and in finding their direct opposites, it is a complete work. Yet for those who use this book as a word finder or as a vocabulary builder, there might be something lacking if it went no further. It is in view of the needs of such consultants that we have added lists of analogous words and of contrasted words.

Some of the analogous words or terms closely related in meaning merit the name of "near synonyms," so close are they to the vocabulary entry: some contain much the same implications as the entry word, but the implication that they emphasize is not the same as that expressed in the common denotation of the discriminated group of which the entry word forms a part. Some are more general than the entry word, some more specific; some come together in only a part of their meaning. But in some important particulars they are all like the word under which they are listed.

So, too, with contrasted words, or terms sharply differing in meaning from the entry word. Some are close synonyms of its antonym, but many are opposed to it only in part of their meaning. Through these lists the
consultant who is seeking a word may find exactly the one he needs or the student may discover a useful means of extending his vocabulary.

These aims are made practical and easy of attainment by an additional aid which no work on synonyms has hitherto given the consultant. Terms listed as analogous words and contrasted words are arranged in groups, all of which are discriminated in this book. Most of the words are themselves directly discriminated, cross reference to the entry where the article is given being made by means of an asterisk or a reference introduced by "see": a few that are not themselves directly discriminated are closely dependent on words that are, as by being their derivatives or inflected forms, or by being their negatives, and are thereby covered by the article to which a clear cross reference is made. Thus, at amenity (in the sense of courtesy) the list of analogous words contains: (1) civility, politeness, courteousness, plus a cross reference to the article at civil, where civil, polite, courteous are discriminated; (2) graciousness, affability, cordiality, geniality, sociability plus a cross reference to gracious, where gracious, affable, cordial, genial, sociable are discriminated. Similarly, among the contrasted words at banal are stimulating or stimulative, provoking or provocative, exciting, piquing, which, though not discriminated themselves, are fully covered by the article at provoke, where their corresponding verbs are treated. Through the cross reference, then the consultant can find the meaning of every term in the word lists, and can sharpen his sense of their differences.

It is perhaps unnecessary to point out that the selection of words in each of these lists is not determined by the group of synonyms but by the one word at whose entry the list appears. As a result, each vocabulary entry is complete in itself: it has not only its synonyms and antonym or antonyms, but also analogous words which are closely related to it and contrasted words which are sharply opposed to it. It is thus treated as a unit, and all essential information is gathered about it.
The left-hand column below consists of entries or, usually, parts of entries selected from the main vocabulary to illustrate the principal devices used in this dictionary. The right-hand column provides explanations of these devices.

**acclimated** woment, customary, habitual, *usual

**acoustic, acoustical** *auditory

**adamant, adamantine** obdurate, inexorable, *inflexible

**adept** [n] *expert, wizard, artiste, artist, virtuoso

**adept** [adj] *proficient, skilled, skillful, expert, masterly

**affection** 1 *feeling, emotion, passion, sentiment

**affection** disease, disorder, condition, ailment, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome

**aggravate** 1 heighten, *intensify, enhance

2 exacerbate, *irritate, provoke, rile, peeve, nettle

**alarm** n 1 [Alarm, tocsin, alert] agree in meaning a signal that serves as a call to action or to be on guard especially in a time of imminent danger. (Alarm) is used of any signal that arouses to activity not only troops, but emergency workers (as firemen, policemen); it suggests a sound such as a cry, a pealing of a bell, a beating of drums, or a siren (sound a fire alarm) (the dog's barking gave the alarm); (Tocsin) may be either an alarm sounded by bells usually from the belfry of a church or, more often, the bells sounding an alarm (the loud tocsin tolled their last alarm —Campbell) but is used figuratively for any sort of warning of danger. (Alert) a military term for a signal to be on guard and ready for expected enemy action, is often used for any warning of danger (sirens sounded an air-raid alert) (the Weather Bureau issued a tornado alert in early afternoon . . . . The alert was cancelled after 5 P.M.—Springfield Union)

**ardor** [fervor, enthusiasm, zeal, *passion]

**articulation** 1 integration, concatenation (see under INTEGRATE vb)

2 *joint, suture

**aspination** reflection, *animadversion, stricture

(Ana) *belief, lampoon, pasquinate, squib, skit)* abuse, vituperation, invective, obloquy* detraction, backbiting, calumny, slander, scandal

(Con) praise, laudation, extolling, eulogizing or eulogy (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE: applause, acclaim, acclamation, plaudit) commendation, complimenting or compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND)

**assortment** see corresponding adjective assorted at MISCELLANEOUS

**ant** jumble, hodgepodge

**assuage** alleviate, *relieve, mitigate, lighten, allay

**ant** exacerbat*; Intensify

**austere** *severe, stern, ascetic

**ant** luscious (of fruits); warm, ardent (of persons)

(feelings); exuberant (of style, quality)

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1 The vocabulary entry (usually a single word; occasionally a phrase) is printed in boldface type.

2 Vocabulary entries which are alphabetically close to each other are sometimes listed together.

3 The part of speech is indicated (by means of the commonly accepted abbreviations, printed in italic type) where it is desirable or necessary to do so.

4 Words identical in spelling and part of speech, but of different etymology are given separate entry.

5 Two or more meanings (or senses) of a single vocabulary entry are clearly separated and each meaning is numbered with a boldface numeral.

6 The words to be discriminated in an article are listed in boldface type at the beginning of the article.

Each word is repeated in boldface type at the point in the article where it is individually discussed.

The meanings or applications of the words discriminated are profusely illustrated by means of familiar examples (often idiomatic or characteristic phrases) or by quotations from named authors or sources. The word illustrated is printed in italic type.

The source of a quotation is also printed in italics. A list of sources quoted is given on pp. 887 ff.

7 Where there is no discriminating article, the first item under an entry is a list of its synonyms or near synonyms. These synonyms are discriminated from one another in an article in this dictionary.

The place where this article is to be found is indicated by an asterisk prefixed to one of the words in the list or by a reference introduced by the word "see."

8 Each vocabulary entry is provided (where the facts require or permit) with "finding lists" of two kinds: Analogous Words introduced by the label Ana and Contrasted Words introduced by Con.

Words given in these finding lists are divided into groups. Each group consists of words discriminated (or related to those discriminated) in a single article.

The groups are separated from one another by boldface colons. Words within each group are separated by commas. The place of entry of the article discussing each group is indicated by an asterisk or a "see" reference (see §7).

9 The label Ant introduces the antonym or antonyms of a vocabulary entry.

In the antonym lists commas are used between words that are synonyms of one another, and boldface colons are used to separate words that do not have such a relationship.

While many of the words listed as antonyms are themselves entered as vocabulary entries and are therefore discussed in the articles in this dictionary, the selection of antonyms has not been restricted to such words. For this reason the antonym lists do not as a rule contain references to discriminating articles.

10 In the lists of Antonyms italic notations in parentheses indicate the limited use or application in which the preceding word is to be taken.
abandon

Abandon, desert, forsake mean to quit absolutely. Abandon implies surrender of control or possession often with the implication that the thing abandoned is left to the mercy of someone or something else. The ghost of grandeur that lingers between the walls of abandoned haciendas in New Mexico—Mary Austin—leans toward such an interpretation. Abandon implies ostracism by or exclusion from a social group for a serious offense against its code. <I don't count on my appearing your friend too openly . . . remember always that I'm a reprobate old clergyman—Hugh Walpole> Profligate and dissolve convey little if any suggestion of divine or social condemnation but both imply complete moral breakdown and self-indulgence to such an extreme that all standards of morality and prudence are disregarded. One who is dissolve has completely thrown off all moral and prudential restraints on the indulgence of his appetites <see them spend—Rose Macaulay>.

abandoned, profligate, dissolute fundamentally mean utterly depraved. Abandoned and profligate were originally applied to sinners and to their acts. One who is abandoned by his complete surrender to a life of sin seems spiritually lost or morally irreclaimable <I disdain . . . to paint her as she is, cruel, abandoned, glorying in her shame!—Cowper> One who is profligate is abandoned and therefore rejected by God or by his fellows; profligate implies ostracism by or exclusion from a social group for a serious offense against its code. <rescue the Empire from being gambled away by incapable or profligate aristocrats—Froude> One who is dissolve has completely thrown off all moral and prudential restraints on the indulgence of his appetites <see them spending and squandering and being irresponsible and dissolve and not caring twopence for the way two thirds of the world live—Rose Macaulay>.

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Ana deplaved, debauched, perverted, debased (see under DEBASE); degenerate, corrupt (see VICIOUS); wanton, lewd, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous (see LICENTIOUS).

Ant redeemed, regenerate —Con saved, rescued, reclaimed, delivered (see RESCUE).

abase

*keep, retain: treasure, prize (see APPRECIATE); maintain, assert, defend: inhibit, bridle, curb (see RESTRAIN).

abandon n. unconstraint, spontaneity

Ana license, *freedom, liberty: relaxation, laxity or laxness, looseness (see LOOSE).

Ant self-restraint —Con repression, suppression (see SUPPRESS): self-possession, aplomb (see CONFIDENCE): poise (see BALANCE, TACT).

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abase, demean, debase, degrade, humble, humiliate are synonymous when they denote to lower in one's own estimation or in that of others. Abase suggests loss of dignity or prestige without necessarily implying permanency in that loss. When used reflexively it connotes

DISCRIMINATED SYNONYMS WITH ANTONYMS

AND ANALOGOUS AND CONTRASTED WORDS

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group. Ana analogous words Ant antonyms. Con contrasted words. See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
humility, abjectness, or a sense of one's inferiority; in this reflexive use humble is often used interchangeably with who-soever exalted himself shall be abased [DV and RV humbled]; and he that humbledth himself shall be exalted —Lk 14:11. Demean implies less humility than abase but is stronger in its implications of loss of dignity or social standing (it was . . . Mrs. Sedley's opinion that her son would demean himself by a marriage with an artist's daughter—Thackeray) Debase emphasizes deterioration in value or quality; it is more often used of things the currency but when used of persons it commonly connotes weakening of moral standards or of the moral character of officetholders debase themselves by accepting bribes (the struggle with Hannibal had debased the Roman temper—Buchan) Degrade stresses a lowering in plane rather than in rank and often conveys a strong implication of the shamefulness of the condition to which someone or something has been reduced (that she and Charlotte, two spent old women, should be . . . talking to each other of hatred, seemed unimaginably hideous and degrading—Wharton) Often (especially in degradation) it connotes actual degeneracy or corruption (it was by that unscrupulous person's liquor her husband had been degraded—Hardy) Humble is frequently used in place of degrade in the sense of demote when the ignominy of the reduction in rank is emphasized (we are pleased . . . to see him taken down and humbled—Spectator) When it is employed without any implication of demotion, it often suggests a salutary increase of humility or the realization of one's own littleness or impotence (it was one of those illnesses from which we turn away our eyes, shuddering and humbled—Deland) Occasionally it implies a lowering in station (in such a man . . . a race illustrious for heroic deeds, humbled, but not degraded, may expire—Wordsworth) Humiliate, once a close synonym of humble, now comes closer to mortify, for it stresses chagrin and shame (when we ask to be humbled, we must not recoil from being humiliated—Rossetti) An cringe, truckle, cower, *fawn, toady: grovel (see WALLOW): abash, discomfit, discount, *embarrass: mortify (see corresponding adjective at ASHAMED) Ant exalt: extol (especially oneself) —Con magnify, aggravandise (see EXALT): elevate, *lift, raise: laud, acclaim, *praise

abash

1 *abolish, extinguish, annihilate

An end, terminate (see CLOSE): *annul, void, abrogate: cancel, obliterate (see ERASE): *nullify, invalidate

Ant perpetuate —Con *continue, last, persist, abide 2 reduce, diminish, *decrease, lessen

An retard, slow, slacken, *delay: *moderate, temper: mitigate, lighten, alleviate (see RELIEVE)

Ant augment: accelerate (pace, speed): intensify (hopes, fears, a fever) —Con *increase, multiply, enlarge: aggrate, heighten, enhance (see INTENSIFY): *speed, quicken, hurry

3 abate, subside, wane, ebb all mean to die down in force or intensity; all imply previous approach to a high point and present movement or decline towards a vanishing point. Abate, however, stresses the idea of progressive diminution in intensity while subside suggests falling to a low level and cessation of turbulence or agitation (the wind is abating; the waves are subsiding) (the revolutionary spirit has abated—Grandgent) (the child's quick temper subsided into listlessness under the fierce Italian heat—Rep-
abduct, kidnapp are sometimes employed without distinction as denoting to carry off (a person) surreptitiously for an illegal purpose. In general use kidnapp is the more specific term because it connotes seizure and detention for ransom. In law, however, the reverse is true, for the verbs acquire their meanings from the rigid technical definitions of kidnapping and abduction. Kidnapping is the legal term of wider application, implying that a person has been seized by violence or fraud and detained against his will or that of his legal guardian. Abduction is the carrying off of a girl (usually one below the legal age of consent), either against her will or with her consent, for marriage or seduction. Consequently in law kidnapping and abduction and kidnap and abduct can be used interchangeably only when the person carried off is a girl below a fixed age, or when seizure and detention are against her will and the motive is marriage or rape.

Ana seduce, entice, *lure, inveigle
Con *rescue, ransom, redeem, deliver

aberrant atypical, *abnormal
Ana divergent, *different, disparate: *irregular, anomalous, unnatural: *exceptional: singular, peculiar, odd, *strange, eccentric
Ant true (to a type) —Con *usual, willed, customary: normal, *regular, typical, natural

aberration 1 *deviation, deflection
Ana abnormality, aberrancy (see ABNORMAL): *error, blunder, mistake, slip, lapse: *fault, failing: anomaly (see PARADOX)
Ant conformity: regularity —Con normality (see REGULAR): norm, *average, mean: agreement, correspondence, accord (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

2 aberration, derangement, alienation, as here compared, denote mental disorder. Aberration while usable to designate any form of mental unsoundness typically denotes a minor or transitory disorder insufficient to constitute insanity. Derangement applies to any functional mental disturbance whether permanent or not. Alienation implies an estrangement from a normal or usual mental or emotional state (1 I had been two or three nights without sleep, and I had fallen into the state of alienation that fatigue brings on—Webber) and in forensic use specifically denotes a becoming or being insane.

Ana *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia: *delusion, hallucination, illusion: *mania, delirium, hysteria, frenzy
Ant soundness (of mind)

abet incite, foment, instigate
Ana aid, assist, *help: back, *support, uphold: cooperate, concur (see UNITE): forward, further, promote (see ADVANCE)
Ant deter (with a personal subject) —Con *frustrate, thwart, foil, balk, circumvent

abettor accessory, accomplice, *confederate, conspirator
Abeyant dormant, quiescent, *latent, potential

Abhor abominate, loathe, detest, *hate
Ana *despise, contemn, scorn: shun, avoid, eschew (see ESCAPE)
Ant admire (persons, their qualities, acts): enjoy (things which are a matter of taste) —Con *like, love, relish, dote: cherish, treasure, prize, value (see APPRECIATE); court, woo, solicit (see INVITE): esteem, respect, regard (see under REGARD n)

Abhorrence detestation, loathing, abomination, hatred, hate (see under HATE vb)
Ana distaste, repugnance, repellency (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT): horror, dismay (see FEAR)
Ant admiration: enjoyment —Con esteem, *regard, respect: liking, relish (see LIKE vb): love, affection, *attachment

Abhorrent 1 abominable, *hateful, detestable, odious
Ana *contemptible, despicable, scurvy: *execrable, damnable
Ant admirable: enjoyable —Con grateful, agreeable, *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, welcome: *delightful, delectable

2 *repugnant, repellant, obnoxious, distasteful, invidious
Ana *anti-pathetic: uncongenial, unsympathetic (see INCONSONANT): foreign, alien (see EXTRINSIC)
Ant congenial —Con attractive, alluring, captivating (see under ATTRACT): tempting, enticing, seductive (see corresponding verbs at LURE)

Abide 1 *stay, wait, remain, tarry, linger
Ana dwell, *reside, live, sojourn, lodge: *stay, cleave, cling, adhere
Ant depart —Con *go, leave, quit: *move, remove, shift

2 endure, last, persist, *continue
Ana *stay, remain, linger; subsist, exist, live (see BE)
Ant pass vi —Con flee, fly, *escape: *fled

3 endure, *bear, suffer, tolerate, stand, brook
Ana submit, *yield, bow, defer: acquiesce, accede, consent (see ASSENT): accept, *receive, take
Con withstand, oppose, combat, *resist: *decline, refuse, spurn: shun, avoid, evade, elude (see ESCAPE)

Ability capacity, capability are often confused in use. Ability primarily denotes the quality or character of being able (as to do or perform) and is applied chiefly to human beings. Capacity in its corresponding sense means the power or more especially the potentiality of receiving, holding, absorbing, or accomplishing something expressed or understood and is said of persons or things. Thus one may speak of a child's ability to learn but not of the hall's ability to seat 2000 persons; on the other hand, a child's mental capacity and the hall has a seating capacity of 2000 are both acceptable. In general, ability suggests actual power, whether native or acquired, whether exercised or not (once more he had shown his ability to handle a delicate situation to the credit of his government and himself—W. C. Ford) Capacity on the other hand stresses receptiveness, or in reference to man's intellectual, moral, or spiritual nature, more explicitly, responsiveness, susceptibility, or aptitude. Capacity therefore suggests potential, as distinguished from actual or, especially, manifest power. Thus, ability to weep, the ability to work, the ability to pay, are not respectively identical in meaning with the capacity for tears, the capacity for work, the capacity for payment. The phrases of the first group mean that one can weep (because his tear glands are normal), one can work (because strong or trained), one can pay (because he has the money): those of the second group indicate, in the first case, a special sensitiveness to what is pathetic; in the second case, a readiness to work as hard as is necessary on any or every

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
abjure, renounce, forswear, recant, retract are synonymous

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate  

share the meaning  

abolish  

Abnormal frequently connotes strange- 

ness or excess sometimes, as in abnormality, deform- 

ity or monstrosity  

power when wielded by abnormal energy is the most serious of facts—Henry Adams—In 

psychology, as applied to persons, abnormal often sug- 

gests poorer than normal performance or poorer than 

normal adjustment to the conditions of life and is equiva- 

lent to subnormal; in general use better than normal 

powers are often implied  

envision the future in the light of what he remembers of the past. His powers of 

recollection . . . are abnormal—R. L. Taylor—Typical 

stresses divergence upward or downward from the 

established norm of some group, kind, or stage (as of 

development)  

atypical reactions  

stealing is to be 

looked upon as atypical behavior . . . not the customarily 

accepted type of response that we expect from children—G. E. Gardner—Aberrant seldom loses its literal impli- 

cation of wandering or straying; in the sciences, where it is applied to departures from type, it carries none of 

the extra connotations of abnormal and is less restricted in 

its reference than atypical (aberrant forms of a botanical 

species) In general use it often suggests moral deviation 

such a choice must argue aberrant senses, or degenerate 

blood—Kingsley—  

Ana *irregular, unnatural, anomalous: unusual, un- 

wonted, uncustomary, uncustomed (see affirmative 

adjectives at usual): monstrous, prodigious 

Ant normal —Con *regular, typical, natural: ordinary, 

*common, familiar: usual, wonted, customary 

abode dwelling, residence, domicile, *habitation, home, 

house 

abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate share the meaning to make nonexistent. Abolish seldom refers to purely 

physical objects but rather to such things as are the out- 

growth of law, custom, human conception, or the con- 

ditions of human existence  

attempts to abolish slavery  

proposals to abolish the income tax  

no plan will be acceptable unless it abolishes poverty—Shaw—An nihilate 

distinctively implies destruction so complete that every- 

thing involved is wiped out of existence and cannot be 

revived in any form  

realization that for the first time the homes and cities of the United States itself can be 

annihilated by enemy attack—Crawley—Extinguish 

or its related noun extinction is often interchangeable with 

annihilate (or annihilation) but it stresses the power of the 

cause to overwhelm and suppress rather than the 

finality of the result  

religion of their own which was thoroughly and painfully exterminated by the Inquisition—T. S. Eliot— 

Abate in general use is far weaker in meaning than the foregoing terms and typically denotes a gradual 

decrease or dwindling rather than an immediate termi- 

nation  

the wind abated after sundown  

misfortune had abated the grandiosity of the Roman temper—Buchan— 

In law abolish keeps close to its general sense of to 

make nonexistent; annihilate is sometimes used as an 

emphatic substitute for abolish  

the appointment cannot be 

annihilated—John Marshall—Extinguish implies 

destruction of a right or obligation by some act or deci- 

sion which nullifies it or makes it void. Abate implies 

termination especially by a legal decision  

abate an nuisance  

abate an action or writ  

summoning me for failing to abate a smoky chimney—Wodehouse— 

Ana extirpate, eradicate, wipe, *exterminate: obliterate, 

efface, blot out, expunge (see erase): negate, *nullify, 

annul, abrogate 

Ant establish —Con *found, institute: *bear, produce, 

turn out; create, discover, *invent 

abominable detestable, *hateful, odious, abhorrent 

Ana analogous words  

Ant antonyms 

Con contrasted words 

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sion of the fetus occurring between the twelfth and twenty-eighth weeks and before the fetus is capable of living independently.

**Abortive** fruitless, vain, futile, bootless  
*Aborted* immature, unformed, unripe, undeveloped (see form-less); ineffectual, ineffective, injurious: unfortunate, unlucky (see affirmative adjectives at lucky)

**Ant** consummated — *Con* completed, concluded (see close vb); finished, accomplished, *consummate* fell, fail: effectual, *effective*, efficacious

**Abound** overflow, *teem, swarm*  
*Abound* predominate, preponderate (see corresponding adjectives at dominant)

**Ant** fall, fail short — *Con* want, *lack*, need, require: scant, *scrimp, scrim* (see corresponding adjectives at MEAGER)

**About**, **concerning**, **regarding**, **respecting** are synonymous prepositions when they take an object that names something which is the subject of talk, thought, or interest.

**About** is usually interchangeable with any of the others without marked loss of meaning, but it alone may follow its object as well as precede it (talk about many things)  
*There is nothing to complain about*  
**Concerning** is more meaningful because it often retains its verbal implications of affecting and influencing (make laws concerning public welfare)

**Regarding** and **respecting** suggest little more than **about**; however **regarding** is especially appropriate when its object names the goal or center of attention or thought (they avoided all discussion regarding the scandal)

**Respecting** is felicitously employed when selectiveness or specification is to be implied (he had nothing to say respecting Spain)  
*There's no outwitting you respecting him—Browning*

**Above**, **over** are synonymous prepositions when they indicate elevation in position. They seldom imply contact between that which is higher and that which is lower; as a rule they allow an interval. **Over** and **above** differ in that **over** usually implies verticality while **above** may or may not. Thus the entire second story of a building is **above** but only a small part of it is directly **over** one who stands on the ground floor. Between the extended senses analogous relations hold. **Over** and **above** agree in the idea of superiority but differ in the immediacy of reference. Thus, the rank of ambassador is **above** that of minister but the British ambassador is not **over** the Portuguese minister; he stands in that relation to his own subordinates only. Similarly **above** and **over** indicate a relationship of excess (his strength is **above** the average)  
*We now have over half the amount required*  
*We shall not be tempted above our power to resist*  
**Above** only, however, implies transcendence (this **above** all, to thine own self be true—Shak)

**Ant** below

**Aboveboard** straightforward, forthright  
*Aboveboard* open, *frank*, candid: honest, *upright*, scrupulous; *fair*, impartial, just: ingenuous, unsophisticated, artless (see natural)

**Ant** underhand, underhanded — *Con* furtive, covert, surreptitious; *secret*, clandestine: *dishonest*, deceitful, mendacious: *crooked*, devious

**Absurd** impossible, irrational, fictitious, nonsensical, unworkable  
*Absurd* is generally applied to what is highly unlikely to occur, or to what is too fantastic to be true (the pious delusion that we can unlearn our animal nature)

**Abridgment** short, curtail, abbreviate, retrench  
*Abridgment* condense, *contract*, compress, shrink; *cut*, slash; *scrape*, scratch, grate, grind, rasp; *limit*, restrict: reduce, diminish, *decrease* (expand): lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract (see extend): enlarge, augment, *increase*
of all faults that all men follow—Shak.> (a man so various that he seemed to be not one, but all mankind's epitome—Dryden) Brief is usually narrowly applied in legal use to a concise statement of a client's case made out for the instruction of counsel in a trial (called specifically trial brief) or to a statement of the heads or points of a legal argument submitted to the court (brief of argument). Synopsis and conspectus imply the giving of the salient points of a treatise or subject so that it may be quickly comprehended. Synopsis, however, often suggests an outline or series of headings and conspectus a coherent account that gives a bird's-eye view (provide in advance a synopsis of the lectures) (the book will serve as a conspectus of Chinese history) Ana digest, précis, *compendium, sketch, syllabus Ant expansion —Con paraphrase (see TRANSLATION); *development 
abrogate 1 *annul, vacate, quash, void
Ana *abolish, extinguish, abate
Ant institute (by enacting, decreeing) —Con *ratify, confirm; establish, *found 2 *nullify, annul, negate, invalidate
Ana *abolish, annihilate, extinguish: *destroy, demolish: *ruin, wreck; cancel, obliterate, blot out (see ERASE)
Ant establish, fix (a right, a character, a quality, a custom) —Con settle (see SETTLE); uphold, *support 
abrupt 1 *steep, precipitous, sheer
Ana perpendicular, *vertical, plumb
Ant sloping —Con *level, flat, plain, plane, even, smooth: slanting, inclined (see SLANT vb)
2 sudden, *precipitate, headlong, impetuous, hasty
Ana quick, speedy (see FAST); hurried, hastened (see SPEED); unceremonious (see ceremonious under CEREMONIAL); curt, brusque (see BLUFF)
Ant deliberate, leisurely —Con *slow, dilatory, laggard: easy, *comfortable, restful
abscess, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple, pustule all denote a localized swollen area of infection containing pus. Abcess is the most general term, applying to a collection of pus surrounded by inflammation whether in the skin or in the substance of a part or organ and whether discharging through an opening or fistula or being gradually reabsorbed (<an abscess at the root of a tooth) <a line of small abscesses where his belt had chafed him) Boil and furuncle both mean a swollen painful nodule in the skin caused by bacteria that enter skin glands or hair follicles and set up a purulent infection which terminates in the formation of pus. Pimple or pustule is a small superficial pus-containing elevation of the skin that usually subsides without rupture when treated correctly; more specifically pimple is used of the typical lesions characterizing acne while pustule implies no specific syndrome. 
abscend decamp, flee, fly, *escape
Ana depart, leave, quit, *go
Ant give oneself* up —Con stay, wait, remain, abide: confess, *acknowledge
abscence *lack, want,dearth, defect, privation
Ana *need, necessity, exigency: deficiency (see corresponding adjective at DEFICIENT); destitution (see corresponding adjective at VOID); void, vacuum (see HOLE)
Ant presence —Con abundance, copiousness, plenty (see corresponding adjectives at PLENTIFUL)
absent adj preoccupied, *abstracted, absentminded, 

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
absolution  *pardoned, amnesty  

**Ana**  forgiveness, remission  (see corresponding verbs at EXCUSE)  

**Ant**  condemnation —**Con**  censure, reprobation, reprehension  (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)  

**Absolve**  exonerate, acquit, *exculpate, vindicate  

**Ana**  pardon, forgive, remit  (see EXCUSE); release, *free, discharge  

**Ant**  hold (to a promise, an obligation); charge (with a sin, the blame, the responsibility) —**Con**  blame  (see CRITICIZE); *sentence, condemn, doom; *punish, discipline, chasten  

**Absorb**  1 Absorb, imbibe, assimilate can all mean to take (something) in so as to become imbued with it or to make it a part of one’s being. The original meaning of absorb, to swallow up (both literally and figuratively), has been retained in spite of the development of a later and more common sense, to soak up (both literally and figuratively). When the former idea is stressed, absorb implies the loss of identity of that taken in 〈the trust absorbed three small corporations〉 〈in England . . . the aristocracy are subordinate to the middle class, which is gradually absorbing and destroying them—T. S. Eliot〉 When soaking up is implied, absorb often suggests enrichment of the recipient 〈the roots of plants absorb moisture〉 〈an adult reader with trained habits of attention and concentration will absorb the contents of a book with . . . speed and retentiveness—Eliot〉 In its literal sense imbibe usually implies drinking or inhaling 〈imbibe intoxicating liquors〉 〈we did not imbibe an undiluted air—N. E. Nelson〉 However imbibe, like absorb, often connotes soaking up 〈the ground imbibes or absorbs moisture〉 In its figurative sense imbibe, like absorb, implies a process of learning, but it often carries the suggestions that the process has been unconscious and that the effect has been noticeable or profound 〈the pupils imbibe no respect for intellectual values at home, and find none among their schoolfellows—Inge〉 〈twelve years he wandered, imbibing wisdom from every source, sitting at every shrine, tasting every creed—Duran〉 Assimilate implies not only absorption but also the conversion of what is absorbed into the substance of the assimilating body. In its narrow sense it applies especially to physiological processes 〈the body assimilates digested food into its protoplasm〉 In its figurative use it often suggests lasting enrichment without loss of integrity or unity 〈poets . . . who assimilate a number of influences and construct an original speech from them—Day Lewis〉 Sometimes it stresses the process of fusion and consequent loss of identity 〈faces incapable of assimilation〉 

**Ana**  *soak, saturate, impregnate*  *receive, takes incorporare, embody* (see IDENTIFY)  

**Ant**  exude, give out —**Con**  *eject, expel; throw, cast*  

**Ana**  fix, *fasten; rivet, *secure; immerse, submerge  (see DIP)  

**Ant**  dissipate  (time, attention, energies) —**Con**  *scatter, disperse, dispel*  *deplete, drain, exhaust*  

**Absorb**  *intent, engrossed, rapt  

**Ana**  immersed  (see DIP); riveted  (see SECURE vb); fixed, fastened  (see FASTEN)  

**Ant**  distracted —**Con**  absent, absentminded, distraught, *abstracted: wandering, straying, rambling* (see WANDER)  

**Absorbing**  *interesting, engrossing, intriguing  

**Ant**  irksome  

**Abstain**  *refrain, forbear  

**Ana**  *forsworn, eschew, abnegate; *decline, refuse, spurn, reject; *desist* (see STOP)  

**Ant**  indulge —**Con**  pamper  (see INDULGE)*; sate, satiety, clov, gorge, glut; gratify, regale (see PLEASE)  

abstemious see under abstemiousness at TEMPERANCE  

**Abstemiousness**  abstinance, *temperance, sobriety, continence  

**Ana**  self-denial, self-abnegation  (see RENUNCIATION); asceticism, austerity  (see corresponding adjectives at SEVERE)  

**Ant**  glutony —**Con**  greed, rapacity  (see CUPIDITY); *epicureism* (compare EPICURE)  

**Abstinence**  *temperance, continence, abstemiousness, sobriety  

**Ana**  forbearance, refrainment  (see corresponding verbs at REFRAIN); forgoing, eschewal, abnegation  (see corresponding verbs at FORGO); *renunciation, self-denial, self-abnegation*  

**Ant**  self-indulgence —**Con**  greediness, covetousness, graspingness, acquisitiveness  (see corresponding adjectives at COVETOUS); satisfying, contenting  (see SATISFY); gorging, satiating, surfeiting (see SATIATE)  

**abstract**  adj  Abstract, ideal, transcendent, transcendentental  are closely analogous rather than synonymous terms. The difference in meaning between abstract and ideal is not apparent when they are applied to things which are admirable in actuality as well as in idea, as a virtue or a desirable quality or attribute 〈abstract (or ideal) justice〉 〈ideal (or abstract) morality〉 When, however, they are applied to the name of a category known through actually existing representatives, they reveal their fundamental differences in meaning; for abstract implies the formulation of the idea by abstraction, a logical process in which the mind selects the characters common to every known member of a species or every known instance of a quality and builds up a conception (technically, a concept) which describes no one actually existing thing or instance, but covers all things of the same kind or marked by the given quality 〈man in the abstract〉 〈to shed tears over abstract justice and generosity, beauty, etc., and never to know these qualities when you meet them—James〉 〈poetic theory is almost invariably an abstraction from poetic practice—Day Lewis〉 Ideal may or may not imply abstraction; very often it suggests the exercise of imagination or the adding and the elimination of characteristics as the mind seeks a conception of a thing in its perfection 〈ideal man〉 〈Plato, in the construction of his ideal republic, is thinking . . . of the symmetry and beauty of the whole—Dickinson〉 In general, therefore, abstract connotes apartness from reality and often lack of specific application to actual things 〈algebra . . . is more abstract than geometry—Russell〉 On the other hand, ideal very frequently connotes superiority to reality or, less often, fancifulness, and, at times, untruth 〈that lofty order of minds which pant after the ideal . . . [whose] emotions are of too exquisite a character to find fit objects among their everyday fellowmen—George Eliot〉 Transcendent and transcendentental, though often used as equivalents of ideal, actually imply existence beyond experience and lack of correspondence to reality as known through the senses. Thus in careful use transcendent (or transcendentental) beauty is not the perfection of the beauty that is known, but a super-sensual beauty which has no parallel in experience and which cannot be apprehended through any likeness in actuality 〈the idea that is transcendent . . . exalted above the world . . . is yielding to the idea of God as immanent in his creation—Allen〉 In Kant’s philosophy they are distinguished. What is transcendental is both beyond experience and beyond human knowledge; what is transcendenttal is beyond experience yet knowable, because the mind possesses knowledge not derived from experience but inherent in its own constitution and essential to its understanding of experience. Thus space and time, in

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
abstract

Kant's philosophy, are transcendent ideas.

**An** universal, general, generic: specific (see SPECIAL): *ultimate, absolute, categorical

**Ant** concrete —**Con** practical (see PRACTICABLE): *material, physical, corporeal, objective, phenomenal

**abstract** n brief, synopsis, epitome, *abridgment, con-}

spectus

**Ana** sketch, précis, aperçu, *compendium, digest

**Ant** amplification —**Con** expansion, dilation (see corresponding verbs at EXPAND): enlargement (see corresponding verb at INCREASE)

**abstract** vb •detach, disengage

**absurd** silly, preposterous, *foolish

**copious, ample, *plentiful, plenteous**

**vb** abuse

—**Con** practical (see PRACTICABLE): •mal-}

treatment, maltreat, ill-treat, usually imply a fault or an evil motive in the agent, such as meanness, culpable ignorance, or spitefulness

*many more patients die from being mistreated for consumption than from consumption itself—Lytton* (the meter, though a well-known English critic has maltreated it of late, is a very fine one—Saintsbury) *(have small compunction in ill-treating animals, because they have no souls—Reppier)*

**Outrage** implies abuse so violent or extreme as to exceed all bounds *(an act that outraged nature and produced the inevitable tragedy of the play—Auchincloss)*

**Ana** hurt, *injure, harm, damage, impair, mar, spoil;* *wrong, persecute, oppress: pervert, corrupt, *debase, debauch, vitiate

**Ant** respect, honor —**Con** esteem (see corresponding noun at REGARD): *revere, venerate, reverence: *commend, applaud, compliment: cherish, treasure, prize (see APPRECIATE)

**abuse** n Abuse, vituperation, invective, obloquy, scurrility, billingsgate can all denote vehemently expressed condemnation or disapproval. Abuse, the most general term, implies the anger of the speaker and stresses the offensiveness of the language *(the extended vocabulary of barrack-room abuse—Kipling)* *(those thunderous com-

barrack-room <those thunderous com-

implies the anger of the speaker and stresses the offen-

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**Ant** respect, honor —**Con** esteem (see corresponding noun at REGARD): *revere, venerate, reverence: *commend, applaud, compliment: cherish, treasure, prize (see APPRECIATE)
abusive, opprobrious, vituperative, contumelious, scurrilous apply chiefly to language or utterances and to persons as they employ such language: the words agree in meaning coarse, insulting, and contemptuous in agree in meaning coarse, insulting, and contemptuous in character or utterance. Abusive means little more than this <abusive language> <an abusive master> <abusive satire> All the other terms carry specific and distinctive implications. Opprobrious suggests the imputation of disgraceful actions or of shameful conduct: it implies not only abusiveness but also severe, often unjust, condemnation (they desecrate the shrine in every conceivable way and level the most opprobrious language at the goddess herself—Frazer) Vituperative implies indulgence in a stream of insulting language especially in attacking an opponent (the vituperative controversialists of the seventeenth century) to restrain this employment of vituperative language—J. S. Mill Contumelious adds to opprobrious the implications of insolence and extreme disrespect and usually connotes the bitter humiliation of its victim (with scoffs and scorns and contumelious taunts—Shak.) I . . . expose a chain of causes and effects that Roosevelt himself, if he were alive, would denounce as grossly contumelious to his native purity of spirit—and perhaps in all honesty—Mencken) Scurrilous often approaches vituperative in suggesting attack and abuse but it always imples gross, vulgar, often obscenely ribald language (they never fail to attack the passengers with all kinds of scurrilous, abusive, and indecent terms—Fielding) may plaster his clean name with scurrilous rhymes!—Tennyson) Ana insulting, affronting, offending, outrageous (see offend): aspersing, maligning, vilifying (see malign) Ant complimentary: respectful —Con flattering (see corresponding noun at compliment) panevgetic, eulogistic (see corresponding nouns at encomium) praising, lauding, extolling, acclaiming (see praise vb) abutment pier, buttress abutting contiguous, adjoining, adjoining, adjacent, tangent, conterminous, juxtaposed Ana close, near, nigh, nearby: joining, connecting (see join) nearest, next: impinging (compare impingement under impact) Con detached, disengaged (see detach) disconnected, disjoined, disassociated (see affirmative verbs at join) abyss *gulf, chasm, abyss abyssmal *deep, profound Ana illimitable, *infinite Con *superficial, shallow abyss *gulf, chasm, abyss abyssal pelagic, oceanic, marine (see aquatic) academic 1 scholastic, *pedantic, bookish Ana *dry, arid: erudite, scholarly, *learned Con unlettered, uneducated, untutored, unlearned, illiterate, *ignorant 2 *theoretical, speculative accede acquiesce, *assent, consent, agree, agree, subscribe Ana concur, cooperate (see unite): yield, submit, defer, relent: allow, permit, *let Ant demur —Con *decline, refuse, reject, spurn: shy, stickle, stick, strain, balk (see demur): *object, protest, kick: oppose: resist, withstand accelerate *speed, quicken, hurry, hasten, precipitate Ana forward, further, *advance, promote: drive, impel (see move) Ant decelerate: retard —Con *delay, slow, slacken: impede, obstruct, block, *hinder: *hamper, clog accent n 1 stress, accentuation, *emphasis Ana beat, pulse, throb, pulsation (see under pulsate): *rhythm, cadence, meter 2 intonation, *inflection Ana pronunciation, enunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at articulate) accentuation accent, stress, *emphasis Ana *rhythm, cadence, meter: pronunciation, enunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at articulate) Ant inaccentuation —Con evenness, steadiness, uniformity (see corresponding adjectives at steady) accept *receive, admit, take Ana *adopt, embrace, espouse: acquiesce, *assent, agree, subscribe Ant reject —Con *decline, refuse, repudiate, spurn: disavow, disown, disacknowledge (see affirmative verbs at acknowledge) *deny, contradict, negative: ignore, disregard (see neglect) acceptance, acceptance have both at one time or another carried the meanings: the act or fact of accepting or the state of being accepted. Present usage, however, restricts their denotations. Acceptance only is used to denote the act of accepting (a blind acceptance of authority—Inge) or the state of one who accepts something, especially something inevitable or inescapable (all settled back into a sad sort of acceptance of the situation—Deland) Both acceptance and acquiescence may be used to denote the state of being accepted or especially of being approved or believed <metrical forms are conventional, and therefore rest . . . on acceptance—Lowes> Acceptation tends, however, to confine itself to denoting the sense in which a word or expression is generally received <not . . . a cultivated man in the ordinary acceptance of the words—Eliot> acceptance 1 *meaning, sense, signification, significance, import 2 *acceptance access 1 ingress, *entrance, entrée, entry Ana approaching or approach, nearing (see approach vb): admittance, admission: *way, route, passage: *door, portal, gate, gateway Ant outlet —Con departure, withdrawal, retirement (see corresponding verbs at go): retreat, recession (see corresponding verbs at recede) 2 accession, attack, *fit, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion Ana onset, onslaught, assault (see attack): seizure, clutch, taking (see corresponding verbs at take): twinge, *pain, stitch, pang, throe accession 1 *addition, accretion, increment Ant discard 2 access, attack, *fit, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion Ana see those at access 2 accessory n 1 appurtenance, adjunct, *appendage Ana concomitant, *accompaniment: *addition, accretion, increment 2 accomplice, abettor, *confederate, conspirator Ant principal accessory adj contributory, *auxiliary, subsidiary, adjuvant, ancillary, subservient Ana secondary, collateral, tributary, *subordinate: concomitant, concurrent, coincident (see contemporaneous): incidental, adventitious (see accidental) Ant constituent, integral: principal (in law) —Con *inherent, intrinsic, constitutional, ingrained: essential, indispensable, requisite, *needful, necessary: fundamental, vital, cardinal (see essential) accident 1 *quality, character, attribute, property

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
accidental, casual, fortuitous, contingent, incidental, adventitious

Accidental, casual, fortuitous, contingent, incidental, adventitious

Accidental

Casual, fortuitous, contingent

Incidental

Adventitious

Accompaniment

Accompaniment

Analogous words: accidental, casual, fortuitous, contingent, incidental, adventitious

Antonyms: intended, designed, planned, essential

Contrasted words: contingent, dependent, conditional

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
accomplishment attainment, *acquirement, acquisition
Ana *art, skill, craft: proficiency, adeptness, expertise (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT)
accord v/1 *agree, harmonize, correspond, tally, conform, square, jibe
Ana concur, coincide (see AGREE): blend, fuse, merge, coalesce (see MIX); cohere, adhere (see STICK)
Ant conflict —Con clash, collide, jar (see corresponding nouns at IMPACT): *differ, disagree; contrast, *compare
2 *grant, vouchsafe, concede, award
Ana deign, condescend (see STOOP); bestow, present, confer, *give
Ant withhold —Con *deny, gainsay; refuse (see DECLINE): hold, hold back, detain, reserve (see KEEP)
account n 1 concord, consonance, *harmony
Ana agreement, acquiescence, consent (see corresponding verbs at ASSENT): union, solidarity, *unity; sympathy, affinity, *attraction
Ant dissension, strife: antagonism —Con *discord, conflict, difference, variance, contention: antipathy, animosity, hostility (see ENMITY)
2 *agreement, understanding
Ana pact, compact, treaty, entente, concordat (see CONTRACT)
accordingly so, consequently, *therefore, hence, then
accost *address, greet, hail, salute
Ana *speak, talk, converse: affront, *offend, insult
Con avoid, shun, elude, evade, *escape: ignore, slight, overlook (see NEGLECT)
account n 1 *use, service, advantage, profit, avail
Ana benefit (see corresponding verb at BENEFIT): usefulness, utility (see USE); *worth, value
Con futility, vanity, fruitlessness, bootlessness (see corresponding adjectives at FUTILE): unimportance, inconsequence, insignificance (see affirmative nouns at IMPORTANCE)
2 Account, report, chronicle, version, story denote a statement of actual events or conditions or of purported occurrences or conditions. An account is an oral or written, detailed, often firsthand statement (Lord Mountfalcon asked for an account of her passage over to the island: receiving distressingly full particulars—Meredith) A report is an account, usually of something witnessed or investigated, given to an employer or a superior (spies send in their reports in cipher) (the secretary gave a verbatim report of the conference) A chronicle is a detailed and extended account or report of events in their order of occurrence (for 'tis a chronicle of day by day, not a relation for a breakfast—Shak.) A version or story is a statement of purported facts. Version always and story often imply contrast with another statement of the same events and, usually, difference in details. But whereas version commonly implies difference of detail or of interpretation owing to limitations in each point of view, story often implies actual or suspected falsification (the Democratic and the Republican version of the state of the nation) (the witness had been primed to tell a different story) (he returned after a week's absence with a story of having been held captive by kidnappers)
account vb 1 *consider, deem, regard, reckon
Ana regard, esteem (see under REGARD n); rate, appraise, evaluate, assess, *estimate
Con underrate, underestimate, undervalue (see base words at ESTIMATE); disregard, dis esteem (see affirmative verbs under REGARD n)
2 *explain, justify, rationalize
Ana *answer: expound, elucidate, interpret (see EXPLAIN)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
accountable  *responsible, answerable, amenable, liable
Ant unaccountable — Con *absolute, autocratic, despotic, tyrannical, arbitrary: irresponsible, inamenable, unanswerable (see affirmative adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)
accountant auditor, *bookkeeper
accouter equip, arm, outfit, *furnish, appoint
Ana array, attire, *clothe, dress: deck, *adorn, embellish, decorate
Con *strip, divest, dismantle
accredit 1 certify, *approve, endorse, sanction
Ana recommend, *commend: vouch, attest, *certify
Con reject, repudiate (see DECLINE): *disapprove, depurate
2 commission, *authorize, license
Ana credit, charge, assign, *ascribe, attribute, impute
accrue, *responsible, answerable, amenable, liable: accountable, *accountable
Ana adjunct, *appendage: adhesion, cohesion (see corresponding verbs at STICK): increase, augmentation, enlargement (see corresponding verbs at INCREASE)
Con diminution, dwindling, decrease (see corresponding verbs at DECREASE)
accumulate, amass, hoard imply in both literal and figurative usage a bringing together so as to make a store or great quantity. Accumulate implies a piling up by a series of increases rather than by a single complete act; it is applicable to almost anything that may increase in amount (unused books accumulate dust) (he will ever be gathering knowledge, accumulating experience, as he can—Gerould) (true poetry, however simple it may appear on the surface, accumulates meaning every time it is read—Day Lewis) Amass refers usually but not always to things that are regarded as valuable, such as money or treasures (amass a fortune) It frequently implies more imposing results than accumulate (scientific knowledge, painstakingly amassed by many devotees over an extended period of human history—Geldard) Hoard always implies storing up and frequently concealment of what is stored (squirrels hoard nuts for the winter months) Frequently hoard implies greed and, when used of money, avarice a miser is one who hoards gold (hoarding money is not a safe way of saving—Shaw)
Ana *gather, collect: *heap, pile, stack
Ant dissipate — Con *scatter, disperse, dispel: diminish, lessen, *decrease: *distribute, dispense, deal, dole
accumulative *cumulative, summative, additive
Ana aggregative, conglomerative (see corresponding nouns at AGGREGATE): multiplicative, augmentative (see corresponding verbs at INCREASE)
Con dissipating, dispelling, scattering (see SCATTER): disintegrating, crumbling, decomposing (see DECAY vb)
accurate *correct, exact, precise, nice, right
Ana true, veracious (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH): impeccable, errorless, flawless, faultless: punctilious, meticulous, *careful
Ant inaccurate — Con *careless, heedless, inadvertent: *slipshod, slowness: fallacious (see under FALACY)
accursed damnable, cursed, *execrable
Ana abominable, odious, *hateful, abhorrent, detestable: revolting, repulsive, loathsome, *offensive, repugnant
Ant blessed — Con admirable, estimable (see corresponding nouns at REGARD): *holy, sacred, divine: *honorable, honorary
accuse, charge, incriminate, indict, impeach, arraign denote in common to declare a person guilty of a fault or offense. Accuse is typically immediate and personal and often suggests directness or sharpness of imputation or censure; charge frequently connotes seriousness in the offense and formality in the declaration; one may accuse a bystander of trying to pick one's pocket (an accusation which may become a formal charge before a magistrate); one accuses a man of cheating (an offense which one personally resents); one charges a man with cheating (an infraction of the rules of a game). Incriminable may mean to charge with crime or serious offense (your friend thinks he can clear Ken by incriminating poor Wayne—G. V. Williams) (careful study . . . has failed to show that any of the cultivable bacteria can be incriminated as the cause of colds Andrews) but in current use it more often means to involve or inculpate in crime (incriminating evidence) (the answer need not reveal a crime in order to be incriminating. It is enough if it . . . leads to proof of an illegal act—Gressman) Indict adds to charge in legal context the implications of a formal consideration of the evidence by a grand jury or in general use by someone acting in the role of jury and of a decision that the accused person should be called to trial or to an accounting (the jury refused to indict the men accused of arson) (indict those citizens whose easy consciences condone such wrongdoing—Roosevelt) Impeach implies legally a charge of malfeasance in office formally brought against a public officer by a branch of the government constitutionally authorized to bring such charges (the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson of high crimes and misdemeanors) In nontechnical language impeach or its noun impeachment implies a direct charge which demands an answer (any intelligent and noble-minded American can with reason take that side . . . without having either his reason or his integrity impeached—Kenneth Roberts) ("You buy your loves." . . . he did not plead verbally against the impeachment—Meredith) To arraign is to call or bring a prisoner before a court to answer to the charge of an indictment (I was carried down to the Sessions house, where I was arraigned—Defoe) Figuratively it means to call a person or thing to public account for something done or omitted (arraigns the monks for teaching grammar rather than things spiritual—H. O. Taylor) (a despairing soliloquy . . . in which he arraigned the United States policy in relation to China—Times Lit. Sup.)
Ana denounce, blame, reprove, censure, *criticize
Ant exculpate — Con exonerate, vindicate, acquit, absolve (see EXCULPATE)
accustom *habituate, addict, inure
Ana *adapt, accommodate, adjust: *harden, season, acclimatize
Ant disaccustom — Con alienate, wean, *estrange
accustomed wonted, customary, habitual, *usual
Ana natural, normal, *regular, typical: *common, ordinary, familiar
Ant unaccustomed — Con strange, singular, peculiar, odd, queer, erratic: *infrequent, uncommon, rare, occasional
acerbity *acrimony, asperity
Ana sourness, acidity, tartness (see corresponding adjectives at SOUR): crabbedness, surliness, dourness, surliness (see corresponding adjectives at SULLEN): bittleness, acridity (see corresponding adjectives at BITTER): harshness, roughness (see corresponding adjectives at ROUGH)
Ant mellowness — Con gentleness, mildness, blandness, smoothness (see corresponding adjectives at SOFT): amiableness, good nature, complaisance (see corresponding adjectives at AMIABLE)
ache n *pain, pang, throe, twinge, stitch
Ana *distress, suffering, agony, misery: anguish, heartache, heartbreak (see SORROW): hurt, *injury: torment, torture, rack (see corresponding verbs at AFFLICTION)
achieve

Con relief, alleviation, assuagement, mitigation (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE): ease, comfort (see REST)

achieve 1 accomplish, effect, *perform, fulfill, execute, discharge

Ana complete, finish, conclude (see CLOSE): surmount, overcome, *conquer

Ant fail (to do something), fail (in) —Con *begin, commence, start

2 attain, *reach, gain, compass

Ana win, secure, obtain, acquire, *get: *realize, actualize—come, arrive

Ant miss (getting or attaining) —Con deviate, depart, *swerve: escape, avoid, elude, shun

achievement *feat, exploit

Ana deed, act, *action: *victory, conquest, triumph: consummation, accomplishment (see corresponding adjectives at CONSUMMATE)

Ant failure —Con negligence, *neglect: omission, slighting (see corresponding verbs at NEGLECT): defeat, vanishment, beating, licking (see corresponding verbs at CONQUER)

achromatic *colorless, uncolored

Ana *neutral, negative

Ant chromatic —Con colored, tinted, tinged (see corresponding nouns at COLOR)

acid adj acidulous, tart, *sour, dry

Ana acrid, *bitter: *sharp

Ant bland: sweet: alkaline —Con *suave, smooth: mild, *soft, gentle: basic (see ALKALINE)

acidulous acid, tart, *sour, dry

Ana *sharp: *pungent, piquant: biting, cutting (see corresponding verbs at INJURE)

Ant bland: sweet: alkaline —Con *suave, smooth: mild, *soft, gentle: basic (see ALKALINE)

acknowledge 1 Acknowledge, admit, own, avow, confess are synonymous when they mean to disclose something against one's will or inclination. All usually imply some sort of pressure as that of the law or of conscience leading to the disclosure. Acknowledge or its noun acknowledgment implies making known something which has been or might have been kept back or concealed (acknowledge a secret marriage) (acknowledged his complete ignorance of mathematics) (she did at last extort from her father an acknowledgment that the horses were engaged—Austen)

Admit, with less suggestion of possible concealment, stresses reluctance to grant or concede and refers rather to facts than to their implications; to admit a charge may involve merely the granting of the fact alleged, not necessarily (as frequently with acknowledge) the acceptance of the point of view which the charge implies (at last the government at Washington admitted its mistake—which governments seldom do—Cather). Own is less formal than acknowledge and regards the thing acknowledged in its relation to oneself (owned himself at a loss as to what to do next) (owned to forty years) (when a man owns himself to have been in an error, he does but tell you in other words that he is wiser than he was—Pope) Avow implies an open or bold acknowledgment or declaration and often one made in the face of hostility (communists, fascists, and other avowed enemies of parliamentarianism—Ogg & Zink) (made the idea of democratic nationalism intellectually respectable and thus perhaps made it easier for the Colonel publicly to avow nationalism as his creed—Forsey). Confess usually applies to what one feels to be wrong (confess a crime) (confess one's sins) but it is often used with no such implication, suggesting merely deference to the opinion of others (I am not, I confess, fully convinced)

Ana disclose, divulge, *reveal: *grant, concede, allow; publish, *declare, proclaim

Ant deny —Con conceal, *hide, secrete: disavow, disown (see affirmative verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE): gainsay, contradict, impugn, negative (see DENY)

2 Acknowledge, recognize agree in meaning to take cognizance of in some way, usually in a way dictated by custom or convention and implying acceptance or assent. Acknowledge is found in certain idioms where the concrete method of taking notice is not stated but connoted; one acknowledges a letter by sending a reply; one acknowledges a gift by a message indicating the receipt and acceptance of the gift and one's gratitude; one acknowledges a greeting by an appropriate conventional response (as a bow, smile, or friendly remark). In freer expression acknowledge usually implies definite or formal acceptance, as of a principle as binding or of a claim as rightful or of a person as ruler (he acknowledged the obligation of a son to support his aged parents) (in Italy during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there were two acknowledged sources of political power: the Empire and the Church—Huxley). Recognize, though often used interchangeably with acknowledge, suggests more strongly authoritative sanction or full admission concerning a given or implied status or suggests actual and manifest, as contrasted with formal or merely verbal, acceptance (in 1918 England, France, and the United States recognized Czechoslovakia as an independent state) (the ladies never acted so well as when they were in the presence of a fact which they acknowledged but did not recognize—Meredith). Recognize sometimes implies, as acknowledge never does, full realization or comprehension (courts . . . have been . . . slow to recognize that statutes . . . may imply a policy different from that of the common law—Justice Holmes)

Ana accept, *receive: notice, note, remark (see SEE): respond, reply, *answer

Ant ignore —Con disregard, slight, *neglect: repudiate, spurn, reject (see DECLINE)

acme apex, zenith, culmination, climax, *summit, peak, apogee, pinnacle, meridian

acoustic, acoustical *auditory

acquaint *inform, apprise, advise, notify

Ana tell, *reveal, disclose, divulge: *teach, instruct, educate, school: accustom, *habituate

Con conceal, *hide: withhold, reserve, hold, hold back (information) (see KEEP)

acquaintance *friend, intimate, confidant

Ana *associate, companion, comrade, crony

Con *stranger, outsider

acquiesce consent, agree, *assent, accede, subscribe

Ana accept, *receive: conform, *adapt, adjust, accommodate, reconcile (oneself); *yield, submit, bow: concur, coincide (see AGREE)

Ant object —Con protest, demonstrate, kick (see OBJECT): *demur, stickle, stick, shy, balk: *differ, dissent

acquiescence compliance, resignation (see under COMPLIANT)

Ana deference, obeisance (see HONOR): submissiveness (see corresponding adjective at TAME)

Ant rebelliousness or rebellion —Con insubordination, contumaciousness (see corresponding adjectives at INSUBORDINATE)

acquiscent resigned, *compliant

Ana submissive (see TAME): yielding, submitting, deerring, bowing, relenting (see YIELD)

Ant rebellious —Con contumacious, *insubordinate: protesting, objecting, kicking, demonstating (see OBJECT vb): resisting, opposing, combating, conflicting (see RESIST)
acquire obtain, *get, gain, win, secure, procure
Ant forfeit —Con alienate, *transfer, convey: *relinquish, surrender, abandon, yield
acquisition, acquisition, attainment, accomplishment denote in common a power or skill that is the fruit of exertion or effort; in this sense they are often used in the plural. Acquisition implies achievement as a result of continued endeavor and self-cultivation rather than of natural gifts or talent (a woman of considerable information and literature; acquisitions not common amongst...ladies—Edgeworth) Acquisition may add to acquisition the implications that the thing acquired is an addition or gain and that the endeavor to acquire has been characterized by avidity and stress (perhaps it was a mistake to force her into the rigid groove of classical learning...from it she got very unusual acquisitions, but overstimulation broke her health—Parrington) As applied to an acquired power or skill, acquisition usually stresses, as acquirement does not, the inherent value of that power or skill (absolute disinterestedness is a rare acquisition, even in historians (no philosopher would resign his mental acquisitions for the purchase of any terrestrial good—Peacock) Attainment commonly refers to distinguished achievements as in the arts, in statesmanship, in science; it suggests fully developed talent (artists of high attainments) (remarkable literary attainments) Accomplishment refers to any acquired power or grace such as may make for agreeable social intercourse (my new accomplishment of dancing—Charles Churchill) (we found that even for Men of Science this neat clean carving of words was a very necessary accomplishment—Quiller-Couch) (an accomplishment of which he was a perfect exponent, the interchange of humorous and agreeable civilities—Repple) Ana achievement (see FEAT): *addition, accretion Con *lack, want, dearth, defect, privation acquisition *acquirement, attainment, accomplishment Ana *addition, accession, accretion, increment: *sessions, belongings, means, assets: *gift, genius, talent, aptitude: *art, skill, cunning acquisitive grasping, avaricious, greedy, *covetous Ana avid, *eager, keen, athirst: possessing or posses- sive, owning, enjoying (see corresponding verbs at HAVE) Ant sacrificing, abnegating —Con forgoing, forbear- ing, eschewing (see FORGO): self-denying, renunciative (see corresponding nouns at RENUNCIATION) acquit 1 absolve, exonerate, vindicate, *excuse 2 admit, acquit Ana discharge, *free, release, liberate: *excuse, pardon, forgive, remit Ant convict —Con condemn, *sentence, doom, pro- scribe, damn: denounce, blame (see CRITICIZE) 2 quit, *behave, conduct, demean, deport, comport Ana *act, behave, work, operate, react Con *misbehave, misconduct, misdemeanor (see base words at BEHAVE) acrid 1 *bitter Ana *pungent, piquant: biting (see INCISIVE): *offensive, repugnant, loathsome Ant savory Con *palatable, sapid, toothsome, tasty: fragrant: *odorous, aromatic, balmy: delicious, delectable, luscious, *deightful 2 *cruetic, mordant, scathing Ana *sharp, keen: surly, crabbed, morose (see SULLEN): malevolent, malign, spiteful, *malicious: virulent, venomous, *poisonous Ant benign, kindly —Con *suave, urbane, bland, smooth, polite acrimonious *angry, irate, indignant, wrathful, wroth, mad Ana testy, spleenetic, choleric, *irascible, cranky, cross: rancorous, hostile, antagonistic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY): quarrelsome, contentious, *belligerent Ant irenic, peaceable —Con *kind, kindly, benign, benignant acrimony, acerbity, asperity agree in denoting temper or language marked by irritation or some degree of anger or resentment. Acrimony implies bitterness or ill will and also greater stirring or blistering power in what is said than the others (the controversial writings of the seventeenth century are notorious for their acrimony—<we all know how easy it is to...defend a pet theory with acrimony—Quiller-Couch>) Acrity implies sourness as well as bitterness, sometimes as shown in words or mood, but more often as manifested in a morose, embittered nature (the judge’s smile seemed to operate on her acerity of heart like sunshine upon vinegar, making it ten times sourer—Hawthorne) Often it suggests crabbedness (the Milton of religious and political controversy...is not seldom disfigured by want of amenity, by acerity—Arnold) Asperity retains implications of harshness and roughness chiefly in reference to style (the elderly ladies in his audience had been shocked by the asperities of the new style in music—Copland) In general use asperity stresses quickness of temper or sharpness of resentment but it rarely suggests bitterness (told him with some asperity to mind his own business) Ana bitterness (see corresponding adjective at BITTER): ill will, malignity, malignancy, spite, spleen, *malice, malevolence: rancor, animus, animosity, antipathy (see ENMITY) Ant suavity —Con urbanity, diplomacy (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE): courtesy, civility, politeness (see corresponding adjectives at CIVIL) across, crosswise, crossways, athwart are synonymous when they mean so as to intersect the length of something. Across and athwart may be used as prepositions as well as adverbs but carry the same implications in either part of speech. Across usually implies extension or passage from one side to the other (this board will not go across) (he could not get across the river that night) Crosswise and crossways stress intersection at right angles and usually suggest a horizontal direction (the stripes run crosswise) (the defect lies crossways to the grain of the wood) Athwart commonly implies obliquity of direction or inter- section at an acute angle (the tree fell athwart the road) (on the slopes the shadows lie athwart) (in some weaves the filling threads run athwart those of the warp) Figuratively, especially with reference to plans, purposes, hopes, across and crosswise are not always synon- ymous because they retain and stress their distinguishing implications. Across often implies fulfillment (he was able to get his point across to his audience) while crosswise imparts contrariety and therefore frustration (everything goes crosswise with us tonight) act n 1 *action, deed Ana performance, accomplishment, achievement (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM): *feat, exploit Con law, *bill, *act v.i. 1 Act, behave, work, operate, function, react are comparable when used with reference to the way in which a person or thing does what is expected or responds to external influences or circumstances. Act is not only the most general word of this group but also the most general of all English intransitive verbs except those (as be, exist, belong) which assert being, a state of being, or relation. Act is therefore used largely in interrogative sentences when knowledge of the specific nature of the action is
sought or in declarative sentences with a qualifying adverb, adverbial element, or adjective complement *how did the child act when you called him??* (he acted as if he were about to cry) (he acted frightened) *how should this powder act when mixed with water??* (this medicine acts as a poison to some persons) *Behavior* is widely applied chiefly to persons and their conduct with reference to a standard of what is right or proper or decorous (one must keep one's contracts, and behave as persons of honor and breeding should behave—Rose Macaulay) However, in or parallel to technical use behave often approaches act in generality *study how steel behaves under stress* *how the thyroid gland behaves during emotional excitement* (two men may behave like a crowd . . . when their emotions are engaged—Conrad) *Work, operate, function* agree in meaning to act in the way that is natural or intended (the Swiss clock had long since ceased to work—Bennett) (but she had not thought. Her brain would not operate—Bennett) *they have functioned as observers rather than participants—J. M. Brown* In distinction from one another work may, especially when qualified, suggest success or effectiveness (the fact that a theory has actually worked is a better recommendation for its soundness than any amount of ingenious dialectic—Huxley); *operate* stresses efficient activity rather than achievement except when followed by on or upon (the revolutionary spirit, ceasing to operate in politics—Macaulay); *function* implies activity with reference to the accomplishment of the end or office for which a thing exists or is designed (consciousness ceases altogether at death, when the brain no longer functions—Grant Allen) *rules of the game which must be observed, if society is to function at all—Galsworthy* React, a word of rapidly shifting implications, is often used as though it were a close synonym of the preceding words, especially of act or behave *at this threat the civil service reacted in the way which is always open to any civil service, under any regime—C. P. Fitzgerald* In discriminating use it always suggests recoil or rebound; often more narrowly, but still consistently, it implies reciprocal or counteractive influence or a reverse effect *home and the school react (act reciprocally) on each other* (whilst most people's minds succumb to inculcation and environment, a few react vigorously: honest and decent people coming from thievish slums, and skeptics and realists from country parsonages—Shaw) As a result of use in chemistry and psychology, react now often implies a favorable or desired response *children react (respond favorably) to kind treatment* 2 Act, play, impersonate are synonyms when they mean to assume the appearance or role of another person or character. *Actually and play* frequently imply feigning for theatrical representation *act (Hamlet)* *play* *the melancholy Dane* Even the idiom "*to play one's part*" has a theatrical origin and still connotes performance and a contribution to an ensemble. Whether impersonate implies simulation for the sake of theatrical representation or for deception can be gathered only from the context *an actor who impersonates women* (he was arrested for impersonating an officer) *acting adj* *temporary, supply, ad interim, provisional* action 1 Action, act, deed agree in designating something done or effected. Action refers primarily to the process of acting; *act and deed* to the result, the thing done. An action is usually regarded as occupying some time and involving more than one step; an act is more frequently thought of as momentary or instantaneous and as individual *the rescue of a shipwrecked crew is a heroic action; the launching of the lifeboat, a brave act* *a course of action* *the springs of action* *an act of vengeance* *caught in the act* In the plural action has frequently an ethical connotation and is loosely synonymous with *conduct* (by him [the Lord] actions are weighed—I Sam 2:3) *only the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in their dust—Shirley* Deed refers to a thing as done: it invariably presupposes intelligence and responsibility in the agent and therefore often connotes, as *act* does not, illustriousness or achievement *the deed is worthy doing—Shak.* *what, are my deeds forgot?—Shak.* *little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love—Wordsworth* Deed is frequently opposed to word, as *act to thought* (take the word for the deed) *I'll entice your deeds to match these words—Shak.* *be great in act as you have been in thought—Shak.* Ana *process, proceeding, procedure: performance, execution, fulfillment (see corresponding verbs at perform): activity, operation, work, behavior, reaction (see corresponding verbs at act) 2 cause, case, *suit, lawsuit 3 *battle, engagement Ana combat, conflict, fight, fray, affray, *contest: *encounter, skirmish, brush activate 1 energize, *vitalize Ana animate, vivify, *quicken, enliven: *stir, rouse, arouse, rally, awaken Ant arrest 2 Activate, actuate, motivate are sometimes confused when used with reference to persons and the motives which govern their actions. They are not interchangeable, however, because they carry divergent denotations. Some external influence or agent, rather than a motive or desire, activates a person or thing when it supplies an effective stimulus to activity: the motive or, at least, a latent desire for such activity being commonly presupposed *Kapteyn's work . . . was not final, but it . . . attracted and activated others—G. W. Gray* A motive, a principle, or a desire actuates a person (not an action or undertaking) when it governs or determines his actions *the desire for conquest actuated the explorers of the sixteenth century* *individuals actuated by economic self-interest—Bush* A dramatist or novelist motivates the actions of his characters or the incidents of his plot when he supplies the motives for each (the novelist failed to motivate adequately his hero's surrender to temptation) Also an objective, a desire, a passion motivates or gives the underlying motive of an action or undertaking *ambition motivated Macbeth's murder of Duncan* Ana stimulate, *provoke, excite, galvanize: spur, goad, induce (see corresponding nouns at motive): *incite, instigate, foment, abet: drive, impel, *move Ant restrain, inhibit *con curb, check, bide (see restrain): *thwart, foil, balance, balk, *frustrate active, operative, dynamic, live are synonymous when they mean being at work or in effective action. Active in general may be employed wherever the others are applicable, but it is also usable where none of the others would be appropriate. It may qualify anything that shows its nature or its existence in acts, in action, or in work *an active volcano* *an active brain* *an active sympathy* and it is applicable to anything which can be worked, operated, manipulated, or wielded *an active pen* (a mine still active after fifty years of mining) It is also applicable to an agent, an operator, an instrument, a means or to something accomplished by any such agency *active enforcement of the law* *an active propagandist* *an active search for truth* *Active* may imply little more action or movement or exertion than shown in a state that is not death, rest, or inertness *his pulse is low, but his heart is still active* or it may, and usually does, imply vigor and A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
actor | player, performer, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trouper denote in common one who, for the entertainment or edification of an audience, takes part in an exhibition simulating happenings in real life. An actor makes a profession of taking part in such exhibitions (as in the theater or on television) (an ambition to be an actor). A player acts in a stage play either as a professional or as an amateur (all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players—Shak.) Performer is a wider term than the others of this group. It emphasizes actual participation in an exhibition before an audience and may denote not only an actor or player but any public enter-tainer (as a dancer or musician) (in theatrical speaking, if the performer is not exactly proper and graceful, he is utterly ridiculous—Steele) Mummer, mime, and mimic may all denote a performer who projects a character by means of body movements, expression, and gesture usually without the use of speech. Mimicry is used more particularly of comic and amateurish performers or maskers, usually at some festival or holiday celebration (here and there the beat of drums . . . the antics and grimaces of mummers held the crowd for a moment before some fantastic festival car—A. M. Bacon). When used of the professional actor its connotation is often derogatory (dubbing, that mummer's trick with the mouth which has . . . been responsible for an endless succession of vaudeville acts—Rogow) Mime is used of both the performer and the performance (mime and mimicry are confused in the public mind . . . Chaplin is a mime, but those who imitate him are mimics. A mime does not copy . . . but invents characters who have their own life . . . quite apart from their creator—Enters) and is especially ap-plicable to the stylized gestural language of narrative dance (as ballet) (was a great mime and did not follow the then traditional ballet-mime (pantomime), but . . . in ballet gave first-class dramatic performances—Nicolaeva-Legat). Mimic more particularly stresses imitation and often comic exaggeration of qualities (had accents so grotesque that not even Molly, an able mimic, could copy them—Stafford) (mimic . . . Entertain by presenting exaggerated imitations—Dict. of Occupational Titles) Thespian is equivalent in meaning to actor but in connotation is often mock-heroic (the gossip columns, where a well-known Silk might yet be observed in solemn conclave with a distinguished Thespian—Wills). An impersonator is a performer who assumes the character of another (as a public figure, a class of persons, an animal) whom he imitates by makeup and in speech and action (a female impersonator—A noted impersonator of Abraham Lincoln). A trouper is a member of a group and especially a traveling group of actors staging a play or repertory of plays. The term often connotes the seasoning or the sense of obligation to audience and fellow actors that characterizes an experienced actor (no real trouper while conscious will ever confess himself too sick to go on—Ferber). actual | real, true

Ana | *material, physical, phenomenal, objective: particular (see SPECIAL) Actual ideal: imaginary —Con *abstract, transcendent, transcendental: spiritual, divine (see HOLY): *theoretical, speculative, academic: fabulous, *fictitious, mythical

Ant | existence, being

Ant | possibility —Con abstraction, ideality, transcendence (see corresponding adjectives at ABSTRACT) Actualize *realize, embody, incarnate, externalize, objectify, materialize, hypostatize, reify

acute | 1 move, drive, impel

ana | stimulate, provoke, excite, galvanize, quicken: *stir, rouse, arouse: energize, activate, *vitalize

2 activate, motive

Ant | *hinder, impede, bar: *restrain, inhibit, curb, check

Ant | deter (with a motive or fear as the subject) —Con *hind, impede, bar: *restrain, inhibit, curb, check

Acumen penetration, *discernment, insight, perception, discrimination

Ana | shrewdness, sagacity, perspicacity, astuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW): sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP) Obsuteness —Con dullness, stupidity, slowness, denseness (see corresponding adjectives at STUPID): blindness, purblindness (see corresponding adjectives at BLIND)

Acute | 1 sharp, keen

Ana | incisive, trenchant, cutting: penetrating, piercing (see ENTER) Obstuse —Con *dull, blunt: *stupid, slow, dull, crass, dense

2 Acute, critical, crucial. Acute most commonly indicates intensification. Sometimes rapid, of a situation demanding notice and showing signs of some definite resolution (intimately associated with Indian affairs was the pressing question of defense . . . Pontiac's rebellion made the issue acute—Morison & Commager). When the food shortage became acute in New Haven, the junior class of Yale College was moved to Glastonbury—Amer. Guide Series: Conn. Critical may describe an approach to a crisis or turning point and may imply an imminent outcome or resolution (the war has reached a new critical phase . . . we have moved into active and continuing battle—Roosevelt) (the critical lack of rubber in the last war was finally beaten by the development of synthetic rubber plants capable of turning out 1,000,000 tons a year—Collier's Yr. Bk.) Crucial applies to an actual crisis situ-
adapt, often one viewed with fear, worry, or suspense, and implies a speedily ensuing decisive or definitive outcome
<ə continuous evolution, punctuated by the sudden flowering or flowering of a crucial moment now and then—Lowers> <the next few months are crucial. What we do now will affect our American way of life for decades to come—Truman>

Ana culminating, climax (see corresponding nouns at summit): *dangerous, hazardous, precarious, perilous: menacing, threatening (see threaten): intensified, aggravated (see intensify)

adage *saying, saw, proverb, maxim, motto, epigram, aphorism, apothegm

adament, adamantine obdurate, inexorable, *inflexible

Ana unyielding, unsubmitting (see affirmative verbs at yield): immovable, immobile (see affirmative adjectives at movable): *grim, implacable, unrelenting

Ant yielding —Con submissive, subdued (see tame): obliging, compliant (see amiable): relenting, submitting, capitulating (see yield)

adapt 1 Adapt, adjust, accommodate, conform, reconcile agree in denoting to bring into correspondence. To adapt is to fit or suit to something; it (reflectively implies conformity) often connotes a change or adjustment in relation to the new conditions, frequently with the added suggestion of pliability or readiness <he knew how to adapt himself. To one correspondent he is gay . . . To another he is gravely reflective—Huxley> To adjust is to bring into as close and exact correspondence or harmony as exists between the parts of a mechanism; in contrast with adapt, it suggests less of flexibility or tact in the agent and more of ingenuity or calculation <he must divine what men would welcome and shun what men might resent. He must delicately mold and adjust the popular will to his own—Buchan> Accommodate is used in preference to adjust when there exists a somewhat marked variance or discrepancy between the objects brought into often superficial or transitory agreement or harmony <man is no lawgiver to nature, he is an absorber. She is who stands firm; he is who must accommodate himself—James> Accommodate is used in preference to adapt when yielding or compromise is to be suggested <they accommodate their counsels to his inclination—Addison> To conform is to bring into harmony or accordance with a pattern, example, or principle <the liberal . . . does not wish to have to conform himself to any program or policy—Inge> In current use the reflexive to conform oneself is comparatively rare, its place being taken usually by the intransitive conform (for another intransitive sense see agree) <this officer, as his duties were prescribed by that act, is to conform precisely to the will of the president. He is the mere organ by whom that will is communicated—John Marshall> Partly because of the association of this word with compulsory legislation regarding religious observances, it often implies compliance or at times slavery acceptance <Mark Twain . . . had conformed to a moral regime in which the profoundest of his instincts could not function—Brooks> To reconcile is to demonstrate to one’s own or another’s satisfaction the fundamental consistency or congruity of things that are or seem to be incompatible <confidence in her own capacity to reconcile conflicting portraits of herself—Mary Austin> The great men among the ancients understood how to reconcile manual labor with affairs of state—Locke> In reflexive use reconcile adds to adapt the implication of resignation or of submission <reconciled himself to a lonely existence>

Ana temper, qualify (see moderate): acclimatize, acclimate (see harden)

Ant unfit

2 *edit, rewrite, revise, redact, compile

Ana fit, *prepare, condition, qualify

adaptable pliant, ductile, *plastic, pliable, malleable

Ana tractable, amenable (see obedient): supple, flexible, resilient, *elastic

Ant inadequate, unadaptable —Con intractable, refractory (see unruly), unaccommodating, nonconforming, irreconcilable (see affirmative verbs at adapt)

add 1 Add, sum, total, tot, cast, figure, foot share the meaning to find or represent the amount reached by putting together arithmetically a series of numbers or quantities, and are commonly followed by up. Add is both the common and the technical word; it commonly implies strict adherence to the traditional arithmetical operation. Even in figurative use it implies a similar operation <taken as a whole the vignerettes and the stories add up to a single effect—Alridge> <the whole undertone trend adds up to a major consideration for businessmen and employees—Lack> Sum stresses the result attained rather than the method followed. In figurative use sum up implies a gathering and consolidation into a new whole, especially for the production of a single telling effect <a lawyer in summing up summarizes in brief and logical form the evidence favorable to his case or client that has been given> <I summed up all the systems in a phrase and all existence in an epigram—Wilde> <values they can sum up in a few simple formulas—Croly> Total tends to replace sum up in literal use <determined the cost by totaling all expenditures> It may also mean to reach the sum or number of <absences due to colds totaled 253 last week> Tot, cast, figure, and foot are used especially of commercial matters (as accounts and bookkeeping devices). Tot and cast often imply facility in reckoning <the waiter quickly totted the bill> <if you tot up all the items that we owed against all the items that foreigners owed us—Hutton> <cast up an account> Figure usually suggests the task or burden involved in reckoning <figure the costs of operating an automobile> Foot connotes bookkeeping and totals at the bottom of each column of figures <his debts will foot up to more than he can ever pay>

2 Add, append, annex, subjoin, superadd. Add, the most general of these words, means to join one thing to another or to a group, series, or combination of other things so as to increase the original unit in numbers, size, amount <added ten books to the library> <a little gossip adds spice to the conversation> <police action would add nothing to the protection that victims of aggression have enjoyed under the old system—Wolfe> One appends when one adds something that is supplemental and accessory and does not form an integral part of the principal thing <append notes to a book> <the final summary of his views which he enjoyed appending to his long-winded discourses—I. V. Morris> One annexes when one adds something that becomes part of the original whole yet bears usually a subordinate or subsidiary relation to it or suffers loss of identity in the merging <annex a codicil to a will> <annex conquered territory to the kingdom> One subjoins when one adds something under another thing or especially to what has already been said or written <subjoin a postscript to a letter> <subjoin additional matter in an appendix> One superadds when one adds something to what is complete in itself or already at its maximum <the phrase “to paint the lily” means to superadd decoration to that which in itself is highly decorative> <the horrors of pestilence superadded to the horrors of war>

Ana *fasten, attach, affix: augment, enlarge, *increase

Ant subtract, deduct —Con lessen, *decrease, diminish
accrue, increment, accession agree in denoting something acquired that constitutes a value of his land resulting from growth of the city. 

The professional historian, whose aim is exact truth, should brush aside the glittering increments.

It often suggests length of speech or communication about an assertion or convey a warning about or a disclaimer of responsibility for the truth of matter under discussion.

Those whose senses are alleged to be subject to supernatural impressions—Le Fanu—Its participial adjective alleged, especially, often serves as a disclaimer of responsibility for the assertion.
adherent

adjacent

adjoining

adjacent

1 Adjust, regulate, fix share the meaning to set right

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
fix her glasses) <please fix the clock> <he will fix up matters for us> In distinctive use it implies restoration to a good order or a state of repair <these shoes are not worth fixing> <fixed the leak in the roof>

Ana rectify, *correct: trim, steady, *stabilize, balance: *order, arrange: align, *line, line up, range

Ant derange —Con disarrange, *disorder, disturb: upset, *discompose

2 *adapt, accommodate, conform, reconcile

Ana *harmonize, attune: correspond, conform, accord, square (see AGREE)

adjuvant adj *auxiliary, contributory, ancillary, accessory, subsidiary, subservient

Ana aiding, helping, assisting (see HELP vb): supporting, upholding, backing (see SUPPORT vb): *effective, efficient, efficacious, effectual

Ant counteractive —Con neutralizing, negativing (see NEUTRALIZE): obstructing, hindering, impeding (see HINDER vb)

administer, dispense come into comparison because they are used in certain idiomatic phrases, similar in wording but not always equivalent in meaning, such as administer justice or dispense justice; administer a medicine or a sacrament or dispense the Sacrament. Both words imply an action on the behalf of another in or as if in the capacity of a steward. Distinctively administer denotes to manage, supervise, or conduct the affairs of another while dispense denotes to deal out in portions or equitably to recipients. These divergent significations are often lost and the words used interchangeably especially when the object of the verb is an abstraction such as justice or charity (the citizens disliked the rule of William on account of the strict justice which he administered—Freeman) (these be the sort to dispense justice. They know the land and the customs of the land—Kipling) In reference to a sacrament administer means to perform the rites and duties prescribed for its proper observance and may be used of any of the sacraments; dispense, in contrast, is used only of the Eucharist and retains its underlying implication of dealing out in portions. The two words when used in reference to medicine are precisely distinguished. One administers a medicine when he gives the prescribed dose directly to the patient; one dispenses medicines when he compounds them according to the prescription of the physician. Similarly, one administers a blow or a rebuke when he deals it out directly to the individual. Dispense, in comparable phrases, retains its implication of distribution; one dispenses advice when he metes it out to those who in his opinion need it; one dispenses alms when he manages their distribution.

admiration 1 *wonder, wonderment, amazement

Ana astonishment, surprise (see corresponding verbs at SURPRISE): awe, fear, *reverence: rapture, transport, *ecstasy

Con indifference, unconcern, aloofness (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT): boredom, *tedium, ennui

2 esteem, respect, *regard

Ana appreciation (see corresponding verb at APPRECIATE): liking, loving, enjoying (see LIKE): adoration, veneration, reverence, worship (see under REVERE)

Ant abhorrence —Con loathing, detestation, hate, hatred (see under HATE vb)

admire esteem, respect, regard (see under REGARD n)

Ana *appreciate, value, prize, cherish: *reverence, venerate, adore, worship

Ant abhor —Con *hate, loathe, abominate, detest: *despise, contempt, scorn, disdain

Admission: *admittance

Admit 1 *receive, accept, take

Ana allow, permit, suffer (see LET): *harbor, entertain, shelter, lodge, house

Ant eject, expel —Con *exclude, debar, shut out: bar, obstruct, block, *hinder

2 *acknowledge, own, confess, avow

Ana concede, *grant, allow: *assent, acquiesce, agree, subscribe: divulge, disclose, *reveal

Ant gainsay: disallow —Con *deny, contradict, negative

3 *enter, introduce

Ana induct, *initiate, install: *introduce, insert, interject, interpose

Ant exclude —Con debar, shut out (see EXCLUDE): expel, *eject, oust

Admittance, admission. Admittance is mostly confined to the literal sense of allowing one to enter a locality or building (no admittance without a pass) (admittance to the grounds) Admission has acquired the figurative sense of admitting to rights, privileges, standing, membership (his admission to the club) (admission of new words into the language) When entrance into a building or a locality carries with it certain privileges, admission rather than admittance is used (admission to a theater) (the admission of aliens into a country)

Admixture: 1 *mixture, composite, blend, compound, amalgam

2 Admixture, alloy, adulterant are comparable when they denote an added ingredient that destroys the purity or genuineness of a substance. Admixture suggests the addition of the foreign or the nonessential (pure Indian without any admixture of white blood) (love with an admixture of selfishness) (comic verses with an occasional admixture of mild bawdry—Cowie) Alloy derives its figurative implication of an addition that detracts from the value or perfection of a thing from an old literal application to a base metal added to a precious metal to give it hardness (there's no fortune so good, but it has its alloy—Bacon) (he had his alloy, like other people, of ambition and selfishness—Rose Macaulay) Adulterant, both literally and figuratively, implies the addition of something that debases or impairs a thing without markedly affecting its appearance. Consequently it usually implies the intent to deceive (interests . . . trying to upgrade consumer thinking on wool by classifying the new textile fibers as adulterants—F. A. Adams) (piety without any adulterant of hypocrisy)

Ana *addition, accretion: *touch, suggestion, streak, dash, spice, tinge, smock, shade: infusion, suffusion, leaven (see corresponding verbs at INFUSE)

Admonish chide, *reprove, reproach, rebuke, reprimand

Ana *warn, forewarn, caution: counsel, advise (see under ADVISE n): *criticize, reprehend, reprove

Ant commend —Con *approve: applaud, compliment (see COMMEND)

Ado fuss, pother, flurry, bustle, *stir

Ana trouble, pains, exertion, *effort

Ant quietness, stillness, silence (see corresponding adjectives at STILL): calm, serenity, tranquility (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

Adolescence: *youth, puberty, pubescence

Ant senescence

Adopt, embrace, espouse mean in common to make one's own what in some fashion one owes to another. One adopts something of which one is not the begetter, inventor, or author or which is not one's own naturally (adopt the style of Swinburne) (adopt the British pronunciation of a word) (the Ralstons gave up old customs reluctantly,
but once they had adopted a new one they found it impossible to understand why everyone else did not immediately do likewise—\textit{Wharton} \textit{Embrace} implies willingness to accept or it may suggest eager or joyful acceptance \textit{embrace an opportunity} \textit{embrace Christianity} \textit{she embraced with ardor the fantastic ideal of the cleaning up of England—\textit{Rose Macaulay}} One espouses that to which one attaches oneself as closely as to a wife, giving it support or sharing the same fortunes and participating in the same experiences \textit{espouse a friend’s quarrel} \textit{the spirit of uncompromising individualism that would eventually espouse the principle of democracy in church and state—\textit{Parrington}} \textbf{Ana} appropriate, *arrogate, usurp: *assume, affect \textbf{Ant} repudiate: discard —\textit{Con reject, spurn (see DECLINE): renounce, forswear, *abjure} \textbf{adoration} worship, veneration, reverence (see under \textit{REVERE}) \textbf{Ana} *honor, homage, obeisance: praise, laud, extolling (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE) \textbf{Ant} blasphemy —\textit{Con execration, cursing (see corresponding verbs at EXECUTE): *profanation, desecration, sacrilege} \textbf{adore} worship, venerate, *revere, reverence \textit{Ana} laud, *praise—extol: *exalt, magnify \textbf{Ant} blaspheme —\textit{Con *execute, curse} \textbf{2 Adore, worship, idolize} in their nonreligious senses mean to love or admire excessively. \textit{Adore} commonly implies emotional surrender to the charms or attractions of an object of love or admiration; it often connotes extreme adulation if the object of love is a person \textit{this inability \ldots to project his personality is a serious weakness in a country which likes to adore its leaders—\textit{Doty}} With other objects it may connote no more than a hearty liking \textit{like gourmet and yellow flies, sows adore eating truffles—\textit{Lauber}} \textit{Worship} usually implies more extravagant adoration or more servile attentions than \textit{adore}; it also commonly connotes an awareness of one’s own inferiority or of one’s distance from the object of one’s love \textit{he worships his wife} \textit{small boys who worship astronauts} \textbf{Idolize} often implies absurdly excessive adoration or doting love \textit{idolizing money in life and poetry—\textit{New School Bulletin}} Sometimes, however, it comes very close to \textit{adore} \textit{a spoiled child is often one that has been idolized by his parents} \textbf{Ana} love, dote (see LIKE): admire, esteem (see under REGARD n) \textbf{Ant detest} —\textit{Con *hate, loathe, abhor, abominate: *despise, scorn, contempt, disdain} \textbf{adorn, decorate, ornament, embellish, beautify, deck, bedeck, garnish} mean to add something unessential in order to enhance the appearance. These words and especially the first five are often used interchangeably; certain distinctions, however, are apparent in precise use especially when the subject of the verb is the thing that enhances rather than the agent or enhancer. An element that adorns not only serves to heighten the beauty of its background or setting but also is beautiful in itself \textit{few nobler poems have adorned our time—\textit{Quiller-Couch}} \textit{the simplicity with which great composers adorn their works—\textit{Brainwaite}} One that decorates relieves the plainness or monotony of a background by contributing beauty of color or design to it \textit{the walls are yet to be decorated} \textit{the use of inlaying in decorating furniture} Something ornaments when it is an adjunct or an accessory which sets off a thing to advantage \textit{whose bridle was ornamented with silver bells—\textit{Scott}} \textit{a doorway ornamented with pillars} \textit{Embellish} more often suggests the act of an agent than the effect of a thing. One who embellishes modifies his material, especially by adding adventitious or sometimes gaudy or fictitious ornament for the sake of effect \textit{embellishes his style with imagery} \textit{feats of virtuosity \ldots with which she embellished the usual routine of the role—\textit{Sargent}} \textit{Embellish} often suggests disregard for truth \textit{that theme is then expertly embellished by the Communists to prove that Wall Street is on the warpath against the Kremlin—\textit{Fischer}} One that beautifies either enhances the beauty of something or counterbalances its plainness or ugliness \textit{an embankment swathed and beautified by clambering roses} \textit{the eternal orbs that beautify the night—\textit{Shelley}} One that decks or bedecks contributes to the gaiety, splendor, or, especially in the case of bedeck, showiness of appearance \textit{bedeck oneself with jewels} \textit{decking with liquid pearl the bladed grass—\textit{Shak}} \textit{he likes to deck out his little person in splendor and fine colors—\textit{Thackerasy}} One garnishes something when one gives it the final touch of order or ornament in preparation for use or service \textit{the drawing room was empty, swept and garnished, waiting for the next bout—\textit{Panter-Downesy}} The word is used especially in cookery \textit{garnish a broiled fish with lemon slices and chopped parsley} \textbf{Ana} enhance, heighten, *intensify \textbf{Ant diminish: *deface: mar, spoil, impair, *injure: *deform, distort, contort} \textbf{adroit 1} dexterous, deft, handy \textbf{Ana} *agile, nimble: expert, masterly, adept, skillful, skilled, *proficient: effortless, smooth, facile, *easy \textbf{Ant maladroit —\textit{Con clumsy, *awkward, inept}} \textbf{2} *clever, cunning, ingenious \textbf{Ana} shrewd, astute, perspicacious: *intelligent, quick-witted, smart: artful, crafty (see \textbf{SLY}) \textbf{Ant} stolid —\textit{Con *impassive, apathetic, phlegmatic: *stupid, slow, dull, dense} \textbf{adulation} flattery, *compliment \textbf{Ana} praise, laud (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE): *applause, acclaim: fulsome, uncouthness (see corresponding adjectives at \textit{FULSOME}) \textbf{Ant} abuse —\textit{Con obloquy, vituperation (see ABUSE): censure, condemnation, reprobation, criticism (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)} \textbf{adult} adj *mature, grown-up, matured, ripe, mellow \textbf{Ana} developed, ripened, aged (see MATURE vb) \textbf{Ant} juvenile: puerile —\textit{Con *youthful, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden: adolescent, pubescent (see corresponding nouns at YOUTH)} \textbf{adulterant} n *admixture, alloy \textbf{adulterate, sophisticate, load, weight, doctor} mean to alter fraudulently especially for profit. \textit{Adulterate}, the usual and technical term, especially when used with reference to foodstuffs and drugs, implies either the admixture of ingredients of similar appearance to increase the bulk or of a harmful substance as a preservative or as a restorer or improver of appearance \textit{adulterate maple syrup with beet-sugar syrup} \textit{line juice adulterated with five percent sulfuric acid, jellies with formaldehyde, peas with copper—\textit{Heiser}} In its extended use \textit{adulterate} implies spuriousness or loss of purity: such implications come out strongly in \textit{unadulterated}, which is the equivalent of pure and sheer in their hyperbolic senses \textit{that book is unadulterated trash} In meaning \textit{sophisticate} is essentially identical with \textit{adulterate} but its use is restricted almost entirely to raw drug and essential oil trade \textit{rose oil is sophisticated with geraniol—\textit{Shreve}} \textit{Load} implies the admixture of something to add weight whether as an adulterant or in the normal course of manufacture \textit{numerous adulterants have been used to load tea to increase its weight—\textit{Ukers}} \textit{most kinds of paper are loaded in some way or other} \textit{. . . The process . . . was first practiced . . . to save}
pulp . . . but it was found that restricted quantities of loadings improved the paper—Jennett. Weight is used interchangeably with load but is applied more especially to textiles (silk weighted with salts of tin). Doctor implies tampering sometimes by adulteration but more often by alterations or falsifications which give an illusion of genuineness, of superior quality, or of great value (doctoring poor wine with essences and brandy) (doctored his accounts to hide his thefts).

Ana *debase, vitiate, corrupt: pollute, defile, taint (see contaminant)
Ant refine (sugar, oil) — Con *improve, better

adultery, fornication, incest designate forms of illicit sexual intercourse which are clearly distinguished in legal use, both civil and ecclesiastical. Adultery implies unfaithfulness to one's spouse, and therefore can be applied only to sexual intercourse on the part of a married man with a woman other than his wife, or of a married woman with a man other than her husband. Fornication designates sexual intercourse on the part of an unmarried person; when occurring between a married and an unmarried person, the former is involved in adultery and the latter in fornication. Incest designates sexual intercourse between persons so closely related that their marriage is prohibited by church or state and usually by both.

Ana unfaithfulness, inconstancy, untrueness (see affirmative adjectives at faithfulness): infidelity, disloyalty (see affirmative nouns at fidelity)
adumbrate *suggest, shadow
Ana symbolize, typify, emblematize (see corresponding nouns at symbol): signify, denote, *mean
adumbration shaedw, umbra, penumbra, *shade, umbrage
Ana *symbol, type, emblem: *sign, token, symptom, note; hint, suggestion, intimation (see corresponding verbs at suggest)
Ant revelation — Con *disclosure, revealing, divulging, discovering (see corresponding verbs at reveal)

advance vb 1 Advance, promote, forward, further all mean to move or put ahead, but they come into comparison chiefly when they imply help in moving or putting (something) ahead. Advance usually implies effective assistance, as in hastening a process (the warm rains greatly advanced the spring crops) or in bringing about a desired end (the pact should advance peace among nations) or in exalting or elevating a person, especially in rank or in power (Ahasuerus . . . advanced him . . . above all the princes) (Esth 3:1) The implication of moving ahead is dominant in promote when the words mean to advance in grade or rank, especially in a predetermined order (promote a pupil to the next grade in school) (promote a member of a college faculty from associate professor to full professor). When the dominant implication is assistance, promote may suggest open backing or support (the objects for which a corporation is created are universally such as the government wishes to promote—John Marshall) It may, especially when the subject names a person, his influence, or his acts, imply actual advance by encouraging or fostering (a sound forest economy promotes the prosperity of agriculture and rural life—Gustafson) It may, when said of a thing such as a practice, a policy, a habit, imply subservience to an end that may not be intended (the habit of regarding the language of poetry as something dissociated from personal emotion . . . was promoted by the writing of Greek and Latin verse in school—Babbitt) In one or two collocations forward implies not assistance but effective carrying out (forward a shipment by express) (please forward all letters during my absence) In its more common sense forward is often not clearly distinguishable from advance, except that it is seldom if ever used with reference to persons (Marie de Méric has advanced Marilac by marrying him to one of her maids of honor . . . yet . . . she only forwarded the marriage because she wanted to do the girl a favor—Bello) Further, less than any other word in this group, implies movement ahead and, perhaps more than any other, emphasizes the assistance given, especially in the removing of obstacles, either to a person in an undertaking or to the project he undertakes (her sole object . . . was to further him, not as an artist but as a popular success—Brooks) (bodies like the French Academy have such power for promoting it [genius], that the general advance of the human spirit is perhaps, on the whole, rather furthered than impeded by their existence—Arnold) 
Ant retard: check — Con *hinder, impede: *restrain, curb: *arrest: *delay, slow

2 Advance, progress both as intransitive verbs and as nouns share the meaning to move (or movement) forward in space, in time, or in approach to a material or ideal objective. They are often employed interchangeably; however there are instances in which one is preferable to the other. Advance only may be used when a concrete instance is signified; though one may say that at a given time science made no advance (or progress), one must say that there were no advances (not progressions) in science at that time. Advance is preferable to progress when the context implies movement ahead such as that of an army marching to its objective, the distance traveled, or the rate of traveling (bullish sentiment regained favor . . . and stock prices advanced sharply—N. Y. Times) (there are some . . . who picture to themselves religion as retreating . . . before the victorious advance of science—Inge) (boll weevil . . . may have existed in Mexico . . . for centuries . . . it advanced north and east at the rate of about 100 miles per year—Harlow) Progress usually carries implications derived from earlier meanings of a process, a circuit, or a cycle, and so is preferable to advance when the movement forward involves these implications, as by suggesting a normal course, growth, or development (the trial is progressing) (moon . . . begins . . . her rosy progress—Milton) (summer) oft, delighted, stops to trace the progress of the spiky blade—Burns) Sometimes the word without losing these implications carries additional connotations and often stresses development through a series of steps or stages, each marking a definite change (it would be . . . a dull world that developed without break of continuity; it would surely be a mad world that progressed by leaps alone—Lowes) (the progress of an artist is a continual self-sacrifice, a continual extinction of personality—T. S. Eliot) Progress is the preferable word when development with improvement is implied (there was a general belief in inevitable and universal progress—Berger)

Ana develop, *mature; *intensify, heighten
Ant recede — Con *retreat, retrograde (see recede): retire, withdraw (see go)
3 *advance, allege, cite
Ana *offer, present, proffer: propose (see corresponding noun at proposal): broach, *express, air
Ant retraction — Con retrograding, retreating (see recede)

2 *overture, approach, tender, bid
Ana *propose, proposition: offer, proffer (see corresponding verbs at offer)

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
advancement, preferment, promotion, elevation designate the act of raising a person in grade, rank, or dignity, or the honor that comes to one who is so raised. Advancement is the general term of widest application. Preferment especially in older use often comes close to advancement. 'Tis the curse of service, preferment goes by letter and affection, and not by old gradation, where each second stood heir to the first—Shak. It now more often implies choice, especially from a series of candidates or possibilities. A military record was the surest road to military preferment among vigorous frontiersmen—Coulter. Obedience spelled preferment in the civil service—Schumpeter. Promotion, usually but not invariably, implies gradation or raising according to a fixed plan, often involving the passing of tests or the meeting of qualifications. It is the specific word in education to designate the end-of-the-term advancement of pupils to a higher grade or in any field where members of a force or staff are given positions of higher rank with increased remuneration. Elevation is applicable only when the advancement carries marked increase in honor or dignity (the prime minister's elevation to the peerage) (the bishop's elevation to the cardinalate) (the many men of talent who owed their elevation to Wolsey—Froude).

Ant degradation: reduction (in rank or status)
Advantage 1 Advantage, handicap, allowance, odds, edge denote a factor or set of factors in a competition or rivalry giving one person or side a position of superiority over the other. Advantage is the general term, and implies superiority of any kind (the adult, with trained powers, has an immense advantage over the child in the acquisition of information—Eliot). A handicap is something, typically an artificial advantage, designed to equalize competition; thus, in golf, the handicap assigned a player is the difference between the average of a certain number of his best scores and par for the course; for instance, if the player's best-score average is 75 and par is 72, his handicap is 3, and when he plays in a handicap match the player is allowed to deduct three strokes from his total score.

An allowance is an advantageous handicap stated as a deduction of some sort. In horse racing an allowance is a deduction from the weight that the rules require a horse to carry, granted to a horse considered to be at a disadvantage. Odds usually implies a material advantage as in strength, numbers, or resources. It is often used of such an advantage possessed by the opposite side (managed to beat the odds against him—O'Leary) (the peculiarly British quality . . . of sticking out against odds—Contemporary Review). Advantage is often stated as a difference, odds as a ratio (one boxer has an advantage of ten pounds in weight) (one army has odds of two to one over the other) Odds may also denote an equalizing concession made to an inferior competitor; it then differs from handicap and allowance in that the concession is made by the superior competitor and not assigned by a third party (each side feels that it cannot allow any odds to the other—Bryce). Edge may be an equivalent of advantage or odds but usually implies a slight but decisive superiority (here we have the edge on our rivals, not only because of our superior location, but also because we are reputedly reckless about reducing prices—Publishers' Weekly).

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
adversary *opponent, antagonist

adverse 1 Adverse, antagonistic, counter, counteractive opposed to a thing rather than a quality in the thing which is opposed ⟨the leader is adverse to all independence of opinion among his followers⟩ However they are sometimes used as synonyms with only this distinction, that adverse is chiefly referred to opinion or intention and adverse to feeling and inclination ⟨I . . . hope that our periodical judges will not be very adverse to me, and that perhaps they may even favor me—Cowper⟩ ⟨the writer of critical studies . . . has to mediate between the author whom he loves and the public, who are certainly indifferent and frequently adverse—Stevenson⟩ ⟨what cat's adverse to fish—Gray⟩

adversity *misfortune, mischance, mishap

Ana *trial, tribulation, affliction: *distress, misery, suffering: *poverty, privation, indigence, destitution

Ant prosperity —Con felicity, *happiness, bliss: ease, comfort (see REST): wealth, affluence, opulence, richness (see corresponding adjectives at RICH)

advert 1 Advert, revert are sometimes confused because of a similar basic meaning when they are used in reference to discourse or contemplation. Advert denotes to turn from the point, topic, or incident under consideration in order to take up another. It sometimes suggests an unconscious or an illogical break in the chain of thought, but in highly discriminating use may still retain its primary implication of heeding or taking notice ⟨we are but too apt to consider things in the state in which we find them, without sufficiently adverting to the causes by which they have been produced—Burke⟩ ⟨the distinction . . . will be rendered more apparent by adverting to that provision in the second section . . . of the constitution—John Marshall⟩ Revert adds to advert the implication of return either consciously or unconsciously to a point or topic already discussed or previously in one's mind ⟨she now drops this idea, and reverts to his reasoning on death—Goldsmith⟩

2 *refer, allude

Ana remark, notice, note, observe (see see)

Con ignore, disregard, overlook, *neglect

advertise publish, announce, proclaim, broadcast, promote, *declare

Ana report, recount, *relate: *communicate, impart

Con *suppress, repress: conceal, *hide, bury

advertisement publication, announcement, broadcasting, proclamation, promulgation, declaration (see under DECLARE)

Ana *publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

advice 1 Advice, counsel and their corresponding verbs advise, counsel denote recommendation or to make a recommendation as to a decision or a course of conduct. Advice and advise imply real or pretended knowledge or experience, often professional or technical, on the part of the one who advises and may apply to any of the affairs of life ⟨advice regarding the choice of books⟩ ⟨the extension specialist assists and advises the farmers⟩ ⟨legal advice⟩ Counsel often stresses the fruit of wisdom or deliberation, and presupposes weightier occasions than advice or more authority or a closer personal relationship in the one who counsels ⟨I do in friendship counsel you to leave this place—Shak.⟩ ⟨seek counsel in affairs of state⟩ The noun sometimes suggests instruction or advice of a lofty or ideal character ⟨the Christian counsel of perfection⟩

Ana admonition (see corresponding verb at REPROVE): warning, forewarning, cautioning (see WARN): instruction, teaching (see corresponding verbs at TEACH)

2 intelligence, *news, tidings

advisable *expedient, politic

Ana prudent, *wise, sensible: *beneficial, advantageous, profitable: practical, *practicable

stunts performed for hire as a public spectacle or to their performers ⟨a daredevil acrobat⟩ Rash implies imprudent hastiness or boldness in word or action: reckless, utter heedlessness or carelessness of consequences ⟨we must deter him and . . . If we do not I am convinced Austin will do something rash that he will forever repent—Meredith⟩ ⟨a reckless disregard of the future⟩ ⟨reckless audacity came to be considered courage—Derek Patmore⟩ Foolhardy implies a foolish daring or recklessness and may be used of persons or of their acts ⟨the perfectly foolhardy feat of swimming the flood—Sinclair Lewis⟩

Ana audacious, bold, intrepid, doughty (see BRAVE): aspiring, panting (see AIM vb): *ambitious, emulous

Ant unadventurous: cautious

adversary *opponent, antagonist

Ana assailant, attacker, assaulter (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK): *enemy, foe: competitor, rival (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL)

Ant ally —Con colleague, *partner: supporter, champion, backer, upholder (see corresponding verbs at SUPPORT)

adverse 1 Adverse, antagonistic, counter, counteractive mean so opposed as to cause interference, often harmful or fatal interference. All four may be applied to one thing that comes into conflict with another ⟨an adverse policy⟩ ⟨an adverse wind had so delayed him that his cargo brought him but half its proper price—Lowell⟩ ⟨an antagonistic associate⟩ ⟨a counter proposal⟩ ⟨a counteractive agency⟩ Only antagonistic, counter, and, occasionally, counteractive are used to express mutual or reciprocal opposition ⟨antagonistic principles⟩ ⟨counter currents⟩ ⟨counteractive poisons⟩ Despite their common ground of meaning, each of these four words has distinct implications which limit its applicability and greatly increase its expressiveness. Adverse conveys so strongly the idea of unfavorable or unpropitious opposition that it often means harmful or fatal ⟨adverse criticism⟩ ⟨adverse fortune⟩ ⟨a spirit adverse to the existence of democracy⟩ Antagonistic usually implies hostility and also, when mutual opposition is suggested, incompatibility or even irreconcilability ⟨neighboring races are often antagonistic⟩ ⟨the antagonistic principles of aristocracy and democracy—Parrington⟩ ⟨some sociologists believe that the welfare of the individual and the welfare of society are antagonistic aims⟩ Counter, which usually denotes acting, moving, or proceeding from the opposite side or from opposite sides, does not necessarily connotate hostility but it does imply inevitable contact, with either resulting conflict or tension ⟨whirlpools are usually caused by counter currents in a stream⟩ ⟨the counter influences of authority and freedom in shaping the character of youth⟩ Counteractive, on the other hand, invariably implies the destruction or nullification of the thing or things opposed ⟨prescribing physicians must know the counteractive effects of certain medicines on others⟩ ⟨in the training of delinquents a bad influence is dealt with by the introduction of a counteractive good influence⟩

Ana harmful, hurtful, injurious (see corresponding nouns at INJURY): hindering, impeding, obstructing (see HINDER vb): detrimental, deleterious, *pernicious: fatal, *deadly

Ant propitious —Con auspicious, *favorable, benign: *beneficial, advantageous

2 Adverse, adverse are in origin and in common use contrasted rather than synonymous terms, though they are occasionally used as though similar in meaning. Adverse implies opposition that interferes and it is applied to the thing that stands in the way of one's progress or success ⟨the leader would tolerate no adverse opinions among his followers⟩ Averse implies repugnance in the person
advise 26

advise 1 counsel (see under ADVICE 1)

Ant inadvisable

An avoid (see REPROVE): warn, forewarn, caution: induce, persuade

Con consult, confer, advise

2 consult, confer, commune, parley, treat, negotiate

An avoid (see REPROVE): warn, forewarn, caution: induce, persuade

advise 2 advocate (see under ADVICE 1)

3 notify, inform, apprise, acquaint

Ant impugn — Con assail, attack: combat, oppose, impugn

advise 3 counsel (see under ADVICE 1)

Ant defend, justify, vindicate, maintain: espouse (see ADVICE 1)

advise 4 counsel (see under ADVICE 1)

Ant impugn — Con assail, attack: combat, oppose, defend, justify, vindicate, maintain: espouse (see ADVICE 1)

Ant impose <— Con sustain, bear, support: support, uphold, champion, back

advise 5 counsel (see under ADVICE 1)

Ant impugn — Con assail, attack: combat, oppose, defend, justify, vindicate, maintain: espouse (see ADVICE 1)

advise 6 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 7 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 8 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 9 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 10 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 11 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 12 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 13 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 14 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 15 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

advise 16 deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

Advise *adviser, advocate, assister, counselor, barrister, counsel, attorney, solicitor

Advocate vb *support, uphold, champion, back

Ant impugn — Con assault, attack: combat, oppose, defend, justify, vindicate, maintain: espouse (see ADVICE 1)

Aerated, ventila, oxygenate, carbonate. Aerate is the general term and interchangeable in certain phrases with any of the others; the last three are specific terms which are not freely interchangeable with each other. Aerate means to supply or impregnate with air or to expose to the action of air. It frequently implies a mechanical process (aerate soil by plowing). Aerate sewage by agitation in fresh air. It sometimes, however, implies a natural process (the blood is aerated in the lungs). Ventila is commonly used when exposure to air especially in large quantities with the object of purifying, freshening, or cooling is implied (ventila a room by opening windows). Ventila an engine by means of holes in its covering. The patient is unable adequately to ventilate himself with air because air cannot be easily drawn through the air passages, the caliber of which has been diminished by the disease—Science. It may be indistinguishable from aereate when applied to the blood but usually suggests rather the exposure to air and aereate the resulting gaseous exchange. More exact than either in this relation is oxygenate since it is the oxygen in the air that is required by the blood. Technically aereate and carbonate are not synonyms, for the latter means to impregnate with carbon dioxide but they may overlap when aerate is used broadly with the meaning to impregnate with a gas; hence, aerate or especially aerated is used in certain designations (as aerated water or aerated bread) where carbonated would correctly describe the process.

Aerial adj *airy, ethereal

Ant immaterial, incorporeal (see MATERIAL): impalpable, imperceptible, imponderable

Aeronautics, Aviation have to do with the operation of aircraft. Aeronautics is primarily a science dealing with the operation of any kind of aircraft. Engineers specializing in aeronautics. Aviation is an art, science, or practice concerned with the operation of heavier-than-air aircraft. Skill in aviation develops only when theoretical knowledge is supplemented by practical experience. Unlike aeronautics, it has extended use in which it may denote aircraft or their manufacture, development, and design. This is an aviation (see AVIATION). Recent advances in American aviation.

Aesthetic, dilettante, connoisseur all designate a person conspicuous for his enjoyment and appreciation of the beautiful, the exquisite, or the choice. Aesthete implies highly developed sensibilities, with acute delight in beauty of color, line, sound, and texture, and violent distaste for the ugly, shapeless, and discordant (no woman could walk down the street without risk of having her hat torn off... by some aesthete who happened to think it unbecoming—Shaw). That mystical synthetic sense, of which the modern aesthetic dreams,—the sense that sees, hears, tastes, smells, touches, all in one—Babbit. It often carries derogatory connotations of absurdity, extravagance, decadence, or effeminacy. It was perhaps natural for a man who had had to fight his way... to a recognized position in scholarly literature to be irritated by the poses of comfortable aesthetes—Renwick). Dilettante stresses the attitude of the lover of art as distinguished from that of the creative artist. Though its application to amateurs who were neither thoroughly familiar with the technique of their particular form of art nor seriously seeking for mastery, it acquired connotations of desultoriness, dabbling, and superficiality (he is a mere dilettante). However, it may apply to one who pursues an art or studies it merely for his own delight (he would always be by nature a contemplative and a dilettante; but he had had high things to contemplate, great things to delight in—Wharton). A generalization with which I find myself (with all the difference of an unknown dilettante) disagreeing—Heizer. Connoisseur (he is a dilettante) implies high appreciation of the beautiful in art; unlike it, it implies scholarly knowledge and trained taste. Because of the latter implication connoisseur is applied not only to one who knows a work of art when he sees it but also to one who recognizes superiority in other things governed by taste (as foods, wine, or gems). In this relation the word often comes close to epicure in its meaning. It is also applied to collectors of beautiful things (supposing also that the material of his Apologia was... defunct,... but who a few discerning connoisseurs of style would ever read that book now or a century hence?—T.S. Eliot). He has found time to make himself a connoisseur of porcelains, one of the most esoteric of collectors' hobbies—Heizer.

Aesthetic *artistic

Ant unaesthetic

Affable *gracious, cordial, genial, sociable

Ant courteous, polite (see CIVIL): open, candid, frank: amiable, obliging, complaisant: talkative, loquacious: suave, urbane

Ant reserved — Con uncommunicative, taciturn, reticent, silent: curt, brusque (see BLUFF): surly, grim, crabbed (see Sullen)

Affair 1 Affair, business, concern, matter, thing come into comparison only when they are little more than vague or general terms meaning something done or dealt with. Some or rarely all are used interchangeably in certain similar collocations such as his own affair, business, concern; public and private affairs, concerns, matters, business: a sorry affair, business, matter, thing; affairs, matters, things are in good condition. However, a degree of precision is possible, for each word carries distinctive implications which are not always obscured. Affair suggests action or performance; it may imply a process, an operation, a proceeding, an undertaking, a transaction (seeing a book through the press is a laborious and time-wasting affair—T. H. Huxley). In the plural it often denotes transactions of great importance such as those involved in the management of finances or in the carrying on of diplomatic negotiations (men of affairs). The had married a rich woman and administered her affairs. He was not supposed to have any affairs of his own—Mary Austin. Business usually stresses duty or office; sometimes it suggests an imposed task (because a Thing is every Body's Business, it is no Body's Business—Steele). The flight of his imagination is very swift: the following of it often a breath-
less business—Day Lewis. Concern suggests personal or
direct relationship: it often implies an important bearing
on one's welfare, success, or interests; thus, something is
not one's concern because it has no bearing on one's in-
terests, welfare, or success (the simplest way out of the
difficulty was to do nothing and dismiss the matter as no
concern of theirs—Conrad). Sometimes concern is pre-
ferred to affair when that which requires attention in-
volves a degree of anxiety or solicitude (the concerns of
state). Matter usually is more objective as well as more
vague than the preceding words. It generally refers to
something that is merely an object of consideration or that
is to be dealt with (he will attend to these matters very
soon) (this is still one matter in dispute) (he never insist
without carrying the matter through—Russell). Thing
is even more indefinite than matter and is often inten-
tionally used when there is a desire to be vague or inex-
plicit (he promised that things would be better in the
future) (first things should come first) (more things are
wrought by prayer than this world dreams of—Tennyson)
(these things are managed so well in France—Harte).2
*amour, intrigue, liaison

**affect** simulate, *assume, pretend, feign, counterfeit, sham

**affect 1** Affect, influence, touch, impress, strike, sway are more or less closely synonymous when they mean to
produce or to have an effect upon a person or upon a thing
capable of a reaction. Affect always presupposes a stimu-
lus powerful enough to evoke a response or elicit a reac-
tion (our eardrums are affected by ten octaves, at most,
out of the endless range of sounds—Jeans). (even changes of season affect the townsman very little—Huxley). Often,
in addition, affect implies a definite alteration or modifi-
(1 am afraid... that this adventure has rather a-
acted your admiration of her fine eyes—Austen.) When
the object of the verb is a person, an intellectual or emo-
tional effect is usually implied (such poetry affects one
as trite and meaningless) (the sight affected her to tears

**Influence** always presupposes an agent that moves a
person or thing in some way or to some degree from a course,
or effects changes in nature, character, or behavior (the
judge was never influenced in his decisions by his sym-
pathies or prejudices) (the body influences the mind and
the mind the body) (the Society of Friends had been in-
fluenced by Quietism, and adversely affected by the para-
lizing rationalism of the reigns of the first two Georges—
Inge). Sometimes the implication of inducing, or inciting,
or persuading, or even bribing is strong (monomaniacs,
having first persuaded themselves, contrive to

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or persuading, or even bribing is strong (monomaniacs,
having first persuaded themselves, contrive to

**affection** adj touching, *moving, pathetic, poignant, im-
pressive

Affecting, rousing, rallying (see STR vb): distressing,
troubling (see TROUBLE vb): pitiful, piteous, pitiable

*affection 1* feeling, emotion, passion, sentiment

Affect *propensity, leaning, penchant: predilection, bias:
inclination, disposition (see corresponding verbs at IN-
cline). Ant antipathy—Con aversion (see ANTIPATHY):
hate, hatred

2 love, *attachment

Affect *devotion, piety, *fidelity: liking, doting, enjoying
(see LIKE vb): tenderness, warmth, sympathy (see corre-
sponding adjectives at TENDER)

ant antipathy—Con coldness: cold: undemonstrative

Affect (see correspond ing adjectives at COLD): hate,
detestation, hatred, abhor-
rence (see under HATE vb)

affection disease, disorder, condition, ailment, malady,
complaint, distemper, syndrome

Affect, access, paroxysm (see FIT): disorder, de-
rangement (see corresponding verbs at DISORDER)

affectionate *loving, devoted, fond, doting

Affect *ardent, fervent, passionate (see IMPASSIONED):
tender, sympathetic, warm

Affect *cold: demonstrative—Con a pathetic, *impas-
sive, stolid

Afflicted depo si tion, testimony, *evidence

Affiliated *allied, *related, kindred, cognate

Affect dependent, *subordinate

ant unaffiliated—Con independent, *free, autonomous

affinity 1 attraction, sympathy

Affect repugnance, rebellion or repulsion, abhorrence
(see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT): antipathy,
affirm

profess, aver, avow, protest, avouch, declare,
*assert, warrant, predicate

affirmative, positive cause difficulties in their extended use, since each term has negative for its opposite and since both words may qualify identical or similar nouns. The distinctions are not clearly fixed, but tendencies in usage may be noted. In general affirmative implies denial as its opposite, and positive implies negation, or the absence of truth, reality, or actuality as its opposite. Something that is not affirmative may be destructive; something that is not positive may be null, nonexistent, or nugatory. Hence, an affirmative philosophy either affirms accepted principles or establishes new ones, and so is opposed to negative philosophies (as skepticism and nihilism). A positive philosophy (this often equals positivism) deduces its principles from something that is evident to the senses or is from the commonsense point of view regarded as real and factual. Metaphysics is from the positivist's point of view a negative philosophy. An investigation has an affirmative result when it confirms the hypothesis of the investigator; it has a positive result if something definite is discovered, whether the result proves or disproves the hypothesis. A person may be said to exercise an affirmative influence when he strengthens or improves something that exists or develops something better to take its place; he may be said to exert a positive influence when he affects others in definite concrete ways. A defeatist may exert a very positive influence which cannot be described as affirmative; an optimist's attitude is affirmative, but it often fails to exert a positive influence.

affront

vb *fasten, attach, fix

affrukt

n

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
afraid, brazeness (see corresponding adjectives at 
SHAMELESS)

**Ant** gratification — **Con** deference, *honor, homage: 
adulation, *compliment, flattery
afraid *fearful, apprehensive
Ana alarmed, scared (see FRIGHTEN); timorous, *timid
Ant unafraid: sanguine — **Con** *cool, composed, imper-
turbable, collected: *confident, assured, sure
aft *abait, astern
Ana *after, behind: rear, back, *posterior, hind
Ant fore — **Con** *before, ahead, forward

**after prep, adj, adv** After, behind are synonymous adverbs, 
prepositions, and adjectives when they mean following 
upon, especially in place or in time. They are rarely inter-
changeable, however, without a loss of precision. With re-
ference to place after usually implies order of movement or 
sequence and characteristically goes with verbs or nouns 
implying motion (the faculty marched in pairs, one after 
another) So used, after not only conveys no suggestion of 
predominance in order of following, but it may, by stressing 
pursuit, even obscure its common implication of succes-
sion: to run after a person is to attempt to overtake him. 
When, as often happens, after is used with verbs of rest, 
the implication of movement or sequence is rarely lost but 
is transferred to the object or is to be gathered from the 
context; one stays after the others (who have left); one calls 
after a person (who is walking ahead); one looks after 
the children of a friend (who is away, ill, or engaged). 
In the same connection behind characteristically implies 
a position at the back of something at rest (the chair is 
behind the door) (the men sat themselves behind the 
women) (the garden is behind the house) When, how-
ever, the reference is to something moving, behind usually 
adds the implications of delay, lagging, or immobility; to 
run behind another is to be outstripped; to be left behind 
is to be outstripped or to remain when others have departed.

With reference to time, after is in far more frequent use 
than behind and is the required choice when only subse-
quence is implied (who ruled after James I?) <after one 
o’clock no one may leave the room> When behind is used 
in this connection, it usually implies a time when someone 
or something is due according to a schedule, a system, or a 
normal order of progression. Consequently it implies vari-
ously lateness, backwardness, or falling in arrears (You 
are two hours behind schedule) <theory often runs behind 
practice>

*Ana* abait, aft, astern
*Ant* before — **Con** forward, ahead (see BEFORE)

**after adj** hinder, hind, rear, *posterior, back
Con *preceding, antecedent, prior

**aftereffect, aftermath** *effect, result, consequence, up-
shot, sequel, issue, outcome, event

**age n** 1 *Age, senility, senescence, dotage are comparable 
when they denote the period in one’s life when one is 
old in years and declining in body or mind or both. Age 
is now usually replaced by old age except in literary use <age cannot wither her—Shak> <age, I make light of it, fear not the sight of it—Higgins> Senility adds to 
age the implication of decay, especially of mental decay <rheumy old man, crumpled together. . . his mind gone 
down the road to senility—Roberts> Senescence design-
ates the period or the process of the decline which 
results in senility or old age; it is in the life of the in-
dividual the antithesis of youth or adolescence. Dotage, 
even more than senility, implies the childishness or mental 
decline of age and thus indirectly heightens the sug-
gestion of extreme old age (Old Daniel begins; he stops 
short—and his eye, through the lost look of dotage, is 
cunning and sly—Wordsworth>

*Ana* analogous words  *Ant* antonyms  **Con** contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1

**Ant** youth 2 *period, era, epoch, aeon

**age vb** mature, ripen, develop

**aged, old, elderly, superannuated** when applied to per-
sons mean far advanced in years. Aged implies extreme 
old age with signs of feebleness or, sometimes, senility <the aged creature came, shuffling along with ivory-
headed wand—Keats> Old stresses the years of one’s 
life, but in itself carries no connotations of marked de-
cline (a man, old, wrinkled, faded, withered—Shak)
Elderly may imply no more than that the prime of life 
had been passed (when you see me again I shall be an 
old man—that was a slip, I meant to say elderly—J. R. 
Lowell) Superannuated indicates that one has been re-
tired or pensioned because of having reached a certain 
age (varying in different callings) <superannuated teach-
ers> <superannuated judges> Sometimes the word im-
plies merely that one has passed the years of usefulness 
and with this denotation it is applied to things as well 
as to persons.

*Ana* infirm, feeble, decrepit (see WEAK)
Ant youthful — **Con** juvenile, puerile, boyish, virgin 
virginal, maiden (see YOUTHFUL)

**agency** *mean, agent, instrumentality, instrument, medi-
um, vehicle, channel, organ

*Ant* cause, determinant, antecedent: operation, action, 
working (see corresponding verbs at ACT): activity (see 
corresponding adjective ACTIVE): machinery, apparatus, 
gear, *equipment

**agenda** *program, schedule, timetable

*Ant* n 1 *mean, instrument, agency, instrumentality, medi-
um, vehicle, channel, organ

*Ant* actor, operator, worker (see corresponding verbs at 
ACT): activator, energizer (see corresponding verbs at 
vITALIZE): performer, executor or executive (see 
corresponding verbs at PERFORM)

**Ant** patient 2 Agent, factor, attorney, deputy, proxy agree in mean-
ning one who performs the duties of or transacts business 
for another, but differ in specific application. Agent 
is very general and may be used to express this idea 
in any context where a specific term is not required; 
distinctively, however, it often implies the activity of 
a go-between <ambassadors, ministers, emissaries, nunci-
arios are diplomatic agents of their governments or sover-
eigns> (the heads of departments are the political or 
confidential agents of the executive—John Marshall) <let 
every eye negotiate for itself and trust no agent— 
Shak.) Factor was once a near equivalent of agent but 
is now chiefly employed as a designation for a commer-
cial agent buying and selling goods for others on com-
mission <wool factor> <flour factor> It is also used 
specifically to name the official in charge of a trading 
post of the Hudson’s Bay Company. Attorney, now chiefly 
used as a designation for a professional legal agent (see 
LAWYER), once was applied to one who performed the 
personal offices of another who was absent, incapacitated, 
or unqualified for the work <I will attend my husband, 
be his nurse . . . for it is my office, and will have no 
attorney but myself—Shak> This sense still survives 
but in a narrower application to a person legally dele-
gated to transact certain specified business for another 
who is absent or otherwise disqualified. Such a person 
is often called (in distinction from an attorney-at-law) 
a “private attorney” or an “attorney-in-fact,” and the 
power delegated him is called “power of attorney.” Deputy 
always implies possession through delegation of some or 
all of the powers of a superior (as a sovereign or a gov-
ernmental or business executive). Almost always, also,
it connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. (the governor-general of Canada may appoint deputes to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily) (a vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop) Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation Magnify, intensify, enhance: exalt, magnify aggrandize

2 Aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other. An aggregate composed of fragments scattered by volcanic explosions as distinguishable <sandstone—is a natural aggregate of quartz and a cementing sub-

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together or often a fortuitous association (a mere agglomeration of different races, without national unity, national aims—Page) In geology agglomerate designates a rock aggregate composed of irregularly shaped fragments scattered by volcanic explosions as distinguished from conglomerate, an aggregate composed of rounded, water-worn stones.

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Aggrieve *wrong, oppress, persecute

Agile, nimble, brisk, spry mean acting or moving with quickness and alacrity. Agile implies dexterity and ease in the management of one's limbs or, by extension, one's wits (agile as a monkey) (in a flow of racy comment, skimming from one topic to another with an agile manner—Rose Macaulay) Nimble suggests surpassing lightness and swiftness of movement or action, and often implies a darting here and there with an agile ease <Madame Defarge knitted with nimble and intelligent talk—Benson> It is sometimes applied to things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating (brisk day) (brisk pace) (brisk reply) She walked briskly in the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
agitate 1 *shake, rock, convulse

Ant 2 *stir, rouse, arouse: *move, actuate, drive, impel

agree 1 *assent, accede, consent, acquiesce, subscribe

Ant *protest (against): differ (with) — Con *object, kick, expostulate, remonstrate: *demur, balk, jib: oppose, *resist, withstand

2 Agree, concur, coincide are comparable when they mean to come into or to be in harmony regarding a matter of opinion or a policy. Agree implies union in thought or a complete accord: even if the context suggests previous discussion, the word usually indicates that argument is ended 

Agreement is sometimes confused because (the old lady is as spry as a cricket) 

Con the word usually indicates that argument is ended 

<she is down one day, and up and spry the next>

Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues for the production of crops and the breeding of animals involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenure, and in the right of the individual to the profits of his labor on the land (agrarian crises were frequent in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when the issue of tenant rights became acute) Agricultural crises were frequent in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when the issue of tenant rights became acute. Agricultural stress the rather successful and profitable use of land for the production of crops and the breeding of animals (agricultural crises are likely to occur when overproduction and a restriction of markets coincide)

When, however, agricultural interests are at stake and political action is held to be necessary, a party formed to promote these ends may be called an agrarian rather than an agricultural party, and a measure advocated as an agrarian rather than an agricultural measure.

agree 1 *acknowledge

Ant protest (against): differ (with) — Con *object, kick, expostulate, remonstrate: *demur, balk, jib: oppose, *resist, withstand

Analogous words: agrarian, agricultural are sometimes confused because agonizing *excruciating, racking

agonize *writhe, squirm

agitation *commotion, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, commotion, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, contusion, convulsion, upheaval

agog *eager, keen, anxious, avid, athirst

Ant *atheist, deist, freethinker, unbeliever, infidel

agree 1 *assent, accede, consent, acquiesce, subscribe

Ant *protest (against): differ (with) — Con *object, kick, expostulate, remonstrate: *demur, balk, jib: oppose, *resist, withstand

Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues for the production of crops and the breeding of animals involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenure, and its profitable use.

Ant tranquility

agnostic n *atheist, deist, freethinker, unbeliever, infidel

agonog *eager, keen, anxious, avid, athirst

Ant excited, galvanized, stimulated (see PROVOKE): roused, aroused, stirred (see STIR vb): *impatient, restive

Aloof — Con *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, detached, uninterested, disinterested

agonize *writhe, squirm

Agrarian are sometimes confused because they carry common implications and are used to qualify like terms (as an agrarian or an agricultural society, an agrarian or an agricultural crisis, an agrarian or an agricultural policy). Both terms have reference to land, the conditions under which it is held, and its profitable use. Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenancy, and in the right of the individual to the profits of his labor on the land (agrarian crises were frequent in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when the issue of tenant rights became acute) Agricultural stress the rather successful and profitable use of land for the production of crops and the breeding of animals (agricultural crises are likely to occur when overproduction and a restriction of markets coincide) When, however, agricultural interests are at stake and political action is held to be necessary, a party formed to promote these ends may be called an agrarian rather than an agricultural party, and a measure advocated as an agrarian rather than an agricultural measure.

agree 1 *acknowledge

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Andrews (with) — Con (against): 

<this is a point upon which all persons agree> 

Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues for the production of crops and the breeding of animals involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenure, and its profitable use.

Ant tranquility

Agreement is sometimes confused because (the old lady is as spry as a cricket) 

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<she is down one day, and up and spry the next>

Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues for the production of crops and the breeding of animals involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenure, and its profitable use.

Ant tranquility

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Con the word usually indicates that argument is ended 

<she is down one day, and up and spry the next>
agreed

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
airy, aerial, ethereal can all mean as light and insubstantial—Woolf—so . . . ethereal in appearance with its cloud colors, that . . . even . . . the most beautiful golden shades . . . seemed heavy and dull and dead-looking by comparison—Hudson

Sometimes, especially when referred to persons, their words, or their thoughts, it suggests disembodied spirit or apartness from material interests <the ethereal quality of Shelley’s poetry>

(At times he tends to fall into excessive subtlety, to be too vaporous and ethereal—Babbitt)

Anna tenuous, rare, *thin: delicate, dainty, exquisite (see choice)—light, volatile, frivolous (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

Ant substantial—Con *massive, massy, bulky, monumental:*material, corporeal, physical: solid, hard, *firm

aisle *passage, passageway, ambulatory, corridor

akin *like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, parallel, uniform, identical

Ant related, kindred, cognate, allied: corresponding, agreeing, harmonizing, according, conforming (see agree)

Ant alien —Con foreign, extraneous (see extrinsic): divergent, disparate, *different

alacrity *celerity, legerity

Ana eagerness, avidity, anxiety (see corresponding adjectives at EAGER): quickness, promptness, readiness (see corresponding adjectives at quick): agility, nimbleness, briskness (see corresponding adjectives at agile): expedition, dispatch, *haste

Ant languor —Con *lathargy, torpidity, stupor: impassiveness, apathy, stolidity (see under impassive): indifference, unconcern, aloofness (see corresponding adjectives at indifferent)

alarm n 1 Alarm, tocsin, alert agree in meaning a signal that serves as a call to action or to be on guard especially in a time of imminent danger. Alarm is used of any signal that arouses to activity not only troops, but emergency workers (as firemen, policemen); it suggests a sound such as a cry, a pealing of a bell, a beating of drums, or a siren <sound a fire alarm> (the dog’s barking gave the alarm)

Tocsin may be either an alarm sounded by bells usually from the belfry of a church or, more often, the bells sounding an alarm <the loud tocsin tolled their last alarm—Campbell> but is used figuratively for any sort of warning of danger. Alert, a military term for a signal to be on guard but is used figuratively for any sort of warning or the period during which this is maintained <an abandon-ship alarm was signaled. Warning for that . . . was to be four blasts of the ships whistle—Lowell Bennett> (a peacetime round-the-clock alert against surprise aerial attack—N. Y. Times)

2 fright, *fear, panic, terror, horror, dismay, dread, consternation, trepidation

Ana frightening, scaring, startling (see fright): agitation, perturbation, upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

Ant assurance: composure—Con calmness, tranquility, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at calm): self-possession, self-assurance (see confidence): equanimity, sangfroid

alveolus vb *frighten, fright, scare, startle, terrify, affright, terrorize, affray

Ant annul, daunt, horrify, *dismay: *surprise, astound, amaze, astonish

Ant assure: relieve —Con *comfort, solace, console

albeit although, *though

alchemy *magic, thaumaturgy, wizardry, sorcery, witch-
alcoholic 住宅, 中医
alcoholic n *drunkard, inebriate, dipsomaniac, sob, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
alert adj 1 *watchful, wide-awake, vigilant
Ana *agile, nimble, brisk: vary, circumspect, *cautious
Con heedless, *careless: unconcerned, aloof, detached, *indifferent
2 clever, *intelligent, smart, bright, quick-witted, brilliant, knowing
Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: *shrewd, perspicacious
Con *linguist, lackadaisical, listless: *lethargic, sluggish: *stupid, slow, dull, dense
alert n *alarm, tocsin
alias n *pseudonym, nom de guerre, incognito, nom de plume, pen name
alibi n excuse, pretext, plea, *apology, apologia
Ana explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at EXPLAIN)
alien adj foreign, extraneous, *extrinsic
Ana external, exterior, outside (see corresponding adjectives at OUTER): adventitious, incidental, *accidental: *repugnant, repellent, abhorrent: incompatible, incongruous, *inconsonant
Ant akin: assimilable —Con *relevant, material, pertinent, germane: compatible, *consonant, congruous, congenial: kindred, cognate, *related
alien n foreigner, *stranger, outlier, outsider, immigrant, émigré
Ana citizen —Con subject, national (see CITIZEN)
alienate 1 *transfer, convey, deed
Ana convert, proverse or proselytize (see corresponding nouns at CONVERT): *separate, part, sever, sudden, divorce
Ant unite: reunite —Con reconcile, conform, accommodate, adjust, *adapt: associate, link, *join
alienation 1 derangement, *aberration
Ana *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia: imbecility, idiocy, moronity (see base words at FOOL)
2 *solitude, isolation, seclusion
alienist psychiatrist, psychopathologist, *neurologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst
alight vb 1 *descend, dismount
Ana mount, *ascend, scale, climb
2 Alight, light, land, perch, roost share the meaning to come to rest after or as if after a flight, a descent, or a fall.
Alight suggests previous controlled or gentle movement suggesting settling of a fowl for rest or sleep, especially by domestic fowls, on the perches and in the shelters prepared for them. So perch often implies elevation of position and tenuousness of grasp or hold (twenty or more [rooks] perched aloft, cawing and con-
versing comfortably—Jeffreys) ⟨a lofty perpendicular cliff . . . with a castle . . . perched on the distant top—Lucas⟩ Roost, when used of persons, often suggests a position like that of roosting fowls ⟨boys roosting on the rail of a fence⟩
Con *rise, arise, soar, ascend, rocket
align *line, line up, range, array
Ana *order, arrange, marshal: regulate, fix, *adjust
Con *disorder, disarrange, derange, unsettle
alike *like, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, uniform, identical
Ana *same, selfsame, equivalent, identical
Ant different —Con *distinct, separate: *different, divergent, diverse, disparate, various
alignment *food, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance, pap
Ana *poison, venom, bane
alive 1 *living, animated, animal, vital
Ana *active, dynamic, live, operative: *lively, vivacious, sprightly: being, existing (see be)
Ant dead, defunct —Con lifeless, inanimate, deceased (see DEAD): inert, *inactive: torpid, comatose (see LETHARGIC)
2 *aware, awake, sensible, cognizant, conscious
Ana alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: *intelligent, knowing, quick-witted
Ant blind (to): anesthetic (to) —Con *indifferent, unconcerned, aloof: insensitive, *insensible, impassible
alkaline, basic are closely related and in many aspects of their use synonymous terms. Both are opposites or correlates of the adjective acid and denote some aspect of relationship to bases (alkalies). Distinctively, alkaline suggests the properties (as neutralizing acids, turning litmus paper blue) of bases ⟨alkaline taste⟩ ⟨alkaline solution⟩ ⟨alkaline earth⟩ ⟨a strong alkaline reaction⟩
Basic relates more directly to the bases themselves, especially in implying derivation from or capacity to react as a base ⟨a basic salt⟩ ⟨basic dye⟩
all adj 1 *whole, entire, total, gross
Ana complete, plenary, *full
2 All, every, each, when applied to the individuals of a group, imply inclusion of the entire membership with no exceptions. All is applied to the aggregate of individuals and implies consideration of it as a unit without regard to the individuals as distinct persons or things ⟨all men are mortal⟩ ⟨all books are written to be read⟩ Every is applied to any of the individuals comprising the group, regarded not as a concrete person or thing but as the type or representative of the entire membership ⟨every man is mortal⟩ ⟨every book published should be worth reading⟩ Each is applied to any or every individual of the group, but unlike every it implies reference to him or to it as a distinct, recognizable, and therefore concrete person or thing ⟨he knows the weaknesses of each batter on the team⟩ ⟨each book on this shelf is worth reading⟩ ⟨each person in this club must pay his share of the expense⟩
Ant no
all-around *versatile, many-sided
Ana complete, *full: apt, ready, *quick
allay *relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage, mitigate
Ana abate, lessen, *decrease, diminish: mollify, *pacify, appease: *moderate, temper
Ant intensify —Con *provoke, excite, stimulate: *stir, arouse, rouse: aggravate, enhance (see INTENSIFY)
allege *adudge, cite, advance: *assert, declare, profess, avouch, avow: re-cite, recount, rehearse, state (see RELATE)
Ant contravene: (in law) traverse —Con *deny, contradict, gainsay, negative, impugn: *disprove, refute,
allegiance  35  allot
rebut, controvert

allegiance fealty, loyalty, *fidelity, devotion, piety
Ana faithfulness, steadfastness, constancy, staunchness
(see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL): obediance, deference, homage, *honor: obedience (see corresponding adjective OBEDIENT): *obligation, duty
Ant treachery: treason —Con traitoroussness, perfidy, faithlessness, disloyalty (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS): disaffection, alienation (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE)

allegory 1 Allegory, symbolism designate methods of representation in art. Both characteristically aim to represent concretely something that is abstract or for some other reason not directly representable. Allegory is applied to a form of representation found not only in literature but also in painting and sculpture. It evokes a dual interest, one in the story, scene, or characters presented and the other in the ideas they convey or the significance they bear; it demands not only aesthetic enjoyment but intellectual interpretation. The incidents, scenes, or characters may be historical or fictitious or fabulous, but if the artist has given to the historical an added meaning or has invented his material to convey an idea or truth, he has employed allegory. Symbolism is applied to a form of representation used not only in literature, painting, and sculpture but also in music, architecture, ceremonial, and pageantry. It implies an attempt to represent what by its very nature is incapable of direct representation because it is immaterial, allegories used by Plato in expounding a difficult philosophical seed). Myth is applied to a type of brief allegory used especially by Plato in expounding a difficult philosophical conception. Such myths are, as a rule, invented and their characters and incidents are purely imaginary. In a fable the moral is usually clearly stated at the end. Its characters are animals (as in Orwell’s Animal Farm) or inanimate things that by talking and acting as human beings reflect the weaknesses and follies of men.
alleviate *relieve, lighten, assuage, mitigate, allay
Ana *moderate, temper: lessen, reduce, diminish, *decrease: remedy, *cure
Ant aggravate —Con *intensify, heighten: *provoke, excite, stimulate: arouse, awaken, rouse, *stir

alliance, league, coalition, fusion, confederacy, confederation, federation agree in the idea of combination, chiefly political, for a common object. Alliance applies particularly to a joining of interests on the part of families (by marriage) or of states (by compact or treaty); it is also less formally used of a connection for mutual benefit between other bodies, organized or not (a defensive alliance) (an alliance between producers and consumers) League though often used without distinction from alliance typically suggests a more formal compact or more definite object (the Solemn League and Covenant) and may frequently (unlike alliance) be taken in a bad sense (to be in league with the powers of darkness) Coalition refers to a temporary alliance of otherwise opposing interests, parties, or factions (Mr. Fox, and his famous coalition with Lord North—Gibbon) (a coalition government) Confederation is a coalition of political parties for the purpose of defeating another party in an election (a fusion of Republicans and independent Democrats in New York City opposed the Tammany Democratic ticket) Confederacy and confederation apply specifically to a union by compact or treaty of independent states under a government to which powers are delegated for dealing primarily with common external relations (the Southern Confederacy) (the Articles of Confederation) (the German Confederation) Federation in its broad sense includes any union under the terms of a league or covenant (the Federation of Labor) but specifically it designates a sovereign state or city formed by the union of other states or cities with a central general government and several local governments (the United States of America constitutes a federation) (federation was the name given to the scheme for blending the Five Towns into one town—Bennett) (the Federation of Malaysia) allied *related, cognate, kindred, affiliated
Ana akin, parallel, similar (see LIKE): linked, associated, united, connected (see JOIN): cooperating, uniting, conjoining (see UNITE)
Ant unallied —Con alien, foreign, extraneous (see EXTRANEOUS): *different, divergent, diverse, various, disparate
allocate *allot, assign, apportion
Ana *distribute, dispense, divide, deal, dole: *grant, accord, award
Con withhold, retain, hold, hold back, *keep
allot, assign, apportion, allocate mean to give as one’s share, portion, role, or place. Allot implies more or less arbitrary or haphazard selection and in itself conveys no suggestion of a fair or equal distribution (allotted himself an hour a day for exercise) (allot 500 square feet to an exhibitor) (he had been allotted a small sitting room—Mackenzie) (Brutus and Cassius ... were allotted the minor governments of Crete and Cyrene—Buchan) Assign stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; it too carries no hint of an even division (this original and supreme will organizes the government, and assigns to different departments their respective powers—John
allow 36

alone

**allow** (to each month there has been assigned by tradition a birthstone considered appropriate to that month—Nurnberg & Rosenblum) *Apportion*, on the other hand, implies a principle of fair division, sometimes of equivalence in sharing, but more often of a proportionate distribution (after each decennial census Congress apportions the number of representatives to be elected by each state) (his guardians had apportioned to him an allowance . . . adequate to his position—Disraeli) *Allocate* is used chiefly in reference to money, property, territory, or powers, and suggests definite appropriation to a particular person or group or dedication to a particular use (allocate a sum of money for the construction of a bridge) (districts of Czechoslovakia allocated to Germany by the Munich Agreement) (the Marine Corps would be allocated primary responsibility for amphibious development and doctrine pertaining to landing forces—Collier’s Yr. Bk.)

**Ana** divide, dispense, *distribute, deal, dole: *give, bestow

Con *keep, retain, withhold, hold back: confiscate, appropriate, *arrogate

allow 1 permit, suffer, *let, leave

Ana tolerate, endure, stand, brook (see bear): accede, acquiesce (see assent): *yield, submit, defer

Ant inhibit —Con *forbid, prohibit, enjoin: *prevent, avert, ward

2 *grant, concede

Ana admit, *acknowledge, confess: acquiesce, accede, *assent

Ant disallow —Con reject, refuse (see decline): *disapprove, depreciate: *deny, gainsay, contradict, traverse

allowance 1 *ration, dole, pittance

Ana allotment, apportionment, assignment (see corresponding verbs at allot): *share (see corresponding verb share): grant, *appropriation, subsidy

2 Allowance, concession both signify a change made by way of compromise or adjustment. Allowance usually implies a modification or variation of a requirement or a standard made for a good reason (as probable contingencies or mitigating circumstances) (make allowance for the current in steering toward the opposite bank) (make allowance for his inexperience) (make allowance for wear through friction in designing the parts of a machine) (if business imposes its restraints and its silences and impediments, Mr. Darnay as a young gentleman of generosity knows how to make allowance for that circumstance—Dickens) (make allowance for the fact of being alone but more often suggests isolation accompanied by a longing for company (he was lonely, but not in an unhappy sense . . . it was no hardship for him to be alone—Canby) (his grim look, his pride, his silence, his wild outbursts of passion, left William lonely even in his court—J. R. Green) (she felt more lonely and forsaken than at any time since his father’s death—Archibald Marshall)

Lonesome, often more poignant, suggests sadness after a separation or bereavement (you must keep up your spirits, mother, and not be lonesome because I’m not at home—Dickens) (her flight . . . yet smote my lonesome heart more than all misery—Shelley) (sitting alone, he thought . . . he was lonesome—Coleridge) (as forlorn as King Lear at the end of his days—G. W. Johnson) Desolate is most extreme in suggesting inconsolable grief at loss or bereavement (with a fatherless, a desolate orphan—Coleridge) (for her false mate has fled and left her desolate—Shelley)

**Ant** repulsive —Con *offensive, loathsome, repugnant, revolting: repellent, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious (see repugnant)

ally colleague, *partner, copartner, confederate

Ana *associate, comrade, companion: supporter, upholder, backer (see corresponding verbs at support): cooperator (see corresponding verb at unite)

Ant adversary —Con *enemy, foe: competitor, rival (see corresponding verbs at rival): *opponent, antagonist

almost *nearly, approximately, well-nigh

alms benefit, contribution, *donation

Ana *charity, philanthropy: dole, pittance, allowance, *ration

**alone adj** 1 Alone, solitary, lonely, lonesome, lone, lorn, forlorn, desolate may all refer to situations of being apart from others or emotions experienced while apart. Alone stresses the fact of physical isolation and also may connote feelings of isolation from others (the captain of a ship at sea is a remote, inaccessible creature, something like a prince of a fairy tale, alone of his kind—Conrad) (a man on an island, alone, he was to be left—Fulton) (Loney may simply indicate the fact of being alone but more often suggests isolation accompanied by a longing for company (he was lonely, but not in an unhappy sense . . . it was no hardship for him to be alone—Canby) (his grim look, his pride, his silence, his wild outbursts of passion, left William lonely even in his court—J. R. Green) (she felt more lonely and forsaken than at any time since his father’s death—Archibald Marshall)

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Solitary, lonely, lonesome, desolate are applied to places and locations more than the other words discriminated above. Solitary may be applied either to something that is apart from things similar or that is uninhabited or unvisited by human beings (a solitary chamber, or rather cell, at the top of the house, and separated from all the other apartments by a gallery and staircase—M. W. Shelley) (Loney may be applied to what is either far apart from things similar and seldom visited or to what is inhabited by only one person or group and conducive to loneliness (heard not only in the towns but even in lonesome farmhouses

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
aloof

Ana

Ant

Con

alteration

altercate

amateur

amass

amalgamation

amalgam

amalgamation

amalgam

amalgam

amalgam
(one who competes without remuneration) and a professional (one who competes for reward) prevails. In other use the word is opposed to expert and adept, as well as professional. Sometimes it suggests lack of experience or apprenticeship (every artist was first an amateur—Emerson); sometimes it connotes indulgence in a particular pursuit as a pastime or as an avocation (how could an amateur venture out and make an exhibition of himself after such splendid rowing!—Jeffries) Very often, especially in contrast to expert or adept, it connotes superficiality, bungling, or indifference to professional standards (it is beginning to be hinted that we are a nation of amateurs—Rosebery) (the third Earl of Shaftesbury ... illustrated this unsystematic method of thinking. He was an amateur, an aristocratic amateur, careless of consistency—Ellis) Dilettante is applied to an amateur (in the older underogatory sense of that word) in the fine arts (see AESTHETE). It stresses enjoyment rather than effort, a fretting rather than a concentration of one’s energies, and, sometimes, the point of view of the aesthete (the dilettante lives an easy, butterfly life, knowing nothing of ... toil and labor—Osler) (we continue to respect the erudite mind, and to decry the appreciative spirit as amateurish and dilettante—Benson) Dabbler implies a lack of serious purpose, but it suggests desultory habits of work and lack of persistence (your dabbler in metaphysics are the most dangerous creatures breathing—Tucker) (the certainty of touch which marks the difference between an artist and the dabbler ... can come only after patient study—Osler) Tyro does not necessarily imply youth but does suggest comparable inexperience or audacity with resulting incompetence or crudeness (it may be fancy on the part of a tyro in music to suggest that a change from poetry to prose occurs when Beethoven introduces in the last movement of the Choral Symphony ... a subject in words—Alexander) (a noble theme! the tyro cried, and straightforwardly scribbled off a sonnet. “A noble theme,” the poet sighed, “I am not fit to write upon it”—Wells)

Ana: novice, apprentice, probationer
Ant: professional: expert—Con: adept, wizard, virtuoso

(see EXPERT)

amative: amorous, amatory, *erotic
amatory: *erotic, aphrodisiac, amative, amorous
amaze: mb astatic, flabbergast, astonish, *surprise
Ana: dumbfound, bewilder, confound, nonplus (see PUZZLE): impress, touch, strike, *affect
amazement: *wonder, wonderment, admiration
amazon: *virago, termagant
ambassador, legate, nuncio, minister, envoy, internuncio, chargé d’affaires: all designate a diplomatic agent serving his sovereign or government in a foreign country and are here compared with reference to their order of precedence as fixed by international regulations and protocol. Ambassador, legate, and nuncio designate a diplomatic agent of the first rank who is accredited to the head of the state in which he serves, is considered to represent both the government and the person of the head of state whom he serves, and as the personal representative of his sovereign or chief executive enjoys certain privileges and precedences not shared by diplomats of lesser rank. An ambassador (in full ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary) is almost always a resident agent, though the term may also denote one who goes on a special mission as the chief executive’s diplomatic agent. In this case he may be distinguished as an ambassador-at-large. The comparable diplomatic agents of the pope are called legate and nuncio, the difference between them being that a legate goes on a special mission and is clothed with authority to act in the name of the pope and a nuncio serves as the accredited resident ambassador of the Holy See at a foreign court or seat of government. Minister designates a diplomatic agent of the second or of the third rank. He, too, is accredited to the head of the state to which he is sent but as the representative solely of the government and not of the person of the head of his own state. As an agent of the second rank, he may also be called an envoy, for his full title is envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Internuncio is the designation of the papal diplomatic agent of the second rank equivalent to an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Agents of the third rank, called more fully ministers resident are now uncommon. They perform essentially the same function as the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary but are usually assigned to less important capitals.

A chargé d’affaires is an agent of the fourth rank who directs diplomatic affairs in place of an ambassador or minister in the absence or lack of such higher-ranked agent. He is accredited to the head of the department dealing with foreign affairs rather than to the head of the state and his appointment may be on a permanent footing and by his home government or on an interim basis by the head of a mission (an ambassador or minister).

Ambiguity, equivocation, tergiversation, double entendre are comparable when they denote expression or, more often, an expression, capable of more than one interpretation. Ambiguity is referable to an expression that admits of two or sometimes more interpretations; commonly, however, it suggests the use of a word or phrase rather than a construction that may be taken in either of two senses (where no ambiguity arises, the word polygon may be used to refer either to the broken line, or to the part of the plane enclosed by it—R. R. Smith) Ambiguity does not in itself suggest intentional lack of explicitness; when that idea is to be conveyed or when an attempt to mislead or an indifference to accuracy in statement is to be suggested, equivocation is the preferable word (the first cardinal sin from the logician’s standpoint is equivocation. Thus Hobbes has declared that “in all discourses wherein one man pretends to instruct or convince another, he should use the same word constantly in the same sense”—Philip Wheelwright) (equivocation is halfway to lying—Penn) But equivocation may imply that the writer or speaker is himself confused. Tergiversation stresses a shifting of senses, especially of a word or words important to an argument. It implies evasion and looseness of thought; more specifically it connotes intentional subterfuge and often a low standard of intellectual honesty (humanism depends very heavily, I believe, upon the tergiversations of the word human; and in general, upon implying clear and distinct philosophic ideas which are never there—T. S. Eliot) Double entendre designates an ambiguity which invites or offers a twofold meaning, one sense being a cover for a subtle implication, especially a stinging or an indelicate implication (sometimes with these parliamentary comedies, the humor lay in a kind of double entendre, using the phrase in an innocent sense—Manchester Guardian) (bedroom farce with many of the double entendres ... that go with that form of entertainment—McCarten)

Ant: lucidity: explicitness—Con: clearness, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)

Ambiguous: equivocal, cryptic, enigmatic, vague, *obscure, dark
Ana: dubious, *doubtful, questionable
Ant: explicit—Con: lucid, perspicuous, *clear: express, definite, specific, categorical (see EXPLICIT)
ambition, aspiration, pretension mean strong desire for advancement. Ambition has personal advancement or pre-
ferment as its end; it may be praiseworthy but is sometimes inordinate (ambition for fame) (ambition to hold office)
(ambition to acquire wealth) (vain ambition, which o'erleaps itself—Shak.) Aspiration implies as its object something felt to be above one, the striving after which is uplifting or ennobling (aspiration after knowledge) (that spirit of his in aspiration lifts him from the earth—Shak.)
Aspiration, however, is sometimes used especially in the plural in a derogatory sense of ambition which is felt to be unwarranted or presumptuous (his aspirations must be nipped in the bud) Pretension (see also CLAIM, PRETENSE) may be preferred to aspiration in this latter sense, for it carries a hint of presumptuousness and, therefore, of lack of real claim to the powers which fulfillment of the ambition or aspiration requires (they are always looked upon, either as neglected, or discontented because their pretensions have failed—Montagu) More often pretension implies less driving power than ambition or aspiration and suggests the guidance of mere desire rather than the possession of the necessary gifts (it was the undergraduate literary club, whose membership included all nice boys with literary pretensions—Marquand)
Ana urge, lust, *desire: eagerness, avidity, keenness, anxiety (see corresponding adjectives at EAGER): spur, goad, incentive, *motive
Con contentment, satisfaction (see corresponding verbs at SATISFY): resignation, *patience: indolence, fainency, sloth (see corresponding adjectives at LAZY)

ambitious 1 Ambitious, emulous both mean extremely desirous of something that will give one power, fame, success, or riches. Ambitious often implies inordinate, sometimes presumptuous, eagerness to advance oneself or to attain something beyond one's present reach; it may, in addition, connote aggressiveness in the pursuit of one's ends (the noble Brutus hath told you Caesar was ambitious: if it were so, it was a grievous fault—Shak.) Emulous stresses the desire to equal or surpass others; it can suggest covetous rivalry or merely the spirit of competition (men of pedigree . . . emulous always of the nearest place to any throne, except the throne of grace—Cowper)
Ana *eager, avid, anxious, keen: aspiring, pining, aiming (see AIM vb): daring, venturous, *adventurous
Ant unambitious —Con apathetic, phlegmatic, stolid (see IMPASSIVE): indolent, fainent, slothful, *lazy

2 Ambitious, pretentious, utopian are comparable when they are applied to such matters as plans, designs, programs, or policies and mean striving or exceeding the capacity of their authors or executants. Something is ambitious which is either so far beyond what can with certainty be accomplished that its realization or execution is doubtful or which, if realized, is accomplished only by excessive effort or by testing one's powers to the utmost (the philosopher has the ambitious aim of unifying, or harmonizing, these points of view—Inge) (this last novel was his most ambitious and possibly his best) Something is pretentious which so far exceeds one's powers or resources that any attempt to carry it out reveals one's inadequacy, inexperience, or lack of sufficient skill; in this sense it often but not necessarily implies ostentation (the program was too pretentious for so young a violinist) Sometimes is utopian which is utterly impracticable or unattainable under present or sometimes, any conditions. Utopian, if it does not suggest an idealistic approach, invariably implies indifference to actualities (the reformers started out with an ambitious program which its critics called utopian; time has shown that it was too pretentious)
Ana audacious, bold (see BRAVE): daring (see ADVENTUR-
ous): ostentatious, *showy
Ant modest —Con lowly, *humble: *moderate, temperate
amble vb *saunter, stroll
Ana loiter, dawdle (see DELAY): meander, ramble, roam (see WANDER)
ambulant ambulatory, peripatetic, *itinerant, nomadic, vagrant
Ant bedridden (of patients)

amenity adverbial, peripatetic, *itinerant, nomadic, vagrant
ambulatory n *passage, passageway, aisle, gallery, cloister, arcade, hall, hallway
ambuscade *ambush
ambush vb *surprise, waylay
Ana *attack, assault, assail: trap, entrap, snare, ensnare, capture, *catch
Ambush, ambuscade mean a device to entrap an enemy by lying in wait under cover for an opportune moment to make a surprise attack. Ambush, however, is also used to designate an act of lying in wait or in concealment (as for spying, frightening, or obtaining an advantage); when used of nonmilitary activity it sometimes connotes unfairness or cowardliness (ambushes of cutthroats—Thackeray) (when he was a boy he . . . spied on the Pecos men . . . He had lain in ambush for two nights on the mountain—Cather) Ambuscade usually implies the legitimate strategic disposition of troops in concealment, but in military use is more often applied to the body of troops or to their position than to the trap (the knights and gentlemen volunteered for an ambuscade to cut off the convoy—Froude) (fear in every wavering brake an ambuscade—Tennyson)
Ana trap, snare, *lure: *attack, onset, onslaught, assault
ameliorate *improve, better, help
Ana amend, remedy, reform, rectify, *correct: mitigate, alleviate, *relieve, lighten
Ant worsen: deteriorate vt —Con *injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar, spoil: *intensify, aggravate
amenable 1 answerable, liable, accountable, *responsible
Ana open, subject, *liable: *subordinate, dependent, subject
Ant independent (of): autonomous —Con autocratic, arbitrary, *absolute: *free, autarchic
2 tractable, *obedient, docile, biddable
Ana pliant, adaptable, pliable (see PLASTIC): responsive (see TENDER): sensitive, open (see LIABLE): submissive, *tame, subdued
Ant recalcitrant, refractory —Con intractable, *unruly, ungovernable, headstrong: *fierce: *obstinate, stubborn, mulish
amend reform, *correct, rectify, revise, emend, remedy, redress
Ana *improve, better, ameliorate: *mend, repair: elevate, raise, *lift
Ant debase: impair —Con corrupt, vitiate, deprave, daubach, pervert (see DEBASE): *injure, mar, spoil, damage, harm, hurt
amends redress, *reparation, indemnity, restitution
Ana compensation, recompense (see corresponding verbs at PAY): atonement, expiation (see under EXPIATE)
amenity 1 Amenity, luxury both denote something (as an object, a feature, a quality, or an experience) that gives refined or exquisite pleasure or is exceedingly pleasing to the mind or senses. Amenity typically implies a delightful mildness, gentleness, or softness, especially in contrast to an uncomfortable or distressing harshness, roughness, or crudeness (many English go to the Riviera in the winter because of the amenity of its climate) It may imply no
more than a vague conducing to physical or material comfort or convenience (every amenity ... including ... showers, central heating, and first-class cuisine—H. G. Smith) Luxury stresses keen, often voluptuous, enjoyment and unalloyed gratification of the mind or senses, usually without a special suggestion of opulence in the thing enjoyed or sensuality in the pleasure (and learn the luxury of doing good—Goldsmith) (Mark decided to walk back by the road . . . instead of indulging himself in the luxury of once more rejoicing in the solitude of the green lanes—Mackenzie) (a dressing room with a marble bath that made cleanliness a luxury instead of one of the sternest of the virtues—Shaw)

*please, delight, joy, enjoyment: ease, comfort, relaxation (see REST): mildness, softness, blandness, lenity or leniency, gentleness (see corresponding adjectives at SOFT)

*rigor — *harshness, roughness, ruggedness (see corresponding adjectives at ROUGH): disagreeableness, unpleasantness (see affirmative adjectives at PLEASANT): harshness, difficulty, vicissitude

*courtesy, attention, gallantry

*civility, politeness, courteousness (see corresponding adjectives at CIVIL): graciousness, affability, cordiality, geniality, sociability (see corresponding adjectives at GRACIOUS): *form, convention, convenance: ceremony, formality (see FORM)

*acerbity, asperity: rudeness — *sullen, glum, morose, melancholy, *grim

*formality (see FORM)

*gracious, cordial, affable, genial: warmhearted, warm, responsive, *tender: kindly, *kind, benign, benign

*unamiable: surly — *ungracious, *rude, ill-mannered, discourteous, impolite: *sullen, glum, morose, crabbed, dour

amicable, neighborly, friendly are applied to the attitudes and actions of persons, communities, and states that have intercourse with each other and mean marked by or exhibiting goodwill or absence of antagonism. Amicable frequently implies little more than that the parties concerned are not disposed to quarrel or are at peace with each other (an amicable adjustment) (the sometimes amicable processes of bargaining between a federation of employers and a trade union—Hobson) Neighborly sometimes suggests goodwill and kindliness and a disposition to live on good terms with those with whom one must associate because of their proximity (the only encirclement sought is the encourcling bond of good old-fashioned neighborly friendship—Roosevelt) Very often, however, because of connotations acquired from scriptural uses of neighbor, especially in the parable of the Good Samaritan ("which now of these three . . . was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?") it implies the duty of helpfulness and the spirit of fellowship (he hath a neighborly charity in him—Shak.) (he in a very neighborly manner admonished me—Swift) Friendly is more positive in its implications of cordiality than either of the others and often suggests greater warmth of feeling (a friendly nod) (a friendly call) (their relations are friendly) (a friendly correspondence as neighbors and old acquaintances—Franklin) Peaceful, *peace, peaceable: harmonious, concordant, accordant (see corresponding nouns at HARMONY): social, gregarious, cooperative, hospitable

*amicable — *quarrelsome, contentious, *belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, combative: hostile, anti-pathetic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY)

*amiss, astray share the meaning wrong or otherwise than intended. Amiss implies failure (as of an arrow) to reach the mark aimed at and frequently suggests a shortcoming or defect (as by failure to reach a standard, an expectation, a definite conclusion, or the point of being useful) (his shafts of wit went amiss) (she seemed unconcerned, as though nothing had happened amiss) (no information came amiss to him) Sometimes amiss suggests a divergence from the normal or usual order (whether his general health had been previously at all amiss—Dickens) ("What's amiss in the Square?" . . . "Just now I saw a man running along Wedgewood Street"—Bennett) A stray emphasizes wandering from a predetermined path or the right way or course; it usually suggests moral or intellectual errancy (lest in temptation's path ye gang astray—Burns) (in many an hour when judgment goes astray—Wordsworth)

*wrong (or wrongly), *bad (or badly)

*right, right

*friendship, comity, goodwill

*harmony, concord, accord: amicableness, neighborliness, friendliness (see corresponding adjectives at AMICABLE)

*hostility, animosity, antipathy, antagonism (see ENMITY): *discord, strife, contention, dis-sensation, conflict, difference, variance

*artillery, matériel, munitions, *armament, *luxury

*indifferent, aloof, detached: *cold, austere, *hostile

*pardon, absolution

*nonmoral, immoral

*erotic, amatory

*passionate, fervid, ardent, *impassioned: *enamored, *infatuated, lustful, lascivious (see LICENTIOUS)

*indifferent, aloof, detached: *cold, cool: *impassive, apathetic

*n. *sum, total, quantity, number, aggregate, whole

*liaison, intrigue, affair: denote an instance of illicit attachment of prominent persons; it stresses passion as the motivating force and often connotes transience. Amour is particularly applied to the illicit attachment of prominent persons; it stresses passion as the motivating force and often connotes transience.
Liaison implies duration but not necessarily permanence in the attachment; it is commonly used to designate the relation between a man and his mistress. Intrigue emphasizes the clandestine element in the relation and is often closer to amour than to liaison in its other implications. Affair is the least specific term and often suggests equivocal rather than definitely illicit relations or may be used without imputation of impropriety.

amour propre self-esteem, self-love, egoism, egotism, *conceit

Ana *pride, vanity, vainglory: complacency, self-complacency, smugness, self-satisfaction (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT)

ample 1 *spacious, capacious, commodious

amplify *expand, swell, distend, dilate, inflate

amusement, diversion, entertainment, recreation (see under AMUSE vb)

Ana engrossment, absorption (see corresponding verbs at MONOPOLIZE): play, sport, *fun, jest: diverting, frolicking, rollicking, romping (see PLAY vb): jollity, *mirth

Ant bored — Con *tire, weary, fatigue: *depress, oppress: irk, vex, *annoy

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Ant bored — Con *tire, weary, fatigue: *depress, oppress: irk, vex, *annoy

analogy

analogic *mystical, mystic, cabalistic

Ana allegorical, symbolical (see corresponding nouns at ALLEGORY): occult, esoteric, *recondite

analgesia anesthesia, anodynia (see under ANODYNE 1)

analgesic *anodyne, anesthetic

Ant irritable

analogy 1 *likeness, similitude, resemblance, similarity, affinity

2 Analogy, simile, metaphor designate a comparison between things essentially or generically different but strikingly alike in one or more pertinent aspects. Analogy is the general term since the simile and the metaphor are kinds of analogies: it is, however, usually restricted in its application to a comparison which brings out the analogy (for this
sense see likeness) between two things for the sake of elucidating something hard to understand 〈God cannot be described except by analogy〉 〈the supreme example of analogy in English is Pilgrim's Progress〉. This overwhelps us with direct analogy, that is to say, the personification of allegory—Stevens 〈a simile is an imaginative analog used largely for the sake of literary effect by carrying over the emotion aroused by one image or idea to the other with which it is compared. A simile (for example, "fishing is at best almost as unpredictable as New England weather," "blue were her eyes as the fairy-flax, her cheeks like the dawn of day," "a job full of more headaches than a case of bourbon") is often brief but it characteristically indicates (as by the use of like, as, so) that comparison is intended 〈of the simile, we say that two essentially unlike things are explicitly compared . . . and we are to understand that, though some likeness is suggested between the two, the likeness is not literally intended—Margolis〉 〈a metaphor differs from a simile in not stating explicitly that it is an analogy: it therefore imaginatively identifies one object with another (as in "a heart of stone," "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet," "the moon was a ghostly galleon") and ascribes to the first one or more of the qualities of the second or invests the former with emotional or imaginative associations attached to the latter (though by metaphor we point to objects and convey emotions, what we chiefly do is to convey knowledge by forging new symbols that are themselves patterns of meaning—Waggoner〉

**analysis** resolution, dissection, breakdown (see under **analyze, resolve, dissect, break down**

**analyze** resolution, dissection, breakdown (see under **analyze, resolve, dissect, break down**

**analysis** resolution, dissection, breakdown (see under **analyze, resolve, dissect, break down**

**analogue** resolution, dissection, breakdown (see under **analyze, resolve, dissect, break down**

**analogical** subtle, *logical


**ant** compose, compound: construct —Con *integrate, concatenate, articulate

**anarchic** anarchistic, anarchist (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**anarchism** *anarchy

**anarchist** anarchistic, anarchistic (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**anarchistic** anarchistic, anarchist (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**ant** authoritarian

**anarchy** 1 Anarchy, anarchism overlap in their implications but are not synonyms because of differing denotations. Anarchy may denote a state or condition of society where there is no law or imposed order because social evolution has rendered these unnecessary (first the proletarian revolution . . . then the dictatorship of the proletariat; and lastly, the classless society: that is the Marxian order of advance towards communism and anarchy, towards justice, equality and perfect freedom—Plamenatz) It may, on the other hand, denote one of complete disorder resulting from the breakdown of normal controls (for our people liberty so often means only license and anarchy—Salzberger) Anarchism denotes a theory that government is an evil because it imposes limitations upon the freedom of the individual (nihilism is a form of anarchism) The same distinctions extend to their respective adjectives anarchic and anarchistic

**anarchic** anarchistic, anarchistic (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**anarchism** *anarchy

**anarchist** anarchistic, anarchistic (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**anarchistic** anarchistic, anarchist (see under **ANARCHY 1**

**ant** authoritarian
Chaos is the utter negation of order\(^1\) (a process calculated to reduce the orderly life of our complicated societies to chaos—Huxley) Lawlessness signifies a prevalent or habitual disregard of law and order rather than their absence or suspension (the traditional lawlessness of the frontier community) When anarchy and lawlessness (or their adjectives) are used of actions rather than of a state of things, there is often little distinction of meaning (the hydrogen atom was not conforming to the canons of the classical music of physics, and yet it was not anarchic in the least, for . . . it was flawlessly obeying the laws of a different music—Darrow) (illusion is not lawless) It is a world apart, if you please, but within it is its own necessities, which exact inexorable adherence to their mandates—Loves\(^2\)

\(\text{Ant} \text{ order: discipline}\)

\textbf{anathema} 1 *abomination, bête noire, bugbear

\(2 *\text{curse, malediction, imprecation}\)

\(\text{Ana} \text{ denunciation, condemnation, reprobation, censure (see corresponding verbs at \textbf{CRITICIZE})}\)

\textbf{anathematize} curse, damn, *excecute, objurate

\(\text{Ana} \text{ denounce, condemn, censure, repробate (see CRITICIZE): proscribe, *sentence}\)

\textbf{anatomy} *structure, skeleton, framework

\textbf{ancestor}, \textbf{progenitor}, \textbf{forefather}, \textbf{forebear} mean a person from whom one is descended. \textbf{Ancestor}, especially in genealogical and in historical use, implies lineal descent through one's father or mother \(\textit{he had three ancestors who were judges} \) but it is seldom applied to a grandparent. In more general use, \textbf{ancestor} (especially in the plural) may imply kinship through collaterals or through race \(\textit{the gentleman will please remember that when his half-civilized ancestors were hunting the wild boar in Silesia, mine were princes of the earth—Benjamin} \)

\textbf{Ancestor} often suggests knowledge of identities and family pride in them as persons \(\textit{ancestor worship} \) \(\textit{they had plenty of money, but apparently no ancestors} \) \textbf{Progenitor} differs from \textbf{ancestor} chiefly in its connotations rather than in its implications. It does not exclude parents or grandparents; it usually carries no hint of family or racial feeling, and it often suggests a reference to heredity or the transmission of characters \(\textit{do as your great progenitors have done, and, by their virtues, prove yourself their son—Dryden} \) \(\textit{men resemble their contemporaries even more than their progenitors—Emerson} \) Whenever an evolution is suggested, \textbf{ancestor} and \textbf{progenitor} may be used of living things or of nonliving things (as races, social castes, or literary or artistic forms) that are subject to development; they then often denote one or a kind to which from which a later or a presently existing kind or group has been derived \(\textit{the wild ancestors of our domestic animals} \)

\(\textit{Fielding was . . . the progenitor of the modern realistic novel—New Yorker} \) \textbf{Progenitor}, even more than \textbf{ancestor}, names the ultimate source or root \(\textit{he sang of the nuptials of Janus and Comesena, progenitors of the Italian people—Quiller-Couch} \) \textbf{Forefather} is used less often than \textbf{ancestor} in historical writing but is probably more common in poetic and in general use, especially when simplicity of life, strength of family feeling, or persistence of a family in one locality is connoted \(\textit{each in his narrow cell forever laid, the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep—Gray} \) \(\textit{think of your forefathers! Think of your posterity!—J. Q. Adams} \)

\textbf{Forefather} is not only less rich in its implications than \textbf{forefather}, but it is also less connotative of sentiment (the land had been owned by his forebears for generations) \(\textit{his forebears emigrated from Scotland around 1800} \)

\(\textit{Ant} \text{ descendant}\)

\textbf{ancestry, lineage, pedigree} mean either one's progenitors collectively or their quality or character as a whole. The words, however, are clearly distinguishable. \textbf{Ancestry} in its most restricted use evokes the image of a family tree with its ramification by geographical progression of branches or roots the further it is traced forward or backward \(\textit{only by the fusion of two parent cells can an off-spring cell enjoy the advantages of joint heredity and pass on the traits of both ancestries—La Barre} \) In broader use \textbf{ancestry} often suggests one's progenitors in general, known or unknown, a cause of pride often, but sometimes of indifference or of shame \(\textit{no one is responsible for his ancestry, but his ancestry is to a certain extent responsible for his qualities} \) \textbf{Lineage} stresses descent in a line; it evokes therefore the image of a list of the persons who in order of generation are descended from a single ancestor \(\textit{the evangelist Matthew traced the lineage of Jesus by each step from Abraham down} \) \(\textit{lineage} \) is reckoned through the mother; the Zuñi are matrilineal—Kardiner) For this reason \textit{lineage} is often used as the equivalent of \textit{race} (though of a lineage once abhorred—Wordsworth) \textbf{Pedigree} is even more definite in its suggestions, for it implies a known and recorded ancestry that is typically distinguished or notable \(\textit{who proud of pedigree, is poor of purse—Pope} \) \(\textit{the deference due to a man of pedigree—Gilbert} \) The term is applied to the ancestry of persons, and to that of animals and plants propagated under controlled conditions.

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ descendants: posterity}\)

\textbf{anchor} vb moor, *secure, rivet

\(\textbf{Ana} *\text{fasten, attach, fix, affix}\)

\textbf{anchorite} hermit, eremite, *recluse, cenobite

\(\textbf{Ana} *\text{ascetic, mystic: religious, monk, friar}\)

\textbf{ancient} *old, venerable, antediluvian, antique, antiquated, archaic, obsolete

\(\textbf{Ana} \text{ primeval, pristine, primal, primordial (see \textbf{PRIMITIVE})}\)

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ modern —Con *new, new-fashioned, new-fangled, fresh, novel, modernistic: current, *prevailing}\)

\(\textbf{Ancillary} *\text{auxiliary, contributory, subsidiary, adjuvant, subservient, accessory}\)

\(\textbf{Ana} \text{ assisting, aiding, helping (see HELP vb): secondary, *subordinate: supplementary, complementary (see corresponding nouns at \textbf{COMPLEMENT})}\)

\textbf{androgy nous} *bisexual, hermaphroditic, hermaphrodite, epicene

\textbf{anecdot e} *story, tale, yarn, narrative

\(\textbf{Ana} \text{ incident, episode, event, *occurrence: narration, relation, recital (see corresponding verbs at \textbf{RELATE})}\)

\textbf{anemic} bloodless, *pale

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ full-blooded: florid}\)

\textbf{anesthesia} analgesia, analodynia (see under \textbf{ANODYNE 1})

\textbf{anesthetic} adj insensitive, *insensible, impalpable

\(\textbf{Ana} *\text{dull, obtuse: impassive, apathetic, stolid: impervious, impermeable, impenetrable, *impassible}\)

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ alive —Con *aware, awake, conscious, cognizant: responsive (see TENDER)}\)

\textbf{anesthetic n} *anodyne, analgesic

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ stimulant}\)

\textbf{angel} backer, *sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor

\(\textbf{Anger} \text{ incident, event, episode, *occurrence: narration, relation, recital (see corresponding verbs at \textbf{RELATE})}\)

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\(\textbf{Ana} \text{ incident, episode, event, *occurrence: narration, relation, recital (see corresponding verbs at \textbf{RELATE})}\)

\textbf{anemic} bloodless, *pale

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ full-blooded: florid}\)

\textbf{anesthesia} analgesia, analodynia (see under \textbf{ANODYNE 1})

\textbf{anesthetic} adj insensitive, *insensible, impalpable

\(\textbf{Ana} *\text{dull, obtuse: impassive, apathetic, stolid: impervious, impermeable, impenetrable, *impassible}\)

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ alive —Con *aware, awake, conscious, cognizant: responsive (see TENDER)}\)

\textbf{anesthetic n} *anodyne, analgesic

\(\textbf{Ant} \text{ stimulant}\)
anger

a display of that feeling in looks, acts, or words (Belinda burns with more than mortal ire— Pope) "Then, my lady, ye've come to tell me a lie!" Farmer Blaize looked straight at the boy, undismayed by the dark flush of ire he had kindled—Meredith 

Rage adds to anger the implications of lost self-control and of violent boiling over of feeling; it often connotes variously a sense of frustration, a temporary derangement of the mind, or a determination to get revenge (terrible and impotent rage—Wilde) His first hot anger against the beast had changed into a cold rage at all costs he must get it—Cloete 

Fury is overreaching destructive rage verging on madness (what fury drove us into saying the stupid, intolerant, denunciatory things we said?—L. P. Smith) The war against physical evil, like every other war, must not be conducted with such fury as to render men incapable of the arts of peace—Russell 

Indignation implies depth and intensity of anger, often righteous or generous anger, aroused by something one considers mean, shameful, or otherwise unworthy of a man or men (whose souls no honest indignation ever urged to elevated daring—Shelley) Is this question now placed before society... is this: Is man an ape or an angel? I, my lord, I am on the side of the angels. I repudiate with indignation and abhorrence those newfangled theories—Disraeli 

Wrath may imply either rage or indignation as its emotional basis, but more strongly than either of these it suggests existence of a grievance and a desire or intent to avenge or punish or to get revenge (the wrath of God) Let not the sun go down upon your wrath—Eph 4:26 

nursing her wrath to keep it warm—Burns 

Acrimony, asperity, exasperation, irritation, provocation (see corresponding verbs at irritate) 

Ant pleasure, gratification: forbearance—Con patience, longanimity, long-suffering: forgiveness, condonation, pardon (see corresponding verbs at excuse): indulgence, clemency, leniency (see under forbearing) 

anger vb Anger, incense, enrage, infuriate, madden 

All these verbs carry in common with anger, their general term, the denotation to make angry or to rouse to anger (laugh then at any, but at fools or foes; these you but anger, and you mend not those—Pope) (angered by his son's repeated disobedience) Incense implies hotness of anger, especially as provoked by something excessively irritating and offensive (Mr. Critchlow, aged and unacustomed to interference, had to render accounts of his trusteeship to this young man, and was incensed—Bennett) 

Magistrates and populace were accustomed to interference, had to render accounts of his trusteeship to this young man, and was incensed—Bennett 

Infuriate may imply a sense of being outraged or sometimes no more than of being thoroughly irritated or exasperated (how it infuriates a bigot, when he is forced to drag into the light his dark convictions!—L. P. Smith) (his colleagues and his subordinates had been alternately delighted and infuriated by his assumed reluctance to deal with any practical question—Sackville-West) 

Madden is often not distinguishable from infuriate (can it be fancied that Deity ever vindictively made in his image a mankinik merely to madden it?—Poe) Like the former it may imply merely excessive annoyance or vexation (maddening delays) 

Ana *offend, outrage, affront: exasperate, provoke, irritate, nettie, rile: vex. *annoy, irk 

Ant please, gratify: pacify—Con placate, mollify, appease, propitiate (see pacify): rejoice, delight, gladden, tickle (see please) 

angle n 1 *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, slant 

Ana attitude, *position, stand 

2 aspect, facet, side, *phase 

Ana *item, detail, particular 

angry, irate, indignant, wrathful, wroth, acrimonious, mad mean feeling or showing strong displeasure or bad temper. Angry is applied to persons or their moods, acts, looks, or words; it is also applied to animals (an angry bull) and by extension, because of some of its implications, to things (an angry boil) (an angry sky) In reference to persons it implies both emotional and physical excitement, usually exhibited as by an inflamed countenance or inflamed words or by threatening looks or speeches (the king is angry: see, he bites the lip—Shak) 

(see the adjectives! What a theme for angry versepower!) 

Irate is applied only to persons or their looks, acts, or words; it often suggests greater exhibition of feeling than angry and, as a rule, implies loss of self-control (the men were getting... more irate and violent in their language—Trollope) Often it suggests a comic aspect of anger (as from the disparity between the emotion and its exciting cause) (refractory children, over whom Mr. Spratt... exercised an irate surveillance—George Eliot) 

Indignant, in contrast with irate, suggests righteousness in the anger and sufficiency of justification. Often its use imparts injustice or indignity to the cause of the anger (let the sword speak what the indignant tongue disdains to brand thee with—Shelley) 

Wrathful and the less common wroth are capable of being used where irate or indignant would be more explicit (his partner retreated with a wrathful shake of his head—Sassoon) However, they usually connote more justification of the anger than irate and more vehemence in its expression than indignant (the blurring and the blotching of the later Chinese school... provoked his wrathful condemnation—Binyon) 

I did not know how greatly they were fools, and this made me wroth—Kipling 

Wrathful like angry may be extended to things (the wrathful thunder of God—Tennyson) A vagrant shaft of sunlight struck the ocean and turned its surface to wrathful silver—London 

Acrimonious, though sometimes still applied to a person's temper or mood, is chiefly used to characterize intercourse and utterances. It invariably adds to angry the implication of irreconcilable difference of opinion and consequent bitterness of feeling that may be shown in accusations and recriminations (the dispute dragged on, becoming progressively more acrimonious, for another eleven years—Huxley) 

Mad (see insane) as a close equivalent of angry is used chiefly in informal speech or writing (I was so mad the way father was talking—O'Flaherty) She looked mad for a second but then she began to laugh—Lowery 

Ana *impassioned, passionate: angered, incensed, enraged, infuriated, maddened (see anger vb) 

anguish woé, heartache, heartbreak, grief, *sorrow, regret 

Ana *distress, suffering, dolor, misery, agony: worry, anxiety (see care) *pain, pang, throe, ache: torture, torment, affliction (see corresponding verbs at afflict) 

Ant relief—Con comfort, solace, consolation (see corresponding verbs at comfort); assuagement, alleviation, mitigation (see corresponding verbs at relieve); ecstasy, rapture, transport 

angular gaunt, rawboned, lank, lanky, *lean, spare, scrawny, skinny 

Ana *thin, slender, slim: *awkward, clumsy: cadaverous, *haggard 

Ant rotund—Con plump, chubby, *fleshy, stout, portly 

animadversion, stricture, aspersión, reflection denote a
remark or statement that is an adverse criticism. **Animadversion** (compare **animadvert** at **Remark**) implies as its motive deep-seated prejudice or ill will or a tendency to carp or cavil (given to **animadversions on the clergy**).  
<br>Matthew's **animadversions** hurt me more. In part they appeared to me unjust, and in part ill-natured—Cowper.  
<br>**Stricture** implies censure, which may be either ill-natured or judicial.  
<br>**Foreign strictures on the dress, looks, and behavior of the English abroad**—Arnold.  
<br>The lash of the merciless Pierson. . . . [whose] strictures are founded in argument, enriched with learning, and enlivened with wit—Gibbon.  
<br>**Aspersion** imputes a slanderous character to the critic (who by aspersions throw a stone at th' head of others, hit their own—Herbert) (at Cambridge they tell me) while you speak very well, you write less expertly . . . . you will not set the aspersion down to me—Quiller-Couch.  
<br>**Reflection** often implies indirect aspersion or a defamatory imputation which may be inferred from what has been said (he cannot restrain himself from reflections on kings and priests when he is most contending for them—Hallam).  
<br>The reflections on certain named persons' chastity and honesty—Geographical Jour.  
<br>**Ana** criticism, reprehension, censure (see corresponding verbs at **Criticize**): observation, comment, *remark*: captiousness, faultfinding, carping, carping, censoriousness (see corresponding adjectives at **Critical**).  
<br>**Ant** commendation —Con praise, laudation, commendation, acclaim (see corresponding verbs at **Praise**): *approval, approbation, approval*.  
<br>**Animate** comment, commentate, *remark*  
<br>**Ana** criticize, reprehend, censure, reprobrate: depreciate, *disapprove: depreciate, disparage, decry*  
<br>**Con** ignore, disregard, overlook (see **Neglect**): *comment, commend, applaud, compliment*.  
<br>**Animal** adj *carnal, fleshly, sensual*  
<br>**Ana** physical, corporeal, *bodily*: bestial, *brutal*  
<br>**Ant** rational —Con intellectual, *mental, psychic*: spiritual (see **Holy**).  
<br>**Animalism** *animality*  
<br>**Ana** sensualism, voluptuousness (see corresponding adjectives at **Sensual**): lustfulness, lasciviousness, lecherousness (see corresponding adjectives at **Licentious**).  
<br>**Animalism, animalism** are not always clearly distinguished when they are used to denote animal nature, character, or springs of action in a man or in men. **Animalism** is often preferred when it is desired to suggest likenesses between men and animals rather than differences, and **animalism** when one wishes to convey in addition all the derogatory implications of **sensuality or sensualism** (he disliked union with a woman whom he had never seen; moreover, when he did see her, she disappointed him, and he begged his first child in mere animality—Forster) (puri-tanism was a natural and necessary revolt . . . against that naturalism which threatened to end in sheer animalism—Kingsley).  
<br>**Ana** virility, maleness, masculinity (see corresponding adjectives at **Male**).  
<br>**Animate** adj *alive, living, animated, vital*  
<br>**Ana** physical, corporeal, *bodily*: animal, *carnal, fleshly*  
<br>**Ant** inanimate —Con lifeless, *dead*  
<br>**Animate** vb *quicken, vivify, enliven*  
<br>**Ana** vitalize, activate, energize  
<br>2 *inform, inspire, fire*  
<br>**Ana** motivate, actuate, *activate: move, drive, impel, actuate: stir, rouse, arouse*  
<br>**Ant** inhibit —Con *restrain, curb, check: frustrate, thwart*  
<br>**Animated** 1 alive, *living, animate, vital*  

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**Ana** *active, live, dynamic: vitalized, energized, activated* (see **Vitalize**).  
<br>**Ant** inert —Con *inactive, passive: lifeless, inanimate,* *dead*  
<br>2 *lively, vivacious, sprightly, gay*  
<br>**Ana** buoyant, volatile, effervescent (see **Elastic**): *agile, brisk, spry, nimble: spirited, high-spirited*  
<br>**Ant** depressed, dejected —Con *languid, listless, spiritless, enervated: lethargic, torpid, comatose*  
<br>**Animosity** animus, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy, antagonism*  
<br>**Ana** hatred, hate, detestation, abhorrence (see under **Hate vb**): vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengefulness (see corresponding adjectives at **Vindictive**): malice, ill will, malevolence, spite  
<br>**Ant** goodwill —Con *friendship, amity, comity: friendliness, neighborliness, amicableness* (see corresponding adjectives at **Amicable**).  
<br>**Animus** animosity, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy, antagonism*  
<br>**Ana** ill will, spite, spleen, grudge (see **Malice**): prejudice, bias (see **Predisposition**).  
<br>**Ant** favor —Con *predilection, partiality*: *sympathy, empathy*  
<br>**Annals** chronicle, *history*  
<br>**Annex vb *add, append, subjoin, superadd*  
<br>**Ana** *join, unite, connect, link, associate: attach, affix, *fasten*  
<br>**Con** *detach, disengage, abstract: divorce, *separate, part*  
<br>**Annex n** Annex, extension, wing, ell designate an addition to a main (and, often, the original) building. An annex may be attached to the main building or it may even not be adjacent to it. When used of an addition to a hotel, an office building, or a commercial or educational establishment it usually implies a provision for expanded activity. An extension is attached to a main or central building; when it project from the central building and is connected with it at only one point it is called a wing; when it extends at right angles from one end of the building it is called an ell.  
<br>**Ana** *addition, increment, accretion*  
<br>**Annihilate** extinguish, *abolish, abate*  
<br>**Ana** obliterate, efface, expunge, blot out, cancel, *erase: extirpate, *exterminate, eradicate, wipe*  
<br>**Con** create, *invent, discover: *make, form, fashion, forge, shape: *renew, restore*  
<br>**Annotate** gloss and their corresponding nouns annotation, gloss mean, as verbs, to add or append comment, or as nouns, an added or appended comment intended to be helpful in interpreting a passage or text. One annotates a text (as of a literary work) when one furnishes it with critical, historical, or explanatory notes (as footnotes, marginal notes, or notes in an appendix) (annotate the works of Milton) (an annotated edition of Shakespeare's sonnets) The subject of an annotation may be any word, passage, or detail which is capable of being explained to the advantage of the reader or student. One glosses a word or phrase which is obscure in meaning because foreign, obsolete, rare, or technical by providing its definition (as in a marginal or interlinear note) or one gloses a text when one supplies definitions of its difficult words and phrases (medieval scholars, when they found in a Latin text a word not familiar to them, were accustomed to gloss it—Krutch). The word sometimes conveys (possibly by confusion with gloss, to give a luster to) a derogatory implication of perversion or sophistication of meaning or fact (trying to gloss away the irrationalities of the universe—Edman).  
<br>**Ana** elucidate, interpret, construe, *explain, expound: comment, commentate, *remark*  
<br>**Ana** analogous words  
<br>**Ant** antonyms  
<br>**Con** contrasted words  
<br>See also explanatory notes facing page 1
annotation gloss (see under ANNOTATE)
annunciation announce, proclaim, *declare, promulgate, advertise, broadcast
announcement disclose, *reveal, divulge, tell: *communicate, impart
*suppress, repress: conceal, *hide, bury: withhold, hold, hold back, reserve (see KEEP)

annoy vb 1 Annoy, vex, irk, bother mean to disturb and nervously upset a person. Annoy stresses loss of equanimity or patience as a result of being forced to endure something that one finds obnoxious or offensive or sometimes merely displeasing or distasteful. It seldom implies more than a temporary disturbance or display of irritation. Richard's absence annoyed him. The youth was vivacious, and his enthusiasm good fun—Meredith (it was . . . his lack of the ghost of a notion anyone else was feeling that annoyed her, had always annoyed her—Woolf) Vex usually implies greater provocation and a stronger disturbance than annoy; it often connotes a degree of anger but at other times it suggests deep perplexity or some worry. Faulty translation that so vexes teachers—Grandgent) Pointlessly vexing their minds with insoluble problems. Mr. Darcy's behavior astonished and vexed her. "Why, if he came only to be silent, grave, and indifferent," said she, "did he come at all?"—Austen) (Such petty details as now vexed the brooding soul of the old gentlewoman—Hawthorne) Irk emphasizes difficulty in enduring and resulting weariness of spirit; it is most often used in reference to something that persists or recurs annoyingly (the speed and the clatter—Kipling) (the overiterated becomes the monotonous, and the monotonous irks and bores—Lowes) Other implies a usually mild interference with one's comfort or peace of mind such as may arise on the one hand from something that calls for activity or effort or on the other from something that excites, puzzles, worries, concerns, or confuses (the sight of him bothered her and set her heart beating faster) (He would be too accessible and excessively bothered with details and complaints—Crozier) (Let dozens of little matters go, rather than bother myself—Bennett) (I am not really bothered by these questions—the hoary old puzzles of ethics and philosophy—L. P. Smith)

*Annoy* irritate, nettlesome, aggravate, exasperate, rile: perturb, disturb, upset, agitate (see DISCOMPOSE)
Ant soothe. —Con *comfort, solace, console: *please, gratify, tickle
2 *worry, pester, plague, tantalize, tease, harass, harry
Annul fret, chafe (see ABRADE): badger, hector, heckle, chivy, *bat: trouble (see INCONVENIENCE)
*Con* neglect, ignore, overlook: mollify, appease (see PCAY)

Annul 1 *nullify, negate, invalidate, abrogate
*Anna neutralize, negative, counteract: cancel, efface, obliterate, blot out, *erase: annihilate, *abolish, extinguish
2 Annul, abrogate, void, vacate, quash are used chiefly in legal context and mean to deprive of validity, force, or authority. Though varying little in denotation, these words are not always interchangeable, their appropriate selection being dependent on the character or status of the invalidating agent and on the character of the thing invalidated. Annul is the most general term, applicable to something (as a right, marriage, charter, or statute) that may be adjudged invalid or void. It implies the exercise of competent legal authority (had parliament, immediately after the emanation of this charter . . . annulled the instrument . . .

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

The perfidy of the transaction would have been universally acknowledged—John Marshall) To abrogate is the act of one having force and authority, and often legal jurisdiction. A ruler or an arbiter as well as a court may abrogate something (as a law, a treaty, or a convention) previously effective and in effect or in intent abolish it (we are not . . . called upon to abrogate the standards of values that are fixed, not by you and not by me, but by . . . time—Lowes) Void in legal context retains much of its basic meaning, to make empty or null. It is often interchanged with annul (the state supreme bench . . . voided the referendum—Aswell & Michelson) Unlike the latter it need not imply the action of a legally competent authority (it is the insanity of the testator that voids his will, not the act of a court) Only competent legal authority can vacate or make ineffectual or invalid something that previously was effective or valid (vacate proceedings after the discovery of fraud) (vacate a grant of crown property) Quash is a strictly legal term applied chiefly to indictments thrown out of court as defective.

anodyne 1 Anodyne, analgesic, anesthetic all denote something used to relieve or prevent pain, all are freely used both substantively and adjectivally, and all have a related noun, anodynia, analgesia, anesthesia, denoting the corresponding state. Anodyne is the oldest and most inclusive of these terms; it may be applied to any agent used primarily to relieve pain whether by dulling perception of pain or by altering the pain-causing situation (as by local stimulation of blood flow), often has a literary or popular rather than medical connotation, and is the only one of these terms given broad figurative use (see ANODYNE 2). Analgesic is narrower in scope; it is applied especially to a medicinal substance or preparation used locally or systematically to dull the perception of pain (as by action on the nervous system) usually without other major disturbance of consciousness. Anesthetic is a medicinal agent that produces insensibility both to pain and to all other sensations either of a particular part or area (local anesthesia) or of the whole body (general anesthesia); anesthetic is the one term to use of an agent designed to prevent anticipated pain (as from surgery) as distinct from one designed to assuage existent pain; thus, one is administered an anesthetic before a tooth is pulled and given an analgesic to relieve pain after the anesthesia has worn off.

2 Anodyne, opiate, narcotic, nepenthe means something used to dull or deaden one's senses or one's sensibility and are often used adjectivally. Anodyne is frequently used as the opposite of stimulant (had . . . made anodyne translations from Homer and Sophocles in "rhymic" and sleepy prose—Sanctayana) It usually suggests something that allays excitement or mitigates mental distress often by inducing forgetfulness or obliviousness (this kind of religion cannot be anything better than an anodyne; but an anodyne is unfortunately just what many people want from their religion—Inge) (mutiny among the crews of Columbus was too much of a menace for the comforting daily sight of drifting vegetation not to be a very real mental anodyne—Beebe) Opiate usually is applied to something that induces a dream state and a delusion of happiness; it also commonly suggests indifference to actual evils and a false sense of security or well-being with consequent stilling of all disturbing thoughts (price-fixing is a most dangerous economic opiate—T. W. Arnold) (no military swagger of my mind, can smother from myself the wrong I've done him, without design, indeed,—yet it is so,—and opiate for the conscience have I none—Keats) Narcotic implies a putting to sleep or into a stupor; in figurative use, it suggests merely a pleasant drowsiness which overcomes one and has a lulling effect on mind and body (many lovers of
the arts find in music, poetry, painting, and the novel escapes, as narcotic as they are delightful, from the pressures and exigencies in which we are involved—Edman> the promise that religion offers of a larger reward is less likely to serve as a moral stimulant than as a moral narcotic—Garvin> Nepenthe, the designation of a legendary drug or potion of the ancient Greeks, said to allay pain and sorrow, is used in modern English with the implication of something sweet and pleasurable substituted for something painful> (after the fiery stimulants, compounded of brimstone and bigotry, offered by the polemic theologians, the gentle sedative of Montaigne's conversation comes like a draft of nepenthe—Preserved Smith)> It is also freely used to denote the state of placid peace resulting from the use of a nepenthe (only. . . in idle chatter and consoling gossip and scandal, and in the more unendurable cases in drink, can they find nepenthe—Nathan)> Ant stimulant: irritant

anodynia analgesia, anesthesia (see under ANODYNE 1)
anoint *oil, cream, grease, lubricate

anomalous *irregular, unnatural

Ana *abnormal, aberrant, atypical: *monstrous, prodigious: singular, unique, peculiar, *strange

Con normal, natural, *regular, typical: *usual, wonted, accustomed, customary

anomaly *paradox, antimony

answer n reply, response, rejoinder, retort (see under ANSWER vb 1)

Ana defense, vindication, justification (see corresponding verbs at MAINTAIN): refutation, rebuttal (see corresponding verbs at DISPROVE)

Con question, query, interrogation, (see corresponding verbs at ASK): summoning or summons, call (see corresponding verbs at SUMMON)

answer vb 1 Answer, respond, reply, rejoin, retort (and their corresponding nouns answer, response, reply, rejoinder, retort) mean to say or write or sometimes to do something (or something that is said, written, or done) in return (as to a question, a call, a request, or a charge). One answers or makes an answer to a question, call, or appeal, or to the person or thing questioning, calling, or appealing, when one gives the attention or service demanded by one's situation or office or required by courtesy> <answer a query> <answer the telephone> <answer the doorbell> In specific collocations the words carry more definite implications; thus, in answering an accusation one gives a detailed and sometimes, by suggestion, a successful defense; in having the answers to all the problems one has their correct solutions> he could talk; he could assert; produce opinions and information, but he couldn't meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay)> One responds or makes a response to a person who endeavors to elicit an answer or to a thing which serves as a stimulus when one reacts, often spontaneously and usually without resistance, to the influence> respond immediately to an appeal for help> (an unsatisfactory response to a call for recruits> when she smiled, even strangers responded)> is it true that antiquated legal ideas prevent government from responding effectively to the demands which modern society makes upon it?—Frankfurter)> A trustful affectionation disposition . . . creates the response which it expects—Russell)> Respond and response are used in preference to answer and reply when they refer to the set answers to supplications (as in a litany) or to questions (as in a catechism) (he answered by a deep, gravely accented: "Thanks, I will," as though it were a response in church—Conrad)> One replies or makes a reply (as to a question, charge, argument, or salute or to a questioner or an accuser) when one answers so as to cover the same ground as the question or charge; thus, one may answer a letter by merely acknowledging its receipt, but one replies to it only when one answers all its questions or touches on all points requiring attention; an answer to a salute is uncertain in its nature if no details are given; a reply to a salute usually indicates that the salute has been returned in the same form or in kind and spirit. Often reply is equivalent to answer back (as by echoing, protesting, or when the question is rhetorical agreeing)> the nymph exulting fills with shouts the sky; the walls, the woods, and long canals reply—Pope)> (their not to make reply, theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die—Tennyson)> who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply—Shak)> One rejoin or makes a rejoinder when one answers a reply (the assembly took the governor's reply. . . into consideration, and prepared a suitable rejoinder—Franklin)> The terms are often used to indicate an answer to an unspoken question or to an objection> he can't sleep comfortably on that ship," she said.> "In his present state," rejoined Andrew, "he might not sleep comfortably anywhere"—Douglas)> (an abstract objection an abstract rejoinder: suffices—James)> One retorts or makes a retort to an explicit or implicit charge, criticism, or attack when one responds with an answer that is in effect a retaliation, or a counter charge, criticism, or attack> it amused me . . . to read the interview and learn that I had . . . uttered a number of trenchant sayings upon female novelists. But the amusement changed to dismay when the ladies began to retort—Quiller-Couch)> Ant accord: comity—Con *agreement, understanding: concord, *harmony, consonance

antagonist *opponent, adversary

Ant foe, *enemy: rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL): assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK)

Ant supporter—Con ally, *partner, colleague

antagonistic counteractive, counter, *adverse

Ant opposing, resisting, withholding, contesting, fighting, combating, conflict or conflicting (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): strife, conflict, difference, variance, dissension, contention, *discord

Ant accord: comity—Con *agreement, understanding: concord, *harmony, consonance

antagonist *opponent, adversary

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
antecedent

adjective, antecedent, consequent, foregoing, proceeding, previous, prior, former, anterior

Ant subsequent: consequent

antediluvian

ancient, antiquated, obsolete, antique, venerable, archaic, *old

Ana primordial, primeval, primal, pristine (see primary): *early

anterior

adj preceding, precedent, previous, prior, foregoing, antecedent, former

Ant posterior —Con rear, hind, back, hinder, after (see posterior)

anthropoid, anthropomorphic, anthropomorphous

all mean resembling man. Anthropoid in its basic meaning is used primarily of certain apes (as the chimpanzee and gorilla) and certain prehuman primate fossils that approach modern man in structure (the anthropoid apes of the Miocene). In extended use the reference to manlike apes rather than man predominates; thus, an anthropoid pelvis is a human pelvis that in shape and proportions resembles that of an anthropoid ape (the revolutionary thug who has the fine art of bursting Razumov’s eardrums... is an anthropoid forerunner of thousands who have gone one better than that in the police states—Pritchett) Anthropomorphic and the less common anthropomorphous are used interchangeably when implying a physical resemblance to man (the anthropomorphic deities of primitive peoples) (an anthropomorphous carving) and both may replace anthropoid in its basic meaning especially when it is desired to avoid taxonomic implications (anthropomorphous apes—Darwin) (Darwin himself carefully described men and apes as having evolved separately from some common “... anthropomorphic subgroup”—High School Biology) Anthropomorphic is the preferable term to modify a noun denoting something immaterial or to attribute human personality or quality as distinct from human physique (expectancy is too anthropomorphic a concept... its use leads the reader to attribute to animals what in fact only occurs at the level of human beings equipped with language—Charles Morris) (the categories of cause, force, law, are anthropomorphic in origin and were thus originally metaphors—Cohen)

anthropology, ethnology, archaeology

are clearly distinguishing sciences, but they are often confused by laymen because the investigations of scholars in these fields are largely concerned with ancient or primitive races. Anthropology is a general term covering many sciences which includes comparative cultural studies of existent peoples. Its province is the investigation of prehistoric times to the present. One branch of anthropology is ethnology, which is concerned with the origin, development, geographical distribution, and distinguishing character of the human races and often includes comparative cultural studies of existing peoples. Archaeology forms a link between history and anthropology. Its province is the investigation of prehistoric and ancient cultures and civilizations and a study of their material remains (as artifacts, monuments, and traces of agriculture).

anthropomorphic, anthropomorphous

*anthropoid

antipathy

introduce, *enter; *foretell, forecast, presage; *frustrate, thwart, balk

Ant consummate —Con finish, complete, terminate, *close

2 apprehend, *foresee, foreknow, divine

Ana *foretell, forecast, prognosticate: forcaste (see corresponding noun at prospect): await, *expect

anticipation

foretell, *forecast, outlook

Ana foreseeing, foreknowing (see foresee): presentiment, foreboding, *preapprehension: forecast, prophecy, prediction, presage (see corresponding verbs at forecast): conceiving, envisioning, imagining (see think)

Ant retrospect —Con recollection, reminiscence, remembrance, *memory: realization, actualization (see corresponding verbs at realize)

antidote

corrective, check, control

Ana counteractive, neutralizer (see corresponding verbs at neutralize): nullifier, negator, annul (see corresponding verbs at nullify): *remedy, medicine, physic

anthony

*paradox, anomaly

Ana opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithesis (see under opposite adj): contradiction, denial (see corresponding verbs at deny): conflict, variance, *discord

antipathetic, unsympathetic, averse

are often used as if they were synonyms. They are, however, not interchangeable if employed in accord with careful usage. Strictly, antipathetic is applied to things or to persons objectively considered that are disagreeable, distasteful, uncongenial, abhorrent, or repellent (the whole place and everything about it was antipathetic to her—Trollope) (settlers to whom this formula was antipathetic were asked to go elsewhere—Replier) (ushering in the year with a series of calls on the most remote and the most personally antipathetic of our innumerable relations—Huxley) In broader use the word is applied to persons or groups of persons as though it were the antonym of sympathetic; it may imply animosity and not merely the absence of sympathy (he really disliked Sir Theodosius, who was in every way antipathetic to him—Joseph Shearman) Unsympathetic, on the other hand, is with rare exceptions applied to persons or to things personified or thought of as expressing personal feeling and suggests an attitude of indifference or insensitiveness or the absence of a response to an appeal to one’s interest or emotions (an unsympathetic nurse) (an unsympathetic review of a new book) Averse (for synonyms in this sense see disinclined) is closer to unsympathetic than to antipathetic in that it suggests the spirit in which a person meets something objective rather than the effect of a thing upon a person. However, averse implies not merely a lack of response but a definite turning away and consequently either avoidance or rejection (averse to a suggestion) (averse to exercise on a hot day) Thus, a man may be unsympathetic by nature yet not be averse to helping the poor. In general, it may be said that one is averse to (or, chiefly British, from) anything which is antipathetic to one.

Ana repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, abhorrent, noxious: offensive, loathsome, repulsive, revolting

Ant congenial —Con attractive, alluring, charming (see under attract): sympathetic, compatible; *consonant: agreeable, grateful, gratifying, pleasing, *pleasant

antipathy

1 antagonism, *enemy, hostility, animosity, rancor, animus

Ana repugnance, abhorrence, repellency, distaste (see corresponding adjectives at repugnant): avoidance, evasion, eschewal, escape (see corresponding verbs at escape)

Ant taste (for): affection (for) —Con *attraction, sym-
antipodal adj
antipodal, bactericidal, disinfectant (see *
antiseptic*)

antipode n
Antiseptic, germicide, bactericide, disinfectant
all denote an agent that interferes with the growth and activity of microorganisms. An antiseptic is an agent that prevents or arrests the growth and activity of microorganisms, especially disease germs, without necessarily killing them. The word is used especially of substances mild enough to be used on living tissue. Germicide is used of an agent that kills microorganisms and especially disease germs. It is commonly applied to strong chemicals which cannot safely be used on living tissues. A bactericide is a germicide that destroys all kinds of bacteria (but does not necessarily kill bacterial spores). A disinfectant is an agent that frees from infection and especially a chemical germicide used to kill disease germs and other harmful microorganisms in sources of infection (as drains, sickrooms, clothing, bedding, laboratories, and stables). Disinfectant may be used of substances (as chloride of lime) which destroy disagreeable odors by interfering with the activity of the bacteria causing putrefaction. The same distinctions hold for the corresponding adjectives antiseptic, germicidal, bactericidal, disinfectant. 

antisocial adj

antithetical adj

antithesis 1 contrast, *comparison, parallel, collation
2 opposite, antipode, contradictory, contrary, antonym (see under OPPOSITE adj)

antonym n

anxious adj worried, concerned, solicitous, careful (see under CARE n)

apartment n *room, chamber

apathetic adj phlegmatic, stolid, *impassive, stoic

aperture, interstice, orifice denote an opening allowing passage through or in and out. Aperture is applied especially to any opening in a thing that otherwise presents a solid or closed surface or structure; it may be applied both to an opening that is a flaw (as a crack or cleft) or to one that is structurally essential (for example, the eyes of a fish). Interstice is applied to any unframed space or gap or interval especially in a fabric (in its widest sense) or in a mass. It is especially applicable to any of the openings in something that is loose in texture, coarse-grained, layered, or piled up. Orifice is also used of time in the sense of an interval (as the interstices between the stones of the wall were not filled with mortar). A mesh is one of the interstices in a fish net. Interstice is also used of time in the sense of an empty interval (what . . . do they do . . . in all the mysterious interstices of their lives?—L. P. Smith) Orifice is applied to any opening that serves chiefly as a mouth or as a vent (the orifice of the bladder) orifice of a chimney orifice of a wound) horror . . . when Mongibello belches forth from all its orifices its sulphurous fires—Borrow

apa 1 Apex, vertex are so often used interchangeably with reference to the tip or top point of a cone, a pyramid, or a conic section that a fundamental difference in

apex n *confidant, assurance, certificate:
implications is often ignored. Apex has particular reference to the sharpness or angularity of the point or tip; it may or may not in its literal application to things imply that this is the highest point (<i>the apex of the heart is its lower and pointed end</i>) (<i>the apex of a lung is its upper cone-shaped end</i>.) Apex may also refer to the converging point of two lines whether they extend in a vertical plane or not (<i>apex of a leaf</i>) (<i>apex of a vein in a mine</i>) Vertex as a rule, and apart from some technical senses in mathematics, implies a base (real or assumed) and therefore a top or highest point. This implication is retained when the word is applied to concrete things; thus, the vertex of the head or of the skull is the highest point or the upper end of its axis; vertex in astronomy is the zenith either with reference to the observer or to the particular body under observation.

2 peak, *summit, culmination, pinnacle, climax, acme, meridian, zenith, apogee

aphorism apothegm, epigram, *saying, saw, maxim, adage, proverb, motto

aphrodisiac *erotic, amatory, amorous

apiece *each, severally, individually, respectively

aplomb assurance, self-assurance, self-possession, *confidence, self-confidence

Ana coolness, collectedness, nonchalance, imperturbability (see corresponding adjectives at COOL); *equanimity, composure, sangfroid; poise, savoir faire (see TACT)

Ant shyness —Con embarrassment, discomfiture (see corresponding verbs at EMBARRASS); confusion, befuddlement (see corresponding verbs at CONFUSE); perplexity, bewilderment, distraction (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE)

apocalypse vision, *revelation, prophecy

apocalyptic see under REVELATION

Ana visionary, *imaginary, chimerical, quixotic; *mys- terious, arcane, inscrutable: mystic, *mystical, analogic; grandiose, magnificent, august, *grand

apocryphal mythical, *fictitious, legendary, fabulous

Ana questionable, dubious, *doubtful

Ant genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide

apogee climax, peak, culmination, apex, acme, meridian, zenith, *summit, pinnacle

Ant perigee

apologia *apology, excuse, plea, alibi, pretext

Ana defense, justification, vindication (see corresponding verbs at MAINTAIN): interpretation, elucidation, explanation (see corresponding verbs at EXPLAIN)

apology, apology, excuse, plea, pretext, alibi denote the reason or reasons offered in explanation or defense of something (as an act, a policy, or a view). In general use apologize implies that one has been at least apparently, in the wrong; it suggests either a defense that brings forward palliating circumstances or a frank acknowledgment of error with an expression of regret, by way of repa- ration (<"Pardon us the interruption of thy devotion ---" >"My lord, there needs no such apology"—Shak.) In its older sense, still found in very discriminating use, it implies no admission of guilt or error but a desire to make clear the grounds for some course, belief, or position that appears wrong to others (capologies for various . . . doctrines of the faith—Newman) Apologia is often used in place of apologia in this latter sense (Basil de Selincourt's apologia for Ruskin in the Contemporary Review—The Nation) (Viscount Grey of Fallocon . . . the other day delivered an apologia for democracy—N. Y. Times) Excuse implies an intent to remove or avoid blame (as for a neglect of duty, a failure to accomplish an end, or a violation of a rule, law, or custom) (<"Achilles will not to the field tomorrow"—"What's his excuse?"—Shak.)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
real, our apparent worldliness—Mackenzie) Something is illusory that is the result of a false impression and acquires a character or appearance other than that found in the real thing or that seems to exist when it is actually nonexistent. The deception may be the result of one's sense limitations (as in an optical illusion), of a misleading appearance assumed by certain natural phenomena (as a mirage or will o' the wisp), of one's own state of mind which colors or alters the objective reality, or of the strong stimulation of the imagination (as by a work of art) that causes one to accept as real something purely imaginary (lengthwise stripes give an illusory height to the figure) (illusory pools of water on a highway) (a lover often attributes an illusory beauty to his beloved) (the beautiful is in a certain sense illusory, or rather contains an element of illusion—Alexandre) (Something is seeming that is so like the reality in appearance that it may be mistaken for it). Seeming usually implies a character in the thing observed rather than, as with the two preceding words, a defect of observation. Often it suggests an intent to deceive or delude (Miss Wilmot's reception [of him] was mixed with seeming neglect, and yet I could perceive she acted a studied part—Goldsmith) (the whole of Burns's song has an air of part—Goldsmith) (the whole of Burns's song has an air of part—Longfellow) Shade usually connotes impalpability but it stresses personality rather than mode of appearance (mighty heroes—Dryden) (followed . . . by the shade of their dead relative—Frazer) Revenant, when it denotes a ghost, carries none of the implications of the other terms for a disembodied spirit except the return from the grave; it is therefore used often in straight prose or where a term without emotional connotations is desirable (thus, our revenant from a hundred years ago would find us occupied yet with measuring intensities of force—Darow) (I felt for a queer moment of hallucination more of a ghost than the ghost I had come to visit—a revenant out of a rowdy present into the more stately epoch—L. P. Smith)

apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant mean a visible but immaterial appearance of a person or of a person or thing that is not physically present. Apparition, phantasm, and phantom all stress the illusory character of what appears to the sight. Apparition often connotes suddenness or unexpectedness of coming (enter the ghost of Caesar . . . I think it is the weakness of mine eyes that shapes this monstrous apparition—Shak.) while phantasm often suggests the workings of a disordered or overexcited imagination (horrible forms, what and who are ye? never yet there came phantasmbs so foul through monster-teeming Hell—Shelley) and phantom a dreamlike character and form without substance or shape without body or mass (so live and laugh, nor be dismayed as one by one the phantoms go—E. A. Robinson) Wraith specifically denotes an appearance of a living person that appears to a friend or relative and portends the former's death but is also used of an apparition of a dead person (she was uncertain if it were the gypsy or her wraith—Scott) In extended use it stresses the insubstantial and evanescent character of the apparition (a hollow wraith of dying fame, fade wholly, while the soul exults—Tennyson) The remaining words in their literal senses all denote an apparition of a dead person. Ghost and spirit are the familiar and general terms for a disembodied soul; specter (not necessarily human) connotes more of the mysterious or terrifying (specters, wandering here and there, troop home to churchyards—Shak.) (I am thy father's spirit, doomed for a certain term to wander the night—Shak.) (grisly specters, which the Fiend had raised—Milton) (lo! when the service was ended, a form appeared on the threshold . . . ? Is it a phantom of air . . . ? Is it a ghost from the grave . . . ?—Longfellow)

appeal vb plead, pray, sue, petition (see under PRAYER) Appear, implore, *beg, beseech, entreat, supplicate: solicit, request, *ask

appear vb 1 Appear, loom, emerge mean to come out into view. In use, however, they are only rarely interchangeable. Appear is weakest in its implication of a definite physical background or a source; consequently it sometimes means merely to become visible or to become apparent (see EVIDENT) (one by one the stars appeared in the sky) (nothing appears in the testimony to cause doubt of the defendant's guilt) Sometimes it means to present oneself in public in a particular capacity or to be presented or given out to the public (Clarence Darrow appeared as counsel for the defendant) (Booth appeared nightly as Hamlet for the last two weeks of his run) (the new biography of Lincoln will appear next month) (weeklies usually appear on Thursday or Friday) Loom means appearing as through a mist or haze (a smear of . . . lead-colored paint had been laid on to obliterate Henchard's name, though its letters dimly loomed through like ships in a fog—Hardy) (between the bed and the ottoman . . . the cot loomed in the shadows—Bennett) Because things seen in a fog are often magnified by their indistinct outlines, loom, especially when followed in figurative use by like ships in a fog or when followed by up, suggest appearance and sometimes appalling magnitude (some mornings it [a mesa] would loom up above the dark river like a blazing volcanic mountain—Cather) (that which loomed immense to fancy low before my reason lies—Browning) Emerge definitely implies a coming out into the open from something that envelops: the word therefore presupposes a period or condition of concealment, obscurity, gestation, or insignificance (the sun emerged from the clouds) (after a long hunt for him, we saw him emerging from the crowd) (that part of northern Ohio where the Bentley farms lay had begun to emerge from pioneer life—Anderson) (Lord Sligo emerges from this account as an able and conscientious administrator—Times Lit. Sup.)

Apparition, analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
appearance, look, aspect, semblance denote the outward show presented by a person or thing. Appearance often carries no additional implications (judge not according to the appearance—Jn 7:24) (in drawing, represent the appearances of things, never what you know the things to be—Ruskin) The word, however, frequently implies an apparent as opposed to an actual or genuine character and therefore often connotes hypocrisy, dissembling, or pretense when used of persons or their actions (to be able to tyrannize effectively they needed the title and appearance of constitutional authority—Huxley) (they spend their lives trying to keep up appearances, and to make his salary do more than it could—Cather) Look is often indistinguishable from appearance except that it more often occurs in the plural (never judge a thing merely by its looks) They are not interchangeable, however, in all instances. When a personal impression or a judgment is implied, appearance is the precise word (Aristotle . . . while admitting that Plato’s scheme has a plausible appear -ance of philanthropy, maintains that it is inapplicable to the facts of human nature—Dickinson) When the emphasis is upon concrete details (as of color, shape, or expression) observable to everybody, look is a better choice (he had the look of a man who works indoors and takes little exercise) (I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good characters, and my enemies for their good intellects—Wilde) Specifically look is often applied to a person’s expression as manifest in his face or posture (she had a look about her that I wish I could forget—the look of a scared thing sitting in a net!—Millay) Aspect, like look, stresses the features of a person or thing but when applied to persons, it usually distinctively suggests the characteristic or habitual appearance and expression, especially facial expression (not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser) (he was a very handsome man, of a commanding aspect—Austen) Aspect often specifically implies reference to a facet or to the features that give something (as a place, an age, or a situation) its peculiar or distinctive character (the aspect of affairs was very alarming—Dickens) (fifty years from now, it may be, the olive tree will almost have disappeared from southern France, and Provence will wear another aspect—Huxley) (democracy . . . has different aspects in different lands—Sulzberger) Semblance basically implies outward seeming without necessarily suggesting a false appearance (it is the semblance which interests the painter, not the actual object—Times Lit. Sup.) Nevertheless it is rarely used in this sense without an expressed or implied contrast between the outward appearance and the inner reality (thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie thy soul’s immensity—Wordsworth) Sometimes, however, the word stresses the likeness of the thing to something else without suggesting deceptiveness in the appearance (a piked road that even when had begun to take on the semblance of a street—Anderson) appease *pacify, placate, mollify, propitiate, conciliate Anna assuage, alleviate, mitigate, lighten, *relieve: *pal-iate, extenuate: *satisfy, content Anti exasperate, aggravate —Con perturb, upset, disturb, *dis-compose: vex, irk, *annoy, bother: *anger, incense, enrage, infuriate appellation *name, title, designation, denomination, style append *add, subjoin, annex, superadd Anna affix, attach, *fasten Anti *detach, disengage: curtail (see shorten) applause, appurtenance, accessory, adjunct designate something regarded as additional and at the same time as subsidiary to another object. Appendage implies a certain closeness of attachment or connection yet often stresses the idea of subordination or even uselessness (the caudal appendage) (the smaller borough is a mere appendage of the larger) (those graceful and useless appendages, called Directors—Scott) Appurtenance is applied to something that belongs to the principal object or goes with it customarily yet is not an integral part of it (as the barns, worksheds, garages, gardens on a piece of land or the permanent fixtures in a building) (the bed itself, with all appurtenances of palliasse, mattresses, etc.—Barham) Accessory is applied usually to something that is dispensable yet contributes to the appearance, usefulness, comfort, or convenience of the principal thing (automobile accessories) (wore a beige suit with brown purse, gloves, and other accessories) Adjunct is applied to something that is or may be added or joined to the principal thing without becoming an essential part of it (in the great age of Louis XIV, if [the ballet] became an established institution, still an adjunct of opera—Ellis) (meter and rhyme are not mere adjuncts of poetry—Alexander) appendix, addendum, supplement designate additional matter subjoined to a book. Appendix is used of appended material which contributes (as by way of illustration, amplification, or citation of documents) to the effectiveness of a treatment that is still relatively complete in itself. Addendum and supplement, however, agree in implying that the additional matter is essential to completeness of treatment but differ in that addendum suggests greater brevity and is frequently used of material added to supply omissions while supplement implies larger compass and is often applied to material added after some lapse of time, frequently as a separate publication, to embody later information. When the additional matter of an addendum is a list (as of words or items), the plural addenda is often used instead of addendum. apperception assimilation, identification, *recognition appertain pertain, belong, relate, *bear, apply appetite *desire, lust, passion, urge Anna hungering or hunger, thirsting or thirst, yearning, longing (see LONG vb): craving, wishing, coveting (see DESIRE vb): impulse, spring, *motive: *cupidity, greed Con abnegation, self-abnegation, self-denial, renunciation: asceticism (see under ASCETIC n): repugnance, distaste (see corresponding adjectives at repugnant) appitizer, hors d’oeuvre, aperitif. Appitizer is the comprehensive term denoting food or drink served in advance of a meal as a walet to the appetizer; it may include cocktails and a savory tidbit served before going to the table or a first course (as of oysters, clams, fruit cocktail, or canapé) served at the table. Hors d’oeuvre may be used of a savory, salt, smoked, tart, or uncooked food served with cocktails or as a first course at table. Its more common plural form, hors d’oeuvres, generally suggests a tray of such foods from which one selects what pleases one’s taste. An aperitif is a small drink of liquor and especially of a fortified and usually specially flavored wine taken shortly before lunch or dinner for the purpose of or under the pretext of stimulating the appetite. appettizing *palatable, relishing, tasty, toothsome, flavorful, savory, sapid Anti nauseating applause 1 Applaud, cheer, root mean to demonstrate one’s feeling, especially one’s approbation or joy, audibly and enthusiastically. Applaud specifically and usually implies hand clapping (it is not the custom to applaud preachers) (the audiences at grand opera are asked to applaud only at
applause as he came up to receive his diploma. Cheer suggests shouting, usually of meaningless words (as rah-rah-rah or hip-hip-hooray) or of a set form of words adopted by a school, college, or organization as its own; in one use it implies organized rather than spontaneous effort and includes singing as well as shouting. Cheer differs from applause also in its purpose, which is chiefly that of encouraging individuals or a team taking part in a competition or contest; often, however, it suggests jubilation aroused by a successful play or a brilliant feat. Root may imply cheering or applauding, but it stresses encouragement as the motive. Consequently it implies strong partisanship and vocal public championship of what one favors for a candidate for the home team>

Anna acclaim, exult (see PRAISE)
Ant hiss: boo — Con deride, taunt, ridicule, mock

Cheer *commend, compliment, recommend
Anna *praise, eulogize, laud: *approve, endorse, sanction
Ant disparage: criticize — Con *decry, depreciate, belittle: censure, reprove (see CRITICIZE): *disapprove, depreciate
applause, acclamation, acclaim, plaudits denote public expression of approbation. Applause usually suggests loudness or liveliness of demonstration and often carries its literal implication of clapping hands (she waited until the applause died down) round after round of applause greeted him. However, it may be used to designate any other noisy or emphatic expression of approval (as stamping of feet, cheering, or waving of flags) (applause rang out from a hundred thousand throats—Froude) Acclamation adds to applause the implications of eagerness, enthusiasm, and often unaniomity of assent: it often retains its basic implication of crying out (he was nominated to the office by acclamation without a ballot, and with emphatically voiced approval) (his speech was received with acclamation) Acclaim is more poetic than acclamation though often interchanged with the latter; it sometimes carries implications of loftier deeds and more enduring esteem than acclamation (the heroes were hailed with acclaim) (his poetry met with universal acclaim)

Plaudits, though literally equal to applause, may suggest polite or gracious rather than demonstrative expressions of approval (the colonel bowed and smiled with very pleasant good nature at our plaudits—Thackeray) Anna cheering or cheers, rooting (see corresponding verbs at APPLAUD)
Ant hisses: boos — Con deriding or derision, taunting or taunts, ridiculing or ridicule, twitting, mocking (see corresponding verbs at RUDICILE)
appliance tool, *implement, instrument, utensil
Anna accessory, adjunct (see APPENDAGE): *device, contrivance, gadget
applicable *relevant, pertinent, apposite, apropos, germane, material
Anna *fit, suitable, appropriate, apt, felicitous, happy, meet, fitting, proper
Ant inapplicable — Con *impertinent: inept, *awkward
applicant aspirant, *candidate
application concentration, *attention, study
Anna intention, engrossment, absorption (see corresponding adjectives at INTENT): toil, grind, drudgery (see WORK): sedulousness, assiduousness, industriousness or industry, diligence (see corresponding adjectives at BUSY)
Ant indolence — Con abstractedness or abstraction, absentmindedness (see corresponding adjectives at ABSTRACTED): laziness, slothfulness, fainness (see corresponding adjectives at LAZY)
appliqué vb *overlay, superpose, superimpose

Anna analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
**appraise**

*Appreciate, happy, apt, appropriate, suitable,* fit, fitting: pat, timely, opportune, *seasonable

*Ant inapposite, inapt —Con *impertinent: awkward, inept; casual, hit-or-miss, haphazard, *random

**appraise** value, *estimate, evaluate, assay, rate, assess

*Ana *judge, adjudge: determine, ascertain, *discover: inspect, examine, *scrutinize, audit

**appraising** (see under *estimate* vb)

**appreciable** *perceptible, sensible, ponderable, palpable, tangible

*Ana apparent, *evident: discernible, noticeable (see corresponding verbs at *see*)

*Ant inappreciable —Con impalpable, imponderable,

*imperceptible, intangible, insensible

**appreciate** 1 comprehend, *understand

*Ana appraise, value, rate, *estimate, evaluate: *judge,

*adjudge: *appraise, comprehend

*Ant depricate —Con disparage, derogate, detract,

belittle, *decry

2 Appreciate, value, prize, treasure, cherish mean to hold in high estimation. One appreciates what one understands sufficiently to admire critically or to enjoy with discrimination of its values, especially its aesthetic values (relatively few persons are able to appreciate the fugues of Johann Sebastian Bach) (he liked to be near people and have his talent as a writer appreciated —Anderson) Appreciate may not always carry this strong implication of intelligent admiration but may stress rather a response of warm approval, keen enjoyment, or gratitude (those who are just beginning to appreciate the idea —Mackenzie) (the nature actually made him ache, he appreciated it so—Galsworthy) (children easily appreciated justice —Russell) One values what one rates highly, especially as a possession, and takes deep pride in or sets great store by (the good we never miss we rarely prize —Cowper) (what is freedom and why is it prized? —Dewey) One treasures what one keeps safe from danger of being lost or stolen, especially because one regards it as precious or attaches great sentimental value to it (she treasures every memento of her youth) (those who value money because it makes them independent are the apparently defined fear; thus, one may relieve a person's apprehension peremptorily haunted by memory and become slaves to their avarice) When used in reference to persons, treasure implies a clinging to more often than appreciation or love (pay me no homage, Mario, but if it be I have your friendship, I shall treasure it —Millay) Cherish may often be used interchangeably with prize and treasure but carries a stronger implication of love or affection for what is cherished and often suggests closer, more intimate association or attentions (cherish —the babe

**apprehend** 1 arrest, detain, attach

*Ana seize, *take: capture, *catch

*Con release, discharge, liberate, *free

2 *Apprehend, comprehend* mean to lay hold of something with the mind so as to know it but together with their derivative nouns *appraise* and *comprehend* are clearly distinguished in psychological use. *Apprehend* and *comprehend* do not imply attainment of full knowledge or of complete understanding but only a glimpsing of the nature, meaning, or significance of the object of thought; comprehend (see also *understand*) and *comprehension* imply an understanding of the object of thought in its entire compass and extent. *Apprehend* may suggest a single act of the mind and *comprehend* a complex and laborious process, but this distinction is not so essential as that between imperfect and perfect understanding; thus, one apprehends many things (as infinity or beauty) which one can never comprehend; one comprehends many things as a child (as mother love) which one does not comprehend until late in life (who shall say how quickly the babe apprehends the relation between the causative howl and its effect, the demanded ministration?—Grandgent) (the thirteenth century which cared little to comprehend anything except the incomprehensible—Henry Adams)

*Ana *understand, appreciate: grasp (see *take* 1): perceive, observe, notice, note (see *see*)

3 divine, anticipate, *foresee, foreknow

*Ana fear, dread (see corresponding nouns at *fear*): forecast, predict, forebode, *foretell

**apprehension** 1 arrest, detention, attachment (see under *arrest vb*)

*Ana seizing or seizing, taking (see corresponding verbs at *take*): capturing or capture, catching (see corresponding verbs at *catch*)

*Con releasing or release, discharging or discharge, liberation (see corresponding verbs at *free*)

2 comprehension (see under *apprehend* 2)

*Ana understanding, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at *understand*): perceiving or perception, observing or observation, noticing or notice, noting (see corresponding verbs at *see*)

3 *Apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment* denote fear (or an instance of it) that something is going wrong or will go wrong. *Apprehension* usually implies fear that obsesses the mind and keeps one anxious and worried (be under apprehension concerning a child's health) (peasants who have survived a famine will be perpetually haunted by memory and apprehension —Russell) Foreboding particularly designates oppressive anticipatory fear or superstitious, unreasoning, or inadequately defined fear; thus, one may relieve a person's apprehensions yet find it hard to dispel his forebodings (there was a sadness and constraint about all persons that day, which filled Mr. Esmond with gloomy forebodings —Thackeray) Misgiving suggests uneasiness and mistrust rather than anxiety or dread; it is often applied to sudden fears (as a suspicion that one is making a mistake, a doubt of one's capacity to accomplish what one has undertaken, or a disturbing loss of courage) (in the midst of my anec-

dote a sudden misgiving chilled me—had I told them about this goat before?—L. P. Smith) this self-confidence had given place to a misgiving that he had been making a fool of himself —Shaw Presentiment implies a vague feeling or a dim, almost mystical, perception of something (not necessarily unpleasant) that seems bound to happen; however, because it frequently suggests an element of anticipatory fear and, in many cases, of foreboding, it comes into comparison with the other words of this group (the delicious repose of the soul . . . had been shaken . . . and alarmed with dim presentiment —George Eliot)

*Ana *fear, dread, alarm, panic: worry, anxiety, *care

*Ant confidence —Con *trust, faith: assurance, self-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**approach**

*expert, adept, wizard*

**Con**

*beginner, starter (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN):

**approaching**

*was*

> Often also it suggests a drawing close

**approach**

chiefly the other hand, is interchangeable with

In a still more

**proached**

analogous words

**Ant**

suggests advances made by the agent for some

a man with a proposal

or imminent contact; to

each other in meaning) Though the word retains

proximate

—

nearing

Wordsworth}

<as the time

or identification) is implied <her interest in others some-

or bribery) <the committee awaited a favorable oppor-

approaches

times

order of thought or in an intellectual relation (as likeness

with reluctance is actually to enter upon a discussion of

a topic

is actually to make advances to him; to

approach

the wedding

in time <it was

approaching

<the storm

<the candidate's memory should closely

Dickinson}

<the echoed

Tennyson}

his happy home, the ground—

appropriate

vb 1 Approach, near, approximate mean to come or draw close (to). Approach is by far the widest in its range of application. Very often it implies a coming close in space <he left the group and approached us} (the storm was approaching) Often also it suggests a drawing close in time (it was approaching three o'clock) (the day of the wedding approached) Sometimes a closeness in order of thought or in an intellectual relation (as likeness or identification) is implied (her interest in others sometimes approaches intrusiveness) (students are expected to approach the standard set for them by their teachers) (many words of distinctly different origin gradually approach each other in meaning) Though the word retains its implication of coming close, often it also implies actual or imminent contact; to approach a man with a proposal is actually to make advances to him; to approach a topic with reluctance is actually to enter upon a discussion of it. Hence, approach often stresses the manner or method of beginning, especially one calculated to evoke the response or effect desired (he did not know how to approach the subject) (every problem in painting was to Leonardo a problem in science, every problem in physics he approached in the spirit of the artist—Ellis} In a still more specific sense, when used in reference to persons, approach suggests advances made by the agent for some ulterior motive (as diplomatic negotiation, solicitation, or bribery) (the committee awaited a favorable opportunity to approach the governor concerning his candidacy) (the attorney for the prosecution declared that two jurors had been approached during the trial) Near is interchangeable with approach only when used in reference to persons or things that draw close in space or time. Because of its simplicity and familiarity it is sometimes preferred to approach in poetry but it is not as frequent in speech as might be expected, the expressions “get near” and “come near” often being used in preference (the lark could scarce get out his notes for joy ... as he neared his happy home, the ground—Tennyson} (the echoed hoof nearing the distant shore—Wordsworth} (as the time of the birth of our Lord neared—Pusey) Approximate, on the other hand, is interchangeable with approach chiefly in reference to things which come close to each other in some intellectual relation (as the actual to the ideal, the material to the spiritual, or one idea or entity to another) (results that approximate perfection) (for law, at any given moment, even under the most favorable conditions, cannot do more than approximate to its own ideal—Dickinson} (the candidate's memory should closely approximate a hypothetical norm—Armstrong} Approximate is specifically used in reference to a sum, an amount, or a quantity that approaches but does not necessarily equal a given sum or amount (a tablespoonful approaches three teaspoonsfuls) (their fund now approaches $5000)

**Ana**

analogous words

**Ant**

antonyms

**Con**

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

**appropriation**

*$\text{accost, *address: *begin, commence, initiate: consult, *confer, advise, negotiate}$

**Con**

*avoid, elude, shun, evade, *escape: *refrain, abstain, forbear: retreat, *recede: withdraw, retire, depart, leave, *go*

2 touch, equal, *match, rival

**Con**

dive, deviate (see SWERVE)

**approach** $n$ *overture, advance, tender, bid

**Ana**

attempt, endeavor, essay, try (see under ATTEMPT $vb$)

**Ant**

repulse

**approbation, approval** are closely related in meaning. **Approbation** stresses admiration or high favor and is applied either to actual expressions of such feeling or to the state of mind of a person whose favorable opinion is manifest (his speech won general approbation) (terms of approbation) (feels pleasure in the approbation of his superiors) **Approval** requires qualification by words like warm, hearty, or enthusiastic to be interchangeable with approbation, especially when the latter denotes expression of favor. For approval, in itself, implies no greater favor than that involved in giving full consent with no reservations or in sanctioning. It therefore is applied especially to the formal act of approving or to a formal statement of permission, endorsement, or confirmation (the interscholastic games are to be played without the approval of the principal) (the president gave his approval to the proposed legislation in yesterday’s conference with reporters)

**Ana**

admiration, esteem, respect, *regard: *applause, acclamation, plaudits

**Ant**

disapprobation —Con odium, opprobrium, disrepute (see DISGRACE): hatred, detestation, abhorrence (see under HATE $vb$): censuring or censure, condemning or reprehension (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

**appropriate** $vb$ preemp, *arrogate, confiscate, usurp

**Ana**

*take, seize, grab: annex, *add

**appropiate** *fitting, proper, *fit, suitable, apt, meet, happy, felicitous

**Ana**

apposite, pertinent, germane, *relevant: pat, timely, *seasonable, opportune

**Ant**

inappropriate —Con wrong, *false: incongruous, incompatible, *inconsonant

**appropriation, grant, subvention, subsidy** mean money or property given or set apart by an authorized body for a predetermined use by others. ** Appropriation** is the comprehensive term used in government, business, or an institution controlling large sums of money for the amount formally and officially allotted to any one of its departments, projects, services, or beneficiaries in advance of the expenditure of that money (every department must keep within its appropriation) (since the bill just signed carries no appropriation for the new bridge, it is obvious that construction will not begin this year) **Grant** usually applies to a gift made by a government or by a corporation (as an educational or charitable foundation) to a beneficiary on the condition that certain terms be accepted or certain engagements fulfilled. The beneficiary may be a specific institution, a corporation, or even an individual; the gift may be a sum of money, but when the government is the benefactor, it is often a tract of land or a valuable franchise **grants of land from the federal government were made to various railroads building new lines and to various colleges and universities providing agricultural and industrial courses in the mid-nineteenth century** (foundations that make grants to institutions engaged in health and medical research) **Subvention** is more re-
approval

*approbation

endorse, sanction, accredit, certify mean to have an expression of favor or approval—

stricted than grant since it always implies pecuniary aid especially to a person or institution in straits; it more often applies to a grant-in-aid to an artistic, literary, or scientific undertaking than to a commercial one (opea in many places is possible only because of a subvention)

Subvention applies to a grant made to an individual or a company to enable him (or it) to carry on some work regarded as advantageous to the public but not for one reason or another self-supporting. Subvention is often preferred when the grant is made by an educational or charitable foundation or similar agency; subsidy, when it is made by the government (the Carnegie Corporation makes subventions to libraries and educational institutions) (the British government provides subsidies for mail-carrying vessels)

approve *approbation

Ana commending or commendation, applauding or applause, compliment (see corresponding verbs at commend): endorsing or endorsement, sanction (see corresponding verbs at approve)

Ant disapproval —Con criticizing or criticism, reprehension or censure (see corresponding verbs at criticize): disapprobation, depreciation, derogation (see corresponding verbs at decry)

approve, endorse, sanction, accredit, certify mean to have or to express a favorable opinion of. Approve often means no more than this (darling them . . . to approve her conduct —Conrad) Sometimes, however, it suggests esteem or admiration (Jane secretly approved his discernment—Rose Macaulay) Endorse adds to approve the implication of backing or supporting (as by an explicit statement): it is therefore used chiefly in reference to things requiring promotion or publicity (endorse a person’s candidacy) (endorse the platform of a new political party) (endorse a brand of cigarette) Sanction not only implies approval but also authorization (the school dances were sanctioned by the board of education) The one that sanctions may not be only a person or group but something that provides a standard by which something can be approved and authorized or disapproved and discounterenanced (proposed laws not sanctioned by public opinion) (some churches permit divorce, but do not sanction remarriage) (these statements are sanctioned by common sense—Joseph Gilbert) (the court has also sanctioned recently some federal efforts to protect Negroes in the South from violence—Barth) Accredit and certify usually imply official endorsement and conformity with certain standards. Their selection is dependent on idiom rather than on distinctions in meaning (an accredited herd of dairy cattle) (credent milk) (an accredited school) (a certified teacher) (a certified public accountant) (labels by which brain merit is advertised and certified—medals, honors, degrees—Woolf) Accredited, however, is sometimes used generally as implying public approval or general acceptance (if any . . . break away from accredited custom—Inge) (sages so fully accredited as Mr. Bertrand Russell—Montague)

Ana *commend, applaud, compliment: *ratify, confirm

Ant disapprove —Con reject, refuse, repudiate, spurn (see decline): condemn, reprehend, *criticize

approximate vb *approach, near

approximately *nearly, almost, well-nigh

Ant precisely, exactly

appurtenance accessory, adjunct, *appendage

Ana furnishing or furniture, equipment, appointment (see corresponding verbs at furnish)

apropos apposite, pertinent, *relevant, germane, applicable, material

Ana pat, timely, opportune, *seasonable: appropriate, fitting, *fit, suitable, apt, proper, meet, happy

Ant unappropos

apt 1 happy, felicitous, appropriate, *fit, suitable, meet, proper

Ana apposite, pertinent, *relevant, apropos: pat, timely, opportune (see seasonal): telling, convincing, compelling (see valid): right, nice, precise, exact (see correct)

Ant inapt, inept —Con *awkward, maladroit: wrong, false

2 Apt, likely, liable are often interchangeable when followed by to and the infinitive, but clear differences may be described. Apt implies an inherent or habitual tendency (as an inclination, bent, or predisposition); it refers to the past and the present as much as if not more than to the future; it applies commonly to persons, but may apply to things that show a tendency or drift (you are just a little apt to let yourself be a slave to that house of yours—Bennett) (the upper circles . . . are apt to favor a pronunciation derived . . . from that which prevailed in England—Grandgent) (long poems are always apt to drop in places into what is only not called prose because it is metrical—Alexander) Likely stresses probability; it refers in time to the future and therefore has its place in predictions (he is likely to succeed) (the wedding is likely to cost her parents more than they can afford) (it is likely to rain today) (“How now! is Jack Cade slain?”) “No, my lord, nor likely to be slain; for they have won the bridge”—Shak. Likely (see also liable, responsible) implies exposure to a risk or danger; it suggests a chance rather than a probability and is therefore often used in warnings, in cautions, or in the expression of fears (children who play in the street are liable to be injured by automobiles) (drivers must remember that cars are liable to skid on wet roads) (anyone who disobeys this rule is liable to be punished severely) Thus, a person who is apt to lose his head under stress knows that he is likely to fail when he is put to a test and therefore forms the habit of avoiding situations in which he is liable to encounter difficulties.

Ana inclined, disposed, predisposed (see incline vb): prone, *liable

Con averse, *disinclined, indisposed, loath

Ant unappropos

Ant inappropos

aptitude bent, turn, talent, faculty, *gift, knack, genius

Ana *taste, gusto, zest: propensity, *leaning, penchant, flair

Ant inappropos

aquatic

lacustrine, fluvial, fluvitile, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal all refer to water and especially to a body of water but all except aquatic are highly specific in their applications and all are more or less technical terms in the geographical and biological sciences and in geology. Aquatic may imply a habitat in water, but as applied to animals and plants it often means living in water (but not necessarily submerged) or on the water or around a body of water. It is specifically applicable to any plant (as the water hyacinth and the water lily) that has its roots in or below water. It is also applicable to any animal that frequents the water, especially to a swimming bird or mammal (as a gull or an otter). A frog is more often described as an amphibious animal but as compared to a toad its habits may be said to be aquatic. Lacustrine relates only to a lake; it is used in biology (lacustrine shells) (lacustrine fauna and flora), in geology (lacustrine deposits), and in archaeology
aqueduct

<the lacustrine period, a prehistoric period when dwellings were erected over lakes> Fluvial and fluviatile are used interchangeably to suggest the action, operation, or influence of flowing water though geologists perhaps somewhat prefer fluvial and biologists distinctly prefer fluvial (a fluvial plain) fluviatile communities generally have a smaller standing crop of phytoplankters—Park> When denoting a specific relationship to a particular stream or a relation to streams as such as distinct from their action or effects fluvial is the term of choice (<international fluvial law> coastal and fluvial shipping—Welles> sketched a geographical interpretation of the history of civilization through three stages: the fluvial, the thalassic, and the oceanic—Sat. Review (London)> In reference to salt water marine (see also marine) is the comprehensive term, applicable not only to things that pertain to the open ocean but to those that pertain to contiguous salt or brackish waters (as bays, harbors, salt marshes, or salt ponds) marine shells marine vegetation marine deposits> When specific reference to the open ocean or to mid ocean is intended, oceanic is the preferred word (oceanic fauna) oceanic currents> When reference is to seas or gulfs, as distinguished from the ocean, thalassic is often the term preferred especially by historians (thalassic empire) These terms, however, are neither so definitely restricted nor so precise as the succeeding terms, which usually name definite zones of the ocean. Neritic refers only to the belt of shallow water surrounding a landmass. Pelagic, which in general use implies definitely the open sea or the high seas (pelagic sealing), in its stricter technical application has reference in its extent only to the realm of the open ocean and in its depth only to so much of the water covering that expanse as is penetrable by light. Below the pelagic zone in the deeper parts of the ocean lies the abyssal zone, where no plant life exists and animals are carnivorous and are usually blind or luminescent.

aqueduct *channel, canal, conduit, duct

Arab Arabic, *Arabian

Arabian adj Arabian, Arab, Arabic are not freely applicable to the same things and are, consequently, often a source of confusion. Arabian is used chiefly with reference to a place, the large peninsula in southwestern Asia which includes the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, one speaks of the Arabian peninsula, desert, kingdoms, flora, fauna, history, intending in each case to convey a consciousness of geographic relationship. Arab is used chiefly with reference to a people who still dwell in Arabia or their descendants who are common in northern, eastern, and central Africa, in Madagascar, India, and the Malay Archipelago, and in some parts of Syria and Persia. The word, therefore, often implies characteristics or habits associated with Arabs (as a nomadic life, equestrian skill, or Muslim practices) <Arab customs> <Arab descent> <Arab harems> Distinctively, an Arabian horse is a particular horse bred in or imported from Arabia whereas the Arab horse is the kind of horse bred and used by Arabs; an Arabian caravan travels in Arabia, an Arab caravan is made up of Arabs. Arabic refers usually to a language, originally the language of the Arabs, but now used in several countries whose inhabitants are not exclusively Arab in origin (as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and northern Africa) the Arabic language Arabic is also applicable to a culture associated with the use of the Arabic language or to any manifestations of that culture Arabic architecture Arabic numerals Distinctively, Arab literature is the literature of Arabs whereas Arabian literature is produced specifically in Arabia and Arabic literature is written in Arabic.

Arabic Arab, *Arabian arbiter *judge, arbitrator, umpire, referee arbitrary autocratic, *absolute, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous Ana *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial, oracular: domineering, *masterful, imperious, peremptory, imperative Ant legitimate —Con *lawful, legal, licit arbitrate adjudicate, adjudge, *judge Ana mediate, intervene (see INTERPOSE) *decide, determine, settle: conciliate, placate, appease (see PACIFY) arbiter *judge, referee, arbitrator, umpire arc *curve, arch, bow arcade 1 arcature, *colonnade, portico, peristyle 2 gallery, cloister, ambulatory, *passage, passageway arcane *mysterious, inscrutable Ana occult, esoteric, *recondite: cabalistic, anagogic, mystic, *mystical arcature arcade, *colonnade arch n *curve, bow, arc arch adj *saucy, pert Ana roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous, *playful: mocking, deriding or derisive, twitting (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE) archaeology *anthropology, ethnology archaic obsolete, antiquated, antique, *old, ancient, antediluvian, venerable Ant up-to-date —Con fresh, novel, *new, newfangled, new-fashioned, modern, modernistic; fashionable, modish (see STYLISH) architect *artist, artificer, artisan architectonic adj architectural (see under ARCHITECTURE) architectonics n *architecture architectural architectonic (see under ARCHITECTURE) architecture, architectonics and their corresponding adjectives architectural and architectonic are often indistinguishable, but they tend to diverge in emphasis. The nouns mean the science of planning and building structures (as churches, houses, bridges, and ships) that involve problems of artistic design, engineering, and adaptation to the ends in view. In general use architecture and hence architectural often suggest that artistry or beauty in design is the end and goal of the architect; in technical use they stress design as the result of attention to practical as well as artistic ends and imply that the profession is both a science and an art. Architectonics and its corresponding adjective architectonic place the emphasis on constructive skill; they suggest attention to the framework, skeleton, or supporting structure, sometimes without reference to the details necessary for the completion or elaboration of the structure; when one speaks of Chartres Cathedral as a triumph of architecture, he calls attention to its beauty of design and ornamentation; but when one speaks of it as a triumph of architectonics, he calls attention to it as a great work of engineering where the supporting parts of pillars, props, and ribs are united so as to form a stone skeleton capable of carrying the enormous weight of stone roof and high towers yet permitting many windows in its enclosing walls. Architectonics and its adjective are far more common in extended use than architecture and architectural, for the latter seldom escape their suggestions of building with stone, wood, or steel. Architectonics and more especially architectonic, on the other hand, often are referable to a system of ideas or philosophy or to a work of art and especially to an epic or a poetic drama where there is not only perfect articulation of parts but their combination into an integral or organic whole <creative energy . . . is . . . architectonic, and it imposes upon the lyric impulse an ordered sequence and an organic unity—

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
argousious hard, difficult

A laborious, toilsome (see corresponding nouns at WORK): exhausting, wearying or wearisome, tiring, fatiguing (see corresponding verbs at TIRE): *onerous, exacting, oppressive

A light, facile —Con *easy, simple, effortless, smooth

area 1 Area, tract, region, zone, belt mean an extent of space especially of ground or surface that is distinguishable from its surroundings in appearance or in certain distinctive features. Area still carries its original implication of clearly marked bounds, but it may be used with reference to a space defined on a map or chart as well as to one the limits of which are actually visible <an oasis is a green or fertile area in a desert> <there are vast uncultivated areas even in the most populous of the states> <two colors—aspen and evergreen, not intermingled but lying in solid areas of light and dark> —Cather  Tract, on the other hand, stresses extent rather than limits; it is therefore preferred to area in designating a space that might otherwise be described as an expanse or is thought of as widespread or far stretching and uniform in character <beyond the area of small farms lay larger tracts that were immensely productive—Anderson> <a tract of grass, furze and rushes, stretching away to the western horizon—Shaw>  Tract is often used in an extended sense in reference to anything that has extent or duration <wide tracts of life—Day Lewis> <a large tract of unwritten history—T. S. Eliot>  Region suggests reference to some definite place or locality (as on the earth's surface, in the atmosphere, or in the human body) distinguished from other localities by certain features or by being subject to a particular condition or influence <the upper region of the air> <the Finger Lakes region of central New York State> <what region of the brain is the seat of consciousness?>  Zone denotes an area or region that suggests a girdle or an encircling band especially on a map or chart <the torrid, arctic, and temperate zones> <parcel post zones> <the pelagic zone of the ocean> In broader use it is often applied to an area that forms a band or strip and is distinctly set off from its environs by some peculiarity of feature <the firing zone of a battlefield> <the business zones of a city> <that milky way which nightly as a circling zone thou seest powdered with stars—Milton>  Basically belt is a synonym of zone: distinctively, it implies an area characterized by the presence of some distinguishing natural feature (as a particular flora or mineral) <the corn belt of the U.S.> <a coal belt>  In strict technical usage belt is applied to an area less extensive than a zone <a belt of conifers extending into the northern mixed forest zone>  Ana *locality, district: *expanse, stretch 2 extent, *size, dimensions, magnitude, volume

argot cant, jargon, slang, *dialect, lingo, vernacular, patois

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
one's opponent and by defending one's own from his attacks. Disputation, however, is more often applied to a formal exercise common in medieval universities and still found in some modern universities in which a thesis is tested by the ability of its proponent or defender to sustain it in the face of severe critical attack; debate, to a two-sided contest between persons or teams which is governed by strict rules of procedure and in which the victory goes to the person or team regarded by the appointed judges as manifesting the greater ability. Forensic in its academic use is applied to an argumentative exercise intended to convince its readers or hearers; the word suggests emphasis on the qualities of successful legal argument such as the ability to marshal evidence, to make telling points, to persuade as well as to convince. Dialectic is a term more common among philosophers than in general or academic use. It is usually applied to a method of reasoning especially by weighing and resolving contradictory or juxtaposed arguments, the aim of which is to reach the truth by the correct application of the rules of logic, but is sometimes applied to argument or argumentation that merely observes what its writer believes to be the laws of reasoning (<Newman's masterly English, and his competent, if not supreme, dialectic—Saintsbury>)

**Ana** *argument, dispute, controversy*  
**Ant** dry  
**Arid** barren, infertile, *sterile, unfruitful: *bare, bald, Ana—moist: verdant —Con *wet, damp, dank, humid: 2 rise, *spring, originate, derive, flow, issue, emanate, proceed, stem  
**Aristocracy** 1 plutocracy, *oligarchy  
2 Aristocracy, nobility, gentility, county, elite, society denote a body of persons who constitute a socially superior caste. Aristocracy often refers to an ideally superior caste and therefore does not invariably apply to a fixed or definite group of persons (<there is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talents —Jefferson>) Usually the term connotes superiority in birth, breeding, and social station and is applicable to all those persons generally recognized as first in family and in personal importance (<he comes of the Brahmin caste of New England. This is the harmless, inoffensive, untitled aristocracy—Holmes>) However, in countries where there is a privileged and titled class, the nobility, aristocracy is often used to designate the same group with this difference in implication: that nobility stresses rank inferior to that of royalty but superior to that of all other classes, and aristocracy stresses the possession of power over the people through ownership of land and through long-established and generally acknowledged superiority (<the word cousin in the mouth or from the pen of a royalty signified a recognition of rank superior to nobility—Bellot> the distinguishing characteristic of an aristocracy is the enjoyment of privileges which are not communicable to other citizens simply by anything they can themselves do to obtain them—Hallam> However, nobility in British use does not include titled commoners (as baronets and knights). These latter are thought of as members of the aristocracy. Gentry and county are distinctively British terms applied to a class, essentially a leisurely class, who by birth and breeding can be described as gentlemen (in the technical sense) and ladies but who are without hereditary title and are classed as commoners. In British use gentility refers to a class in rank just below the nobility but often having in its membership persons of equally high birth or breeding. County, however, carries a suggestion of an association of the family with the county or section and usually of ownership of an estate in the country (<the gentility and the nobility were on friendliest terms> (<the newcomers were slow in being accepted by the county>) <the advantage claimed for this plan is that it provides us with a gentility that is, with a class of rich people able to cultivate themselves by an expensive education—Shaw) Elite is referable not to a social rank but to those members of any group or class who stand out as its flower or the ones most frequently sought after (<the elite of the nobility> <few others of the mathematical elite—Darrow>) When used without qualification elite usually means the group regarded as the highest, especially as judged by social or cultural standards (<it is the business of the college to produce an elite—superior men—North American Review>) Society is applied to that portion of a community which marks itself apart as a leisurely class much given to formal entertainments, fashionable sports, and other pursuits characteristic of an active social life (<society is now one polished horde, formed of two mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored—Byron> <there are only about four hundred people in New York Society —McAllister>)

**Ant** people, proletariat  
**Aristocrat** patrician, *gentleman*  
**Ant** commoner  
**Arm** vb accouter, outfit, equip, *furnish, appoint*  
**Ant** disarm  
**Armament** matériel, munitions, arms, ordnance, artillery, ammunition as used in modern warfare are not all synonyms of one another, but they are frequently confused. In general they mean material used in military, naval, and air operations. Armament is by far the most inclusive term, for it comprehends everything that must be considered in determining a nation's military strength, such as trained soldiers, sailors, and fliers, land fortifications, battleships and all other war vessels (as transports, submarines, destroyers), aircraft, gun, provisions, equipment, available manpower and resources. Matériel is less inclusive; it comprehends materials only and includes all the requirements of a military establishment other than personnel. Munitions is often coextensive with matériel but typically stresses supplies of war including military equipment of all kinds, especially all weapons of attack and defense and the missiles, projectiles, and propellants necessary for their use. Arms is less definite in its application than either of the preceding words, but in general, when used as an inclusive term, it covers whatever weapons soldiers or sailors need in actual fighting (as cannon, guns, rifles, pistols, swords, and bayonets). Ordinance is used in two senses, the more general of which is probably the less common. In that sense the term includes not only everything which is covered by arms, but every other weapon of attack or defense (as tanks) and everything needed for the equipment and use of these weapons (as mounts, carriages, projectiles, and missiles) or for their manufacture or repair (as tools and machinery). More narrowly and also more commonly, ordinance is a comprehensive term for all kinds of heavy firearms, especially those discharged from mounts (as cannon, guns, howitzers, and mortars). Artillery is
a close synonym of ordnance in this latter sense, but it suggests actual warfare and therefore implies group service in the management of mounted firearms. It sometimes, like the broader sense of ordnance, comprehends also the mounts, ammunition, and other items essential to the work of the branch of an army dealing with the operation of heavy guns (called also the artillery). Ammunition, though once used as a general term nearly equal to munitions, is now restricted in its application to the projectiles used in warfare (as bullets, shells, grenades, or bombs) and their necessary propellants, detonators, fuses, and primers.

**A** *fort, fortress, citadel, stronghold:* *bulwark, breastwork, rampart, bastion, parapet*

**Armistice** *truce, cease-fire, peace*

**Armory, arsenal, magazine** have related but usually distinguishable technical military senses. Armory once carried the meanings now associated with arsenal and magazine, but in current use it has commonly two applications: one, a public building in which troops (as of the National Guard) have their headquarters and facilities (as for drill and storage); the other, an establishment under government control for the manufacture of arms (as rifles, pistols, bayonets, and swords). Arsenal in its narrow sense is applied to a government establishment for the manufacture, storage, and issue of arms, ammunition, and related equipment: in popular and especially in figurative use the word usually suggests a store of or a storehouse for weapons and ammunition (weapons from the arsenal of poetic satire—Reed) (make America the arsenal of the democracies) Magazine is strictly applied to a storehouse for all sorts of military and naval supplies including especially arms and ammunition. In extended use it often more narrowly suggests a storehouse for explosives (a powder magazine) (as when high Jove his sharp artillery forms, and opes his cloudy magazine of storms—Pope) (an educated man stands, as it were, in the midst of a boundless arsenal and magazine, filled with all the weapons and engines which man’s skill has been able to devise from the earliest time—Carlyle)

In extended use magazine is applied to a supply chamber (as in a gun for cartridges, in a camera for films, or in a typesetting machine for matrices).

**Arms** ordnance, artillery, matériel, munitions, *arms—aminaent, ammunition*

**Army** host, legion, *multitude*

**Aroma** *spicy, pungent, piquant; savory (see Palatable)*

**Aromatic** balmy, redolent, fragrant.*odorous*

**Arrest** vb 1 *line, lin, range, array, align:* *assort, classify, pigeonhole, sort*

**Arrange** 1 *order, marshal, organize, systematize, methodize*

**Arraign** charge, *accuse, impeach, indict, incriminate*

**Arraignment** *summon, cite: try, test (see Prove) *

**Arrant** out-and-out, *outright, unmitigated*

**Arrive** 2 *clothe, apparel, attire, robe, dress*

**Arrhythmia** *display, parade, pomp*

**Arrhythmics** *vitalize, energize:* *start, activate: quicken*

**Arrhythmia** *interpose, intervene, interfere:* *delay, detain, retard:* *frustrate, thwart, balk*

**Activate**: *clothe, apparel, attire, robe, dress*

**Admisitance** dispose (see corresponding noun disposal): *line, line up, range, array, align:* *assort, classify, pigeonhole, sort*

**Ant** derange, disarrange — *Con* *disorder, disorganize, unsettle, disturb: disperse, scatter*

**Arrange** 2 *negotiate, concert*

**Area** plan, design, scheme, project (see under plan n)

**Arrangement** *out-and-out, outright, unmitigated*

**Array** vb 1 *line, lin, range, array, align*

**Arms** marshal, arrange, *order*

**Antidote** 2 *clothe, apparel, attire, robe, dress*

**Arrangement** *display, parade, pomp*

**Arsenal** showing or show, exhibiting or exhibition, exposing or exposition (see corresponding verbs at show): arranging or arrangement, marshaling (see corresponding verbs at order): disposition (see disposal)

**Arrest** vb 1 *Arrest, check, interrupt* mean to stop in midcourse. Arrest implies a holding fixed in the midst of movement, development, or progress and usually a preeminence of further advance until someone or something effects a release (arrest the progress of a disease) (disencouragement sometimes arrests a child’s development) (books that arrest attention) Check (see also restrain) suggests suddenness and force in stopping as though bringing to a halt sharply or with a jerk (the entrance of the teacher checked the disturbance in the schoolroom) (he checked himself just as he was about to blurt out his indignation) (he caught her by the arm as she ran past and . . . without trying to check her, simply darted in with her and up the stairs—Conrad) Interrupt stresses a breaking in and a consequent stopping, but it carries no clear suggestion that continuation is impossible or improbable (interrupt a lecture with a question) (their talk was interrupted by the arrival of visitors) (he was discouragingly interrupted at the point when ideas and words were flowing freely)

**Arrest** *interpose, intervene, interfere:* *delay, detain, retard:* *frustrate, thwart, balk*

**Arrest**: *vitalize, energize:* *start, activate: quicken*

**Arrest** *interpose, intervene, interfere:* *delay, detain, retard:* *frustrate, thwart, balk*

**Arrest** vb 2 *Arrest, apprehend, attach, detain* mean to seize and hold under restraint or in custody by authority of the law. The same likenesses and differences in meaning are manifest in the comparable use of arrest, apprehension, attachment, detention. Arrest (verb or noun) is the most widely used of these words for the seizing of a person and holding him in custody. It refers both to civil cases where a person is placed under restraint, and to criminal cases, where apprehend and apprehension are also used; strictly, one arrests a person for debt, but one apprehends a thief; witnesses are under arrest; the apprehension of the rioters is demanded. Ordinarily laymen seldom use arrest except in the sense of apprehend, for it carries connotations which make its use avoided in reference to witnesses or even suspects. The words commonly used when property is seized and held (as for payment of a debt) are attach and attachment (attach the accounts of a firm suspected of falsification of income tax reports) Attach and attachment are used in reference to persons chiefly when the intent is to make them appear in court (as to answer for contempt or to serve as a witness). Detain and detention usually imply holding in custody (as for inquiry or inspection). They are not strictly legal terms but are often used when there is the desire to avoid the stigma associated with the word arrest (the health officers detained the ship) (detain a suspect) (detain a witness)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>arrest</th>
<th>art</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ana seize, *take: *catch, capture: *imprison, incarcerate, jail</td>
<td>art n 1 Art, skill, cunning, artifice, craft can mean the faculty of performing or executing expertly what is planned or devised. Art is not actually a comprehensive term but is so variable in its implications that it is interchangeable with any one of the others and capable of carrying its specific implications; hence the last four words are synonyms of art, but they are not always closely synonymous with each other and may even at times be used in distinction from each other. The earliest and still common implications of art are those which are now associated specifically with skill: technical knowledge, and proficiency or expertise in its exercise or practical application &lt;true ease in writing comes from not art, but chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance—Pope&gt; &lt;tis hard to say, if greater want of skill appear in writing or in judging ill—Pope&gt; Both words are also used concretely with these implications &lt;there's a great art in doing these things properly. I have often had to carry off a man of fourteen stone, resting him all the time as if he was in bed—Shaw&gt; &lt;able boys and girls will . . . perceptibly accustomed . . . Russell&gt; Art also at times comes close to cunning where it adds to skill such implications as great or recondite knowledge, inventive or creative power, and capacity for perfection in execution. This sense prevails especially in the phrase “a work of art.” Sometimes either word may be substituted for the other without change of meaning &lt;high-ribbed vault . . . with wordsworth&gt; sometimes either word may be substituted for the other without change of meaning &lt;high-ribbed vault . . . with wordsworth&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Con discharge, release, liberate, *free</td>
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<tr>
<td>arrest n apprehension, detention, attachment (see under ARREST vb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana seize or seizure, taking (see corresponding verbs at TAKE): capturing or capture, catching (see corresponding verbs at CATCH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Con liberation, discharging or discharge, releasing or release (see corresponding verbs at FREE)</td>
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<td>arresting striking, remarkable, *noticeable, outstanding, salient, signal, prominent, conspicuous</td>
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<td>Ana impressive, *moving, touching, affecting, poignant: fascinating, attractive, enchanting (see under ATTRACT)</td>
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<td>Con *common, ordinary, familiar: hackneyed, stereotyped, *trite</td>
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<td>arrival, advent denote in common the reaching of a destination. Arrival implies precedent travel or movement &lt;the arrival and departure of trains&gt;</td>
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<td>the morning of my arrival&gt;</td>
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<td>Advert is sometimes applied to an important or even momentous arrival (look forward to the advent of the Messiah) Except when it connotes birth, it usually stresses appearance on the scene more than the coming or reaching of the end of a journey (life . . . with the advent of an attractive young woman took on acknowledged connotations of interest—Mary Austin)</td>
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<td>Ana coming (see COME): appearing or appearance, emerging or emergence (see corresponding verbs at APPEAR)</td>
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<td>Ant departure —Con going, leaving, withdrawing or withdrawal (see corresponding verbs at GO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>arrive *come</td>
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<td>Ant depart —Con *go, leave, withdraw, retire</td>
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<td>arrogant *proud, haughty, lordly, insolent, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful</td>
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<td>Ana imperious, domineering, *masterful, peremptory, imperative: pretentious, ostentatious (see SHOWY)</td>
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<td>Ant meek: unassuming —Con *humble, modest, lowly: yielding, submitting or submissive, deferring or deferential (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>arrogate vb Arrogate, usurp, preempt, appropriate, confiscate mean to seize or assume something by more or less high-handed methods. Arrogate (commonly followed by to and a reflexive pronoun) implies an unwarranted and usually an insolent or presumptuous claim to something assumed, frequently to the exclusion of others &lt;by arrogating to himself too much, he was in danger of losing that degree of estimation to which he was entitled—Johnson&gt; be arrogated to himself the right of deciding dogmatically what was orthodox doctrine—Macaulay&gt; the exploitation of the tourists was a monopoly which the most active of the children had arrogated by force and cunning to themselves—Huxley&gt; Usurp stresses unlawful or wrongful intrusion of oneself into the place held by another (as through law, custom, or natural right) and the seizure for oneself of the territory, power, authority, prerogatives, or rights pertaining to such place &lt;usurp a throne&gt; the dictator usurped the powers not only of the king but of the parliament&gt; literature, or culture, tended with Arnold to usurp the place of religion—T. S. Eliot&gt; Preempt implies beforehandness in taking something desired by others and keeping it in one’s own possession. Historically it implies the right to purchase or acquire (as land or property) before others and often on more favorable terms: this implication is now sometimes found in discriminating figurative use &lt;prose has preempted a lion’s share of the territory once held, either in sovereignty or on equal terms, by poetry—Lowes&gt; In current use it more often suggests arrogation or usurpation than lawful methods such as purchase &lt;when the townpeople arrived they found that the visitors had preempted all the parking places&gt; the best of the slogans suggested had already been preempted by a rival manufacturer&gt; in the game of bridge, to preempt is to make a bid aimed at shutting out shifts by the partner or bids by the opponents&gt; Appropriate more often suggests conversion to one’s own use than a setting apart for a particular or peculiar use. However, the latter implication is often retained &lt;congress appropriated three billion dollars for flood control&gt; It usually suggests an acquiring for oneself or an annexing sometimes by lawful but often by unscrupulous or even by unlawful means &lt;growing plants appropriate whatever elements they need from the soil and the air&gt; a plagiarist appropriates the ideas of others&gt; if we could by any means appropriate to our use some of the extraordinarily digestive power that a boa constrictor has—Meredith&gt; Confiscate implies seizure (as of others’ property or goods) through an exercise of authority; it does not, like appropriate, suggest conversion to the use of the one exercising authority; thus, one might note that the sheriff appropriated the liquor confiscated when the still was raided, if he took for his own use without authority what had been taken from another in a proper exercise of authority &lt;the teacher confiscated all packages of chewing gum&gt; if miners, or any other sort of workers, find that the local authorities will confiscate the incomes of the ratepayers to feed them when they are idle, their incentive to pay their way by their labor will be . . . perceptibly slackened—Shaw&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana seize, *take, grab</td>
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<td>Ant renounce: yield —Con *relinquish, surrender, cede, resign</td>
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<td>arsenal *armory, magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1</td>
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on contrived skill imply a contrast with power derived from nature or inspiration (gaining his ends by one art or another) (when you come to dissect the Odyssey, what amazing artifice is found under that apparently straightforward tale—Quiller-Couch) Art and craft (see also trade) were once close synonyms but now tend to become contrasted terms. Both words still imply ingenuity and subtlety in workmanship (a gem carved with classic art) (a bracelet wrought with all the craft of a Cellini) (naturalism in prose . . . is after all only defensible as one element in the craft, the artifice of poetry—Carruth) Both may suggest, but art less often suggests, trickery or guile in the attainment of one's ends (Henry, out of a lifetime of political craft, coached Cranmer how to turn the tables on his accusers—Hackett) Both words are also affected by their use as designations of pursuits, craft tending to be applied to a lower kind of skill or inventive power revealing itself in the mastery of materials or technique and in effects that can be analyzed and imitated, and art to what is capable of expressing a personal vision and of achieving results which defy analysis and imitation; thus, an artist may demonstrate his craft in painting sunlight but he manifests his art in painting a composition that conveys his intent to the spectator (like many of the hard-boiled writers, he will allow himself craft, but not art—Porzy)

2 craft, handicraft, profession, *trade

3 Art, science designate a branch of learning. Art as it is found in the phrases the liberal arts, bachelor of arts, master of arts refers to one of the fundamental branches of learning regarded as necessary to every educated person and serving as an instrument for his advancement in knowledge not only generally but specifically in his professional studies. In the Middle Ages the liberal arts were grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, professional studies. In the Middle Ages the liberal arts and arms—"Since the nineteenth century, especially in reference to departments of knowledge or courses given in schools, colleges, and universities, these words show a wider divergence in implications and applications and a tendency (especially in the plural forms) to be used as generic terms. On the one hand, art is applied to those courses which have for their end teaching students to make or do something that requires skill and a knowledge of technique and also, usually, special gifts such as inventiveness, taste, or ingenuity (the manual arts) (the fine art of painting) (in instruction in the arts of design) On the other hand, science is applied only to such courses or studies as deal with the gathering and classification of facts, the drawing of correct inferences from them, and the establishment of verifiable general laws (the sciences of physics, botany, and economics) (major in science) (teachers of science) Still other distinctions are drawn between the two, when art or science refers not so much to a branch of learning as to a pursuit for which one is prepared by the study of an art or science; thus, questions arise as to whether architecture is an art or a science, that is (1) whether its essential demands of the architect are inventiveness, taste, and technical skill, or a knowledge of the principles of physics, engineering, and related sciences; (2) whether the end to be served is to give aesthetic pleasure or to produce something useful (rhetoric was for Rome both an art and a science. . . . It had obvious utilitarian value, and its materials were not only exact logical concepts, but the sonorous words and the noble rhythms which were the glory of their tongue—Buchan)}

artery route, course, *way, passage, pass

artful wily, guileful, crafty, cunning, tricky, *sly, foxy, insidious

Ana adroit, *dexterous: political, diplomatic, smooth, *suave

Ant artless —Con simple, *natural, ingenious, unspooficated, naive: candid, open, *frank

article n 1 clause, plank, count, *paragraph, verse 2 *thing, object

Ana *item, detail, particular 3 *essay, paper, theme, composition

articled indented, *bound, bond

articulate adj 1 *vocal, oral

Ana distinct, clear (see EVIDENT): uttered, voiced (see EXPRESS vb)

Ant inarticulate, dumb 2 *vocal, fluent, eloquent, voluble, glib

Ana expressing, voicing, uttering, venting (see EXPRESS vb): *expressive, meaningful, significant: voluble, glib, *talking

Ant inarticulate, dumb

articulate vb 1 *integrate, concatenate

Ana unite, *join, connect, link, relate: organize, systematize, methodize, *order

Con disseck, resolve, *analyze: *separate, part, divide

2 Articulate, pronounce, enunciate are comparable when they mean to form speech sounds. To articulate is to break up, by manipulation of the vocal organs, an expiration of breath into distinct parts (as phones or words) that such a sequence of these constitutes intelligible speech (his agitation was so great that he could not articulate—Macaulay) In a precise phonetics use to articulate is to close or narrow the vocal organs in such a manner as to produce a sound, especially a consonant, of a language, more specifically by the adjustment of the tongue with relation to the palate, at the place where the tongue has, for that sound, its maximum elevation (many foreigners . . . use a t articulated by the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth . . . . This articulation produces a very unnatural effect when used in English—Daniel Jones) In slightly extended usage articulate may also mean to make the manipulations or articulations for the sounds as a whole in one's speech with such care or carefulness that one's speech is distinctly or indistinctly heard. To pronounce is to employ articulations, accentuation, and intonation with an acceptability whose yardstick is the usage of others (colonel is pronounced the same as kernel) (s in his is pronounced 2) (c at first had the value of hard g. During the classical Latin period it was pronounced k—Goudy) To enunciate is to articulate with an effectiveness whose yardstick is a listener's ease of understanding (enunciating their words with peculiar and offensive clarity—Household)

articulated integrated, concatenated (see under INTEGRATE)

Ana united, joined, connected, linked, related (see JOIN):
**artificer** artisan, *artist, architect**
**artificial**, factitious, synthetic, ersatz mean not brought into being by nature but by human art or effort or by some process of manufacture. They are not often interchangeable because of differences in some of their implications and in their range of application. **Artificial** is far more extensive in scope than the others. It may be applied to anything that is not produced by natural conditions but is in some sense a human creation.*Artificial* is applied also to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to something produced by human effort that has its counterpart in nature.*Civilization may be said to have begun when the artificial heat and light of burning fuel were first used to supplement the natural heat and light of the sun*. *Artificial* is applied also to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.*Artificial* is also applicable to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth.*Artificial flowers of wax*; *Artificial jewels made from colored glass*.
artiste 64 

ascetic

all the skills often subsumed as skilled labor. In extended use it is still often contrasted with artist, the latter now implying imaginative power and a passion for perfection, the former mere mechanical industry (free verse is not yet out of the experimental stage, and the artists who practice it have still the artisans in their own craft to reckon with —Lowes) Architect has never lost its basic implication of a master builder, though it has come to stress more the designing of something to be built than actual participation in its erection. Specifically it designates a person whose profession is to plan buildings or structures in detail and to exercise supervision over their construction in order to see that the design is executed in every particular. In extended use the word usually implies the power to conceive a thing as a whole and in detail in advance of its coming into being as well as to control its execution. It is often applied specifically to God as the Creator. Although it comes close to artist in its implications of imaginative power and constructive ability, it differs from the former in its greater emphasis upon design than upon execution <the poet is an artificer by profession, an architect experimenting with a variety of materials, concerned with . . . new designs—Day Lewis> Ana craftsman, workman (see worker): creator, *maker: *writer, composer, author 2 artiste, virtuoso, *expert, adept, wizard

artistic, aesthetic are often understood as equivalent terms, especially when used in such collocations as the artistic or aesthetic temperament; artistic or aesthetic satisfaction; artistic or aesthetic standards or values; for artistic or aesthetic reasons. But artistic may stress the point of view of the artist or of one who actually produces a work of art, who thinks in terms of technique, of the relationship of details to the design of the whole, or of the effects to be gained and who therefore regards beauty as a thing that results from his attention to these matters and that is his creation. By extension artistic may imply also the point of view of one who studies or judges art objectively from the artist's angle. On the other hand aesthetic stresses the point of view of one who contemplates a finished work of art or beauty that exists and who thinks in terms of the effect it has upon him and especially of the sensations it stimulates and the feelings it excites. Strictly, the artistic temperament shows itself in an urge to fashion or to express and to create out of materials, words, or sounds the beautiful thing that the artist designs or conceives: the aesthetic temperament shows itself in a responsiveness to beauty wherever it is found, and by contrast, in aversion to that which is ugly. Artistic satisfaction is the gratification that comes to one who can look at a work of art (his own or another's) and call it good: aesthetic satisfaction is the content that accompanies the enjoyment of beauty for its own sake and independently of all other considerations. For aesthetic, largely because of its connection with aesthetics, the branch of philosophy dealing with beauty, usually implies a distinction between that which is beautiful and that which is moral or useful or merely pleasing. Artistic standards are therefore the tests of perfection in a work of art which artists and critics have accepted: aesthetic standards are the usually subjective criteria which have been set up by aestheticians or by the individual to enable him to distinguish the beautiful from the merely pleasing or gratifying.

artless *natural, simple, ingenuous, naive, unsophisticated, unaffected

Ana *spontaneous, impulsive: candid, open, plain, *frank: *straightforward, aboveboard, forthright

Ant artful: affected —Con *sly, cunning, wily, insid-
the other hand, suggests the possession of a power (as a high capacity for contemplation) or of an inner revelation, by means of which one overpasses the limits of human reason and by spiritual insight comes to a knowledge of that which is divine or supernatural. Ascetic and mystic, therefore, when applied to the same person, regard him from different points of view; the former implies that he practices austerities believed favorable to spiritual contemplation; the latter, that he has had the mystical experiences that are the end of contemplation. But the two terms do not necessarily imply each other; ascetic, even when applied to those who aim at spiritual perfection, does not connote attainment of mystical knowledge; mystic, on the other hand, does not in itself imply a connection with an ascetic life. Although asceticism and mysticism may denote doctrines and practices, their chief differences are apparent when they denote the theory upon which such doctrines and practices are based. Asceticism often designates the theory that abstinence from otherwise lawful acts or pleasures and the practice of austerities are conducive to spiritual and intellectual perfection; mysticism, the theory that immediate knowledge of God or ultimate reality is attainable through a faculty that transcends the reason and makes no use of ordinary human perceptive or ratiocinative powers (one is sometimes tempted to think that to approve mysticism is to preach asceticism. Certainly many mystics have been ascetic. But that has been the accident of their philosophy and not the essence of their religion—Ellis).

**Ana** anchorite, hermit, eremite, cenobite (see RECLUSE); monk, friar, nun, *religious

**Ant** bon vivant—Con *epicure, gourmet, gourmand, glutton: sensualist, voluptuary, sybarite (see correspond-
sometimes with a sense of guilt and always with the awareness of being discredited or disgraced by one's own or vicariously another's shameful or indecorous act, behavior, or situation (he sees that he has nothing to be ashamed of in you—rather everything to be proud of—Meredith) (suddenly Joe began to cry. He was ashamed and did not want his wife to see—Anderson). One is also ashamed who by anticipating such feelings is reluctant or unwilling to do something that seems shameful (what shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed—Lk 16:3). One is mortified whose embarrassment and humiliation are mixed with a strong sense of being put in a false or disagreeable light and who suffers more because of loss of esteem or a hurt to his own pride than because of the shameful or indecorous character of the act, behavior, or situation; thus, one might say that the boy was not ashamed of his conduct (because he did not consider it wrong) but he was mortified when he was suspended from the team (because others viewed his conduct in a light that resulted in injury to his pride and position) ("Don't spare him; let the university expel him! ... Let Robert be ashamed, if you would save his soul alive!"). Robert was sullen and mortified, but, alas, not ashamed—Deland). One is chagrined whose embarrassment and humiliation are accompanied by vexation or annoyance (Tony, somewhat chagrined at his mistake, said he should like to see the other pictures—Archibald Marshall) (I was as much chagrined as they were flabbergasted by this involuntary outbreak—L. P. Smith). A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

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aspect

1 look, *appearance, semblance

Ana *face, countenance, visage: *bearing, mien, port, presence

2 *phase, side, facet, angle

Ana angle, slant, *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint

asperity *acrimony, acerbity

Ana sharpness, keenness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP); causticity, mordacity, (see corresponding adjectives at CAUSTIC); snappishness, waspishness, irritability (see corresponding adjectives at IRRITABLE)

Ant amenity —Con *courtesy, gallantry; suavity, ur-Ant amenity, blandness (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE)

asperse vb vilify, *malign, traduce, calumniate, slander, defame, libel

Ana disparage, depreciate, derogate, detract, *decry: revile, vituperate (see SCOLD): defile (see CONTAMINATE)

Con *praise, extol, laud, acclaim, eulogize: *commend, applaud, compliment

asperion *reflection, *animadversion, stricture

Ana *libel, lampoon, pasquinade, squib, skit: *abuse, vituperation, invective, obloquy: *detraction, backbiting, calumny, slander, scandal

Arm praise, laudation, eulogizing or eulogy (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE): *applause, acclaim, acclamation, plaudits: commendation, complimenting or compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND)

asphyxiate *suffocate, stifle, smother, choke, strangle, asphyxiate

Ana *ambition, pretension

aspiration *aim, pant

Ana assassin, cutthroat, gunman, bravo designate a murderer or one who can be hired to murder in cold blood. Assassin stresses secrecy and treachery in operation (like assassins, these destructive animals do their work in the dark). It is chiefly applied to murderers of important personages (tyrants always live in dread of assassins) (revolutions breed assassins) Cutthroat and gunman usually designate professional hired murderers. Cutthroat is chiefly literary or merely figurative because daggers and knives are no longer the weapons usually employed by such criminals, but the word still commonly suggests brutal methods of murder (I am a soldier, sir, and not a cutthroat —Froude). Gunman is used somewhat more broadly than the foregoing terms since it may denote not only one who murders with a firearm but one (as a gangster) who goes armed and is prepared to shoot to prevent interference with his criminal activities or at the orders of a leader or employer. Basically a bravo is a blustering unscrupulous ruffian or desperado (a few halfhearted catcalls from young bravos of the opposing party —Barker). The word is especially applicable in an historical situation and commonly implies a valency sufficient to perform murder for hire (unfolds all of seventeenth-century Italy and its dramas—its predatory noblemen, its murderous bravos —Rolfe) (the hired bravos who defend the tyrant's throne —Shelley)

Ana murderer, slayer, killer (see corresponding verbs at KILL)

assassinate murder, *kill, slay, dispatch, execute

assault n attack, onslaught, onset

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Americans once worked a revolution of which they are proud, we need not feel so bound by this fact that we demurely accede to every other revolution, regardless of its methods, purposes, and consequences—Yale Review> (Mr. Bennet could have no hesitation in acceding to the proposal before him—Austen) Acquiesce implies tacit acceptance or forbearance of opposition (no organism acquiesces in its own destruction—Mencken) Agree may or may not imply previous difference of opinion, but it very often carries an implication of this and also of previous discussion, negotiation, or attempts at persuasion (he reluctantly agreed that his son be allowed to choose his own college) (post, my lord, to France: agree to any covenants—Shak.) Subscribe denotes assent but it implies in addition hearty approval; it seldom implies actually signing one's name in token of assent, but it does connote a willingness to go on record (no one would subscribe at present to the Kantian doctrine, that mathematics derive their validity from their applicability to sensible experience—Alexander)

Ana accept, *receive: *adopt, embrace, espouse: believe, credit (see corresponding nouns at BELIEF)
Ant dissent —Con *deny, gainsay, impugn: reject, spurn, refuse (see DECLINE): *object, protest

assert 1 Assert, declare, profess, affirm, aver, protest, avouch, avow, predicate, warrant agree in meaning to state positively usually either in anticipation of denial or objection or in the face of it. Assert implies absence of proof: it usually ascribes to the speaker or writer either assurance of the grounds for his statement or such confidence in his opinions as to make him indifferent to evidence (that rigid sect which asserts that all real science is precise measurement—Ellis) (Hobart . . . could talk; he could assert . . . but he couldn't meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay) Declare and profess add to assert the implication of open or public statement and are often interchangeable. In precise usage declare is somewhat more formal and impersonal than profess which is especially suitable for conveying a personal or emotional involvement in what is under discussion; thus, a government declares war while a citizen professes complete trust in his government: a jury declares a man guilty but his mother professes continued belief in his innocence (they do not, for the most part . . . declare . . . that no war can ever be right—Inge) (he talked well, professes good opinions—Austen) Profess but not declare may carry a suggestion of insincerity (our princes of darkness . . . have become what they profess to scorn—angels of light—Sullivan) Affirm implies conviction of truth and willingness to stand by one's statement because it is supported by evidence or one's experience or faith (yet, with the evidence before us . . . we cannot affirm that this is the later play—T. S. Eliot) (politicians more often affirm their desire for retirement than show that they really mean it—Times Lit. Sup.) Aver suggests complete confidence and certainty of truth (for all averred, I had killed the bird—Coleridge) Protest stresses emphasis in affirmation, especially in the face of doubt or contradiction (I here protest, in sight of heaven . . . I am clear—Shak.) (he protested that, except Lady Catherine and her daughter, he had never seen a more elegant woman—Austen) Avouch usually imparts authority or personal knowledge to the maker of a positive statement (his own deposition—Cardinal); avow implies (he had made it before them—Yonge) Avow implies open and emphatic declaration and personal responsibility for the statement (we affirm and avow that the very meanest translation of the Bible in English . . . containeth the word of God—Bible: Preface to A. V., 1611) Predicate, though occa-sionally used as a close synonym of the preceding words, usually implies the affirmation of something as a quality, a property, or a concomitant of something (logic works by predicating of the single instance what is true of all its kind—James) (to predicate of diabolic agencies, which are gifted with angelic intellects, the highly ridicu-lous activities which are so characteristic of poltergeist visitations—J. McCarthy) Warrant (see also JUS-TIFY 3) carries a strong implication of assurance or positiveness, sometimes suggesting little or no fear that one will be doubted or contradicted, and at other times connoting one's personal guarantee (I warrant that's just what will happen) (I'll warrant he's as good a gentleman as any—Buchan) (as smooth as silk, I warrant ye—L'Estrange) (cheap-jacks who sell at dockyard gates a pill warranted to cure measles, toothache and rupture—Montague)

Ana allege, advance, cite, *adduce
Ant deny: controvert —Con gainsay, contradict, negative, traverse, contravene (see DENY): *disprove, refute, rebut, confute
2 vindicate, justify, *maintain, defend
Ana proclaim, *declare, publish. advertiser: *express, voice, utter

assertive self-assertive, *aggressive, pushing, pushy, militant

Ant retiring: acquiescent —Con *shy, bashful, diffi-cient, modest; docile, *obedient, amenable, biddable
assess assay, appraise, value, evaluate, *estimate, rate
Ana *calculate, compute, reckon

asset 1 (in plural form assets) resources, means, *possessions, effects, belongings
Ant liabilities
2 *credit
Ant handicap

assiduous sedulous, diligent, industrious, *busy
Ana *indefatigable, tireless, untiring, unwearied
Ant desultory —Con *random, haphazard, casual, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky: *lazy, slothful, indolent, faineant: remiss, lax, slack (see NEGLIGENCE)

assign 1 *allot, allocate, apportion
Ana fix, *set, establish, settle: *distribute, deal, dole, dispense
2 refer, *ascribe, attribute, impute, credit, accredite, charge
Ana attach, *fasten, affix: relate, link, associate (see JOIN): pigeonhole, classify (see ASSORT)
3 *prescribe, define
Ana determine, settle, *decide: consign, relegate, *com-mit, entrust

asignation rendezvous, tryst, date, *engagement, appointment

assignment *task, duty, job, stint, chore

assimilate 1 *identify, incorporate, embody
Ana *change, alter, modify, vary: *transform, metamorphose, transmute: blend, fuse, merge, commingle, *mix
2 *absorb, imbibe
Ana engross, absorb, *monopolize: *adopt, embrace, espouse: *infuse, imbue, ingrain, sulfuse, inculcate, leaven

asimilation *perception, identification, *recognition

assist *help, aid
Ana *support, uphold, back, champion: profit, avail, *benefit: attend, *accompany, escort: cooperate, concur (see UNITE)
Ant hamper: impede —Con *hinder, obstruct, block: trammel, clog, fetter (see HAMPER): *prevent, forestall

assistance help, aid (see under HELP vb)
**associate**

**Ant**

impendiment: obstruction

**assistant**

**Ant**

Assistant, helper, coadjutor, aid, aide, aide-de-camp all denote persons who take over part of the duties of another, especially in a subordinate capacity. Assistant is applicable to a person who meets this description, regardless of the status of his work (a baker's assistant) (a bishop's assistant) (a superintendent's assistant). Helper often implies apprenticeship in a trade or the status of an unskilled laborer (a bricklayer's helper). A mother's helper often performs the duties of a nursemaid. Coadjutor usually implies equivalence except in authority; it may be used either of a co-worker or a volunteer assistant (in working so complex a mechanism as the government of the empire he must have willing coadjutors—Buchan) (at St. James I met with a kind and cordial coadjutor in my biblical labors in the bookseller of the place—Borrow) (decided to share the government of the Roman world with a coadjutor—R. M. French). In a specific use it names or is applied to a bishop who serves as an assistant to the bishop having jurisdiction over a diocese. Especially in Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal use it implies the right of succession. Aide and aide-de-camp are often interchangeable synonyms of assistant (a laboratory aide) (aides and orderlies). ... assist the professional nurses—Nursing World. Aide frequently but aide rarely denotes a special and often highly qualified assistant able to act as an adviser to his principal (questioned the use of presidential aides in foreign affairs) (with their chief aides they will discuss the problems of the interregnum—N. Y. Times). Aide and aide-de-camp designate a military or naval officer who personally attends a general or a sovereign, a president or a governor, often as an escort but sometimes with definitely prescribed duties.

**associate**

**Ant**

associate, companion, comrade, crony mean a person frequently found in the company of another. Associate is the general term, referable to anyone whose company one enjoys or tolerates more or less regularly and usually on terms of equality because of a business, social, fraternal, or similar connection or because of a community of interests or aims (a person is known by his associates) (his associates included all the prominent young men of the town) (he became a leader of fashion. Then, to the visible embarrassment of his young associates, he suddenly tired of it all—Day Lewis). Companion refers to a person who actually accompanies or attends one; a person who walks along the street with one or who sits with one at a restaurant table may be called a companion for the time being even if one has never seen him before and never sees him afterwards. However, the word often implies more habitual association and closer personal relationship than associate (his wife was his lifelong companion) (he no longer stood alone; the companions of his youth had become in the full sense his coadjutors—Buchan) (she was her darling brother, her beloved companion in adventure—Rose Macaulay). Sometimes the association is not the result of friendship or of relationship but of a business arrangement (the old lady sought a competent paid companion). Comrade implies association in a common calling or pursuit, and more or less familiarity in companionship (comrades in arms) (school comrades). Commonly it connotes more sentiment than either associate or companion, even though that sentiment is sometimes no more than a sense of shared fortunes or experiences, or a consciousness of having worked or played together (return to her ... no, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose ... to be a comrade with the wolf and owl—Shak) (which weep the comrade of my choice ... the human-hearted man I loved—Tennyson). Crony is seldom used of a young person, though often applied to an older person who was an intimate friend in school days or with whom one has been on intimate terms for a very long time (an old crony of his turned up after a long absence from England) (the two old ladies are great cronies). Ana + partner, colleague, ally, confederate: accomplice, abettor, accessory (see confederate); assistant, helper, coadjutor, aide

**Con**

Antagonist, adversary, opponent; enemy; foe: rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL)

**association**

society, club, order denote a body of persons who unite in the pursuit of a common aim or object. Association is in general used of an organization which is inclusive in its membership, excluding only those whose personal affiliations, interests, and needs are different from those of the typical member or, if the object of the organization is service of some sort, those who do not belong to the business, the industry, or the profession served (the Young Men's Christian Association) (the Modern Language Association) (the National Association of Manufacturers). Society is often used interchangeably with association, but it tends to suggest a more restricted aim, a closer union of members, and their more active participation, and sometimes a narrower field of choice of membership (the Christian Endeavor Society) (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) (a missionary society) (a secret society) (the Philological Society) (Society for Ethical Culture) (Club) usually suggests such privacy that admission to membership is only through election and invitation; it often also implies quarters for the meeting and entertainment of members and therefore is applied to the buildings or rooms as well as to the organization (going to the country club to play golf) (a political club) (a bridge club) (most large cities have a university club). Order is applied chiefly to a society whose members have common aims and accept common obligations (as of working together in brotherly union and of practicing certain virtues) (a religious order) (a fraternal order). Order usually suggests in addition a ritual, a uniform, and honorary distinctions (the Independent Order of Odd Fellows) (the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks)

**assort**

sort, classify, pigeonhole mean to arrange in systematic order or according to some definite method of arrangement or distribution. Assort (see also assorted under MISCELLANEOUS) implies division into groups of like things or of things intended for the same purpose or destination (assort the jumbled contents of an attic) (assorted his bills and papers). When used in reference to homogeneous material, assort usually implies grading (as according to size, condition, or value) (assort oranges for the market) (assort the books by author and subject). Often, additionally, it implies selection, either of what is to be eliminated or of what is to be chosen or preserved (her mind was busily assorting and grouping the faces before her—Glasgow). (the company indeed was perfectly assorted, since all the members belonged to the little inner group of people who, during the long New Year season, dispersions togethers themselves daily and nightly—Wharton). Sort usually equals assort but is often preferred to it when

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**Ana**

analogous words

**Ant**

antonyms

**Con**

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
assorted

70

assuage

alleviate, *relieve, mitigate, lighten, allay

at

assortment

see corresponding adjective assorted

assorted

*miscellaneous, heterogeneous, motley, pro-
miscuous

the latter would seem too literary or too technical *sort mail* 
*sort stockings* 
*sort yarns* Frequently, es-
specially with out, sort implies culling or selection even more than arrangement *he sorted and re-sorted his cargo, always finding a more necessary article for which a less necessary had to be discarded—Cather* Classify is more often used of things that fall into intellectual categories than of those which can be physically grouped. It usually implies a division into kinds or types and an arrangement for convenience in dealing with material that cannot be assembled or that is not before one *classify bodies of water* 
*classify poems as epic, lyric, and dramatic* 
*classify languages according to the way in which words are formed* 
Pigeonhole suggests an arrangement of small compartments in a writing desk or of boxes in a post office, each compartment being a receptacle for one group of letters or papers that are sorted or classified; it implies the ability to put each of a number of things in its right class or category *he pigeonholes the wild flowers he meets on a day's walk by assigning each to its proper classification or by being able to give it its proper specific or generic name* *he pigeonholes every bit of information that comes to him by filing it away in his memory properly labeled and in its right place with relation to the rest of his knowledge*

*Ana* arrange, methodize, systematize, *order

Con *mix, mingle, commingle: derange, disarrange, disorganize, *disorder

assorted

*miscellaneous, heterogeneous, motley, pro-
miscuous

Ana diverse, *different, various, disparate, divergent: selected, picked, chosen, preferred (see CHOOSE): mixed, mingled (see MIX)

Ant jumbled —Con *like, similar, identical, uniform

assortment

see corresponding adjective assorted at

MISCELLANEOUS

Ana *mixture, blend, compound: combining or combina-
tion, associating or associating, uniting or union (see corresponding verbs at JOIN)

Ant jumble, hodgepodge

assuage

alleviate, *relieve, mitigate, lighten, allay

Ana temper, *moderate: *comfort, solace, console: mollify, placate, appease, *pacify

Ant exacerbate: intensify —Con *kindle (see LIGHT vb): aggravate, heighten (see INTENSIFY): *increase, augment

assume

1 Assume, affect, pretend, simulate, feign, counterfeit, sham mean to put on a false or deceptive appearance. Assume often implies a pardonable motive rather than an intent to deceive *it sometimes happens that by assuming an air of cheerfulness we become cheerful in reality—Cowper* To affect is to make a show of possessing or using something, usually for effect, but sometimes be-
cause of one's liking for it *affect plainness of speech* 
*affect a gesture, an opinion, a phrase, because it is the rage with a large number of persons—Hazlitt* *Jones had really that taste for humor which others affect—Fielding* 

Pretend implies overt profession of what is false *that pretended liking called politeness—L. P. Smith* *pretend to be insane* *even their clowns had to be learned or to pretend learning—Highley* To simulate is to assume the characteristics of something else by imitating its appear-
ance or outward signs *trees hewn to simulate formidable artillery pieces were dragged into position all along the ramparts—Amer. Guide Series: La.* Feign implies more invention than pretend, less specific imitation of life than simulate *I grow angry and I curse them, and they feign penitence, but behind my back I know they call me a tooth-
less old ape—Kipling* But feign and simulate are often interchangeable. Counterfeit implies the highest degree of verisimilitude of any of the words in this group *are you not mad indeed? or do you but counterfeit?—Shak.* *many noblemen gave the actor-manager access to their collections of armor and weapons in order that his accou-
term should exactly counterfeit that of a Norman baron—Shaw* Sham implies feigning with an intent to deceive; it usually connotes deception so obvious that it fools only the gullible *sham sickness* *sham sleeping* *when the curtain falls there are more actors shamming dead upon the stage than actors uptight—H. A. L. Craig* 

Ana dissemble, *disguise, cloak, mask, camouflage

2 *presuppose, postulate, presume, premise, posit

Ana *conjecture, surmise: *grant, concede, allow: *assert, affirm, aver, predicate, profess

assumption

presupposition, postulate, posit, presumption, premise (see under PRESUPPOSE)

Ana *hypothesis, theory: *principle, fundamental, axiom, theorem: conjecture, surmise (see under CONJECTURE vb)

assurance

1 certitude, *certainty, conviction

Ana *belief, faith, credence, credit: *trust, confidence, reliance, dependence: positiveness, sureness,cocksure-

ness (see corresponding adjectives at SURE)

Ant mistrust: doubtful —Con doubt, *uncertainty, skepticism, suspicion: disbelief, *unbelief, incredulity

2 self-assurance, *confidence, self-confidence, self-pos-
session, aplomb

Ana sangfroid, compose, *equanimity: sureness, san-
guineness (see corresponding adjectives at CONFIDENT): mettle, resolution, spirit, *courage, tenacity: effrontery, *temerity, nerve

Ant diffidence: alarm —Con timorousness, timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID): shyness, bash-
fulness, modesty (see corresponding adjectives at SHY

assure

insure, *ensure, secure

Ana alarm —Con *frighten, scare, fright, terrify: abash, 

discomfit, *embarrass: intimidate, cow

assured

*confident, sanguine, sure, presumptuous

Ana fearless, unapproachable, unafraid (see affirmative adjectives at FEARFUL): *cool, composed, unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, collected

Ant abashed: timorous —Con discomfited, embar-
rassed, rattled, disconcerted (see EMBARRASS): *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: hesitant, reluctant (see DISIN-
CLINED)

astern

*abaft, aft

Ana after, hint, rear, back (see POSTERIOR)

Ant ahead —Con *before, forward

astonish

*surprise, astonish, amaze, flabbergast

Ana nonplus, dumbfound, bewilder, confound (see PUZZLE): impress, strike, touch, *affect

astonoud

*surprise, astonish, amaze, flabbergast

Ana dumbfound, confound, nonplus, bewilder (see PUZZLE): startle, affright, alarm, terrify (see FRIGHTEN)

astral

*starry, stellar, sidereal

astray

*amiss

astute

*shrewd, perspicacious, sagacious

Ana *sharp, keen, acute: discreet, prudent, foresighted

Ant *before, forward

astern

*abaft, aft

Ant false, unapproachable, unfair (see affirmative adjectives at FEARFUL): *cool, composed, unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, collected

Ant abashed: timorous —Con discomfited, embarr-
rassed, rattled, disconcerted (see EMBARRASS): *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: hesitant, reluctant (see DISIN-
CLINED)

at

1 At, in, on cause difficulty when used in phrases giving the place or locality of an action. When reference to the interior of any place is made prominent, on is used; when a place is regarded as a mere local point, at is more com-
monly employed: when the direction is indicated, on is sometimes used in place of at *look for a book in the
library) meet a friend at the library (sit on my right) (the town lies on the east coast) he appointed regular meetings of the States of England twice a year in London —Hume (an English king was crowned at Paris—Macaulay) In is commonly employed before the names of countries or districts and at before names of institutions, public offices, or business houses (in America) (in the South) Milton was educated at Christ’s College (at the customhouse) (at the jeweler’s) With names of towns and cities the choice between in or at usually depends upon whether the place designated is felt respectively (1) as an including area or scene, especially with an implication of destination or permanence of occupancy, or of having familiar associations for the speaker or (2) merely as a point (as along a journey or course) on a map or in space or at a remove from the speaker (on our way to visit in Troy we lounged at Albany) (after a stopover at Chicago, we arrived in Sioux Falls on Friday) (a man born here in Zenith is consul at Hong Kong) In giving a town address we say at 141 Wood Street in Springfield. In giving the street without the number, in is preferred in Great Britain, on in the United States.

2 At, in, on are clearly distinguishable when used to introduce a phrase giving the time of an action. When reference is to time by the clock or to a point of time registered by a clock, at is commonly used (at two o’clock) (promptly at the hour appointed) (at three minutes to six) When the reference is not to a point but to a period in the course of which an action occurs, in is the usual preposition (at two o’clock in the afternoon) (September 1st in the year 1939) (in the month of May) When the reference is to a particular day in the course of which something occurs, on is used (on July fourth there will be a celebration) (it happened on a Sunday) On is sometimes used also with reference to a point of time with which there is, or should be, coincidence (be here on the hour) (he is always on the dot)

**atavism** reversal, throwback **atavistic** reversionary (see under REVERSION)

**atheist, agnostic, deist, freethinker, unbeliever, infidel** designate a person who rejects some or all of the essential doctrines of religion and particularly the existence of God. An **atheist** is one who denies the existence of God; an **agnostic** is one who withholds belief (though he may not deny the possible existence of a supreme being) because he does not know and is unwilling to accept as proof the evidence of revelation and spiritual experience; a **deist** is one who rejects the conception of a supreme being as ruler and guide of men and the universe, but still believes in a god who is the creator and the final judge of men. Since deism implies a denial of revelation and supernaturalism, **deist** has often been used as though it were the equivalent of **atheist**. **Freethinker** suggests loss of faith and the rejection of any or all of the tenets of revealed religion in favor of what seems rational or credible. **Unbeliever** is more negative than **freethinker**, because it carries no implication of a substitute for faith. **Infidel** denotes one who is not a Christian or who opposes Christianity; it is used by Christians especially to designate monotheists (as Muslim) who do not subscribe to the Judeo-Christian concept of God and in such usage is distinguishable from **heathen** and pagan. From the Mohammedan point of view, especially as presented in English fiction and poetry, **infidel** often means a Christian.

**Ant** theist **athirst** avid, *eager, keen, anxious, agog

**Ana** thirsting, hungering, pining, yearning, longing (see LONG vb) craving, coveting or covetous, desiring or desirous (see corresponding verbs at DESIRE)

**Con** indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof: *languid, lackadaisical, listless: apathetic, *impassive

**athlete, gymnast** agree in denoting a person skilled in physical performance requiring agility, powers of endurance, and, often, muscular strength. **Athlete** also usually implies the status of a contender in games or in sports involving a contest, whether outdoor or indoor; school or college **athletes** are the students who participate in school sports (as football, baseball, basketball, or track) (an outstanding **athlete** who had participated in several college sports) A **gymnast** is one who is skilled in bodily exercises and calisthenics performed often with the aid of apparatus for the development of nimbleness, strength, and control in the use of the body (leaping back a yard . . . with the speed and security of a trained **gymnast** —Stevenson)

**athletic** muscular, husky, sinewy, brawny, burly **Ana** strong, stalwart, sturdy: lusty, *vigorouus, strenuous, energetic **Con** frail, fragile, *weak

**athletics, sports, games** denote physical activities engaged in for exercise or play. **Athletics** is a collective term (not used in the singular) for exercises for the performance of which one acquires and maintains agility, skill, stamina by regular and systematic training and practice usually with the aim of competing, singly or as a member of a team, with others similarly trained, whether for pleasure, to keep the body in trim, to win honor for oneself, one’s team, school, or club, or to earn a livelihood (college **athletics** include football, basketball, hockey, baseball, rowing, and tennis) **baseball, hockey, football, and tennis are among the better-known professional **athletics**)**. **Sports** are forms of physical activity, usually outdoor, that afford pleasure or diversion. The term may be used in the singular for any of the various forms of athletics, since whatever the main purpose of athletic activity may be, a certain amount of pleasure is usually derived (football, basketball, hockey, baseball, rowing, and tennis are among the popular **sports** with those who go out for athletics in college) (major-league baseball is a professional **sport**) The idea of training to develop agility, skill, or stamina, prominent in **athletics**, is frequently wanting in **sports**, which may involve so little exertion or be engaged in for so short a period or so infrequently as not to require it; thus, an impromptu baseball game between two pickup teams falls under the head of **sport**, but hardly of **athletics**. So also the idea of competition, usually present in **athletics**, is frequently wanting in **sports** (noncompetitive skating, skiing, canoeing, and swimming are **sports**) The term is wider than **athletics**, including such activities as hunting and fishing (in which the pleasure derives from pursuit of quarry). Since sports contests are often an object of interest to others, the term **sports** is applied also to contests which provide amusement or diversion for spectators as well as or often rather than contestants; horse racing, dog racing, bullfighting, and cockfighting are **sports** we . . . have every source of amusement open to us, and yet follow these cruel **sports**—Windham) **Games** (for singular see **FUN**) are athletic or sports contests, usually those which are of a somewhat artificial nature and therefore require more extensive rules than such contests as rowing, boxing, wrestling, and skating. Thus, practically all forms of competition that make use of a ball or similar object are called **games** (as baseball, foot-ball, hockey, golf, tennis, and polo). Although the plural **games** may be used interchangeably with **meet** of a competition consisting chiefly or only of track-and-field events (Olympic **games**) the singular **game** is applied to few of the individual events of such a competition.
hypochondriac, melancholic, melancholy
atonement

atom 1 *air, ether, ozone

attack vb Attack, assail, assault, bombard, storm are comparable not only in their military but also in their extended senses. All carry as their basic meaning to make a more or less violent onset upon. Attack originally connoted a fasting upon something as a beast of prey fastens upon its victim. It now implies aggression or aggressiveness in all its senses and usually the initiative in entering into an engagement or struggle (as with a person or thing that is opposed or that one intends to conquer) (plan to attack the enemy at dawn) (attack the position of his opponents in a debate) (attack a problem in engineering) (they lack the courage to attack their other studies with the requisite to success—Grandgent) (it had become increasingly apparent that the logical method of eradicating disease was to attack it at its source—Heiser) Assail suggests the action of one who would conquer by force of repeated blows rather than by brute strength. Its chief distinction from attack is in this suggestion of repetition of means (as blows, strokes, shots, or thrusts) of breaking down resistance (assail an enemy with shells) (assail with reproaches) (assailed by temptations) (property interests . . . assailed by attempts to put industry upon a

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
more reasonable and more equitable footing—Hobson
old pains keep on gnawing at your heart, old desires
... old dreams, assailing you—Conrad
Assault implies close contact or a direct confrontation; in contrast with assail, it suggests the use of brute strength and an attempt to overpower by suddenness and violence of onslaught
<assault a person with a club>
<assault a stronghold on all sides>
<while other aircraft assaulted supply buildings—N. Y. Times>
<a universal hubbub wild of stunning sounds ... assaults his ear—Milton>
Bombard literally means to assail continuously and devastatingly with bombs or shells
(the advancing German army in 1914 expected to bombard Paris and bring a quick end to the war) It is, in its stronger implication of importunity or of continuous pestering, distinguishable from assail <he bombarded Cicero with letters asking for advice—Buchan>
(the reporters bombarded the district attorney with questions)
Storm means to assault with the violence, rush, and effectiveness of a sudden and devastating storm or wind; it connotes an attempt to sweep from its path every obstacle to a victory <several of their bravest officers were shot down in the act of storming the fortress—Irving>
<who think to storm the world by dint of merit—Burns>
Ana fight, *contend, battle, war: beset, overrun (see INFEST): *surprise, waylay, ambush
Con *define, shield, guard, protect: *resist, withstand, oppose, combat

attack n
1 Attack, assault, onslaught, onset denote an attempt made on another or on others to injure, destroy, or, if possible, to disgrace or to bring about the fall of.
An attack may be upon the physical person or it may be upon the character, the reputation, the writings of a person or persons; it often suggests animosity or definite enmity as its cause, but it may imply motives as various as wanton cruelty, partisan feeling, or a critical intention <the victim of a cowardly attack by hoodlums>
<the speech was a severe attack upon the policies of the administration>
<the book was the object of attacks from all sides>
<an unprovoked attack upon the fairness of the court>
Assault implies more violence, more malice or viciousness, and often the infliction of greater damage or more reparable damage than attack.
However, an assault upon the person is legally an apparently violent attempt or a willful offer with force or violence to injure or hurt that person physically.
When the hurt has been inflicted, the precise legal term for the act is assault and battery.
Rape is sometimes specifically called an assault.
In military language an assault is sometimes distinguished from an attack upon the enemy, the former term being applied only to the last phase of an attack or offensive movement, when the aggressors close upon their opponents and the issue is determined.
Usually assault and attack are not clearly distinguishable except in emphasis; thus, an assault upon a person's character suggest violent emotion (as hatred or vindictiveness); an attack upon a person's character need not imply strong feeling as its motive <the passage ... shows how alarmed a Hegelian may be by an assault upon the authority of science—Inge>
Onslaught suggests a vigorous and destructive method of attack; it usually implies an attempt to overwhelm by force of momentum or of numbers or by the fury of the assault
<the defenders, taken by surprise, were unable to repel the onslaught>
>No play can withstand such an onslaught from the critics>
<he sees I am no man to take rebuff.... quick to the onslaught, out sword, cut and thrust!—Brown-ing>
Onset is applicable chiefly to a war or to a type of fighting that involves invasion or encroachment upon another's territory and usually further connotes a determination to maintain the advantage of the attacking side
pledged never to fight in a war of aggression
<the business of government is to check aggression only—Smith>
<an aggressive war, as distinguished from mere plundering inroads—Freeman>
Offense and offensive characterize the position or the methods of the attacking side.
The noun is interchangeable with attack only when the latter word does not refer to a concrete action; thus, one may speak of methods of attack (or of offense) as contrasted with methods of defense but one would use "a war of offense" (rather than of attack) and "readiness for an attack" (rather than for offense). Both words are distinguishable from aggression and aggressive, which in many ways they closely resemble, by their absence of suggestion of any motive or aim other than that of a desire for supremacy.
Offensive implies vigorously aggressive action especially in war; thus, when taking the offensive one carries on offensive operations.
Offensive may also denote a particular campaign or episode marked by such action
<an economic offensive can often prevent the necessity for a more costly military defense—Draper>
<to be offensive means to carry the war to the enemy. And this as well is the most effective sort of defense—AgeIon>

3 *fit, access, accession, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion
attacking adj aggressive, offensive (see under ATTACK n)
attain *reach, compass, gain, achieve
Ana *come, attain: win, acquire, secure, obtain, *get: accomplish, effect (see PERFORM)
attemptation accomplishment, *acquirement, acquisition
attaint vb taint, pollute, defile, *contaminate

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
attempt, nothing gained> (here Shakespeare tackled a problem which proved too much for him. Why he attempted it at all is an insoluble puzzle—T. S. Eliot
Try is often thought of as a simpler equivalent of attempt; in discriminating use, however, the two terms are distinguishable by subtle differences in meaning. Try seldom loses the implication of effort or experiment directed toward the end of ascertaining a fact or of testing or proving a thing. This implication is especially apparent in some idiomatic phrases; thus, one tries a window by attempting to open it so as to find out if it is fastened; one tries one's hand at something by attempting to do something new to test one's ability or aptitude; one tries one's luck with the horses by betting on horse races in the hope of proving one's luck. Try is the word of choice when effort or experiment or testing are stressed rather than a venturing upon or undertaking (try to find which of two methods is the better) (make a try at solving the problem) (succeed at the first try) (freedom in thought, the liberty to try and err, the right to be his own man—Mencken) Endeavor heightens the implication of exertion and should be avoided as too strong when likelihood of success is implied. It often connotes a striving to fulfill a duty or obey a sense of fitness (she walked up and down the room endeavoring to compose herself—Austen) (the Good, which is the goal of all moral endeavor—Inge) (in Arnold's phrases the first step for every aspirant to culture is to endeavor to see things as they are) or to learn, in short, the will of God—Eliot (we all endeavor, as Spinoza says, to persist in our own being; and that endeavor is, he adds, the very essence of our existence—L. P. Smith) Essay implies that the thing to be accomplished is especially difficult; otherwise it combines the foremost implications of attempt (that is, making a beginning) by suggesting a tentative effort and of try (that is, experiment) by suggesting the testing of a thing's feasibility (sculpture which attempted to unite repose and action, the “far off and the familiar, in a way which (see corresponding nouns at OVERSIGHT) (attempts about the power or the act or of the length of the latter's duration, it usually requires qualifying words or phrases (close attention) (a few moments' attention) Study stresses continuity and closeness of attention; it usually also implies an aim such as the acquisition of knowledge, or the analysis of something that is complex or confusing, or the working out of a plan (as for action) or of a design (as for a book) before the president said that he would not comment upon the proposal until he had given it further study) (of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh—Eccles 12:12) Concentration emphasizes the centering of the attention on one thing to the exclusion of everything else (amazing powers of concentration) (the learning to read poetry takes as much patience and concentration as the learning to write it—Day Lewis) Application usually implies persistence in fixing one's attention, and diligence and assiduousness in the performance of all that is required; it suggests therefore a virtue won by effort and sheer force of will rather than (as with concentration) a power that has its origin in one's temperamental or is the result of profound interest (application for ever so short a time kills me—Lamb) (her application to her studies in school—Anderson)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
attract, charm, fascinate, bewitch, enchant, allure

**Attire**

*clothe, apparel, array, dress, robe*

Analogous words: 
- Attraction, allure, charm, fascinate, bewitch
- The enhancement of feminine appeal

Contrasted words: 
- Captivate
- The weakest of these words in its suggestion of an irresistible influence or attraction

**Attractive**

- Alluring, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting,
- Charmed, captivating (see under ATTRACT)

Antonyms: 
- Offend, affront, outrage, insult
- Misrepresent, falsify

Attract vb Attract, allure, charm, fascinate, bewitch, enchant, captivate mean to draw another by exerting an irresistible or compelling influence over him. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in the adjectival forms of these words, attractive, alluring, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating. Attract always implies a drawing of one thing to another either because of qualities or properties in the agent or because of an affinity in the one attracted for that which draws it or a susceptibility to its influence.

Ant belies —Con: *misrepresent, falsify*

Ant vb *clothe, apparel, array, dress, robe*

Ant accouter, appoint, equip, outfit, arm (see FURNISH)

Ant *strip, bare, denude, dismantle*

Ant n *clothes, clothing, apparel, raiment, dress*

Ant *lawyer, solicitor, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate*

**Attitude**

1 *posture, pose*

2 *position, stand*

Ant *point of view, angle, slant, viewpoint, standpoint: bias, prepossession, prejudice, predilection*

**Attorney**

1 *agent, deputy, proxy, factor*

2 *lawyer, solicitor, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate*

Ant *invite, solicit, court: entice, *lure, tempt, seduce: *catch, capture*

**Attraction**

Attraction, affinity, sympathy are comparable when they denote the relationship between persons or things that are involuntarily or naturally drawn together and exert, to some degree, an influence over each other. Affection implies the possession by one person or thing of qualities with the power to draw another person or thing so that the latter moves toward the former or, in the case of things, is brought into contact with it or clings to it. Attraction also implies the existence in the thing attracted of susceptibility to the influence of what attracts; in the case of persons it may be a natural inclination for, a predisposition to, or an innate liking of what attracts or, in the case of things, a tendency to unite or combine with the attractant. This natural or constitutional susceptibility is called affinity. Therefore affinity is the complement of attraction and not its synonym; thus, attraction is a force whereby a magnet draws iron to it, but iron is one of the few metals that have an affinity for the magnet; chemistry has a powerful attraction for minds that have an affinity for it; the too years with they do for something unattained by them. What an affinity for Christianity had this persecutor of the Christians! —Arnold

The words are interchangeable only when used of persons and things that are mutually attracted or have a reciprocal affinity for each other; even in these cases, however, the fundamental distinction in meaning prevails; thus, two persons may have an attraction (or an affinity) for each other; atoms remain in combination in a substance because of their affinity or attraction for each other. It is not by chance that in physics, the science concerned with energy, attraction is the word used in reference to atomic cohesion and that in chemistry, the science concerned with the composition of substances, affinity is the technical term.

Sympathy stresses not so much the drawing together of persons or things as their reciprocal influence or their susceptibility to the same influences. When used in reference to things, it commonly implies interaction (the tides rise and fall in sympathy with the moon) (there is close sympathy between the heart and the lungs). When used in reference to persons, sympathy usually connotes spiritual affinity, or compatibility in tastes, interests, or aims (union of hearts, not hands, does marriage make, and sympathy of mind keeps love awake —Hill

**Attractive**

Alluring, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating (see under ATTRACT)
**attribute**

_**ana**_ lovely, fair, *beautiful, bonny, pretty, comely: luring, enticing, tempting, seductive (see corresponding verbs at _lure_)

_**ant**_ repellent: forbidding — _**con**_ repugnant, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious: *offensive, repulsive, revoltng, loathsome

attribute _n_ 1 *quality, property, character, accident

2 _emblem, *symbol, type

_**ana**_ *sign, mark, token, badge, note: *character, symbol, sign

attribute _vb_ *ascibe, impute, assign, credit, refer, charge

_**ana**_ *fasten, attach, fix: _predicate_ (see _assert_): _blame_ (see _criticize_): _accuse, charge

attrition _contrition, repentance, *penitence, remorse, compunction

_**ana**_ regret, *sorrow, grief, anguish

**attune** _tune, *harmonize

_**ana**_ *adapt, adjust, accommodate, reconcile, conform: accord, _*agree, harmonize: temer (see _moderate_): balance, counterbalance, *compensate

**con** alienate, _*strange, wean

typtical _*abnormal, aberrant

_**ana**_ *irregular, anomalous, unnatural: divergent, _*different: _departing (see _swerve _vb_): _exceptional

_**ant**_ typical: representative — _**con**_ ordinary, _*common, familiar: *usual, customary

audacious _*brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, doubtful, bold

_**ana**_ daring, daredevil, reckless, venturesome, _*adventurous, rash, foolhardy: brazen, brash, _*shameless

_**ant**_ circumspect — _**con**_ cautious, wary, chary, calculating: prudent, sane, judicious, _*wise

**audacity** _temerity,hardihood, effrontery, nerve, cheek, gall

_**ana**_ intrepidity, boldness, courageousness (see corresponding adjectives at _brave_): daring, daredevilry, recklessness, rashness, foolhardiness (see corresponding adjectives at _adventurous_): _*courage, mettle, spirit: brazenness or brass (see corresponding adjective at _shameless_

**ant** circumspection — _**con**_ caution, wariness, calculation (see under _cautious_): timidity, timorousness (see corresponding adjectives at _timid_): fearfulness, apprehensiveness (see corresponding adjectives at _fearful_

**audible** _aural, auicular

_**ant**_ inaudible

**audience** _1_ *hearing, audition

2 _public, _*following, clientele

_**ana**_ devotees, votaries (see singular nouns at _addict_

**audit** _n_ examination, inspection, scrutiny, scanning (see under _scrutinize_

_**ana**_ check, _*corrective, control: investigation, probe, *inquiry

**audit** _vb_ examine, inspect, _*scrutinize, scan

**audition** _hearing, audience

**auditor** _bookkeeper, accountant

_**ana**_ examiner, inspector, scrutinizer (see corresponding verbs at _scrutinize_): verifier, authenticator (see corresponding verbs at _confirm_

**auditory** _acoustic, acoustical mean of or relating to the hearing of sounds. Auditory often stresses hearing more than sound _the auditory powers of a dog_ (the auditory sensitivity of an individual's organs of hearing) Acoustic emphasizes sound with reference to its capacity for being heard or the conditions under which it is heard _the acoustic quality of a person's voice_ _acoustic properties of a hall_

Both words are used in anatomy with little distinction, except that some human anatomists prefer}

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sovereign

autarky  autarchy, autonomy, independence, freedom, sovereignty (see under FREE adj)

authentic, genuine, veritable, bona fide denote being exactly what the thing in question is said to be or professes to be. The prevailing sense of authentic is authoritative or trustworthy with the implication of actuality or accordance with fact (<confirmed both by legend and authentic record—Froude> <an authentic description of the Great Fire of London> The prevailing sense of genuine is real or true (see REAL) often with the implication of descent without admixture from an original stock or of correspondence without adulteration to the natural or original product called by that name (<genuine maple syrup> <a genuine Russian wolfhound> This is real merino, the genuine article> Often the stress is on sincerity or lack of factitiousness (<genuine piety> <true simplicity and genuine pathos—Wordsworth>) Both terms are used—genuine more frequently than authentic—as opposed to spurious, counterfeit, apocryphal (<let them contrast their own fantastical personages . . . with the authentic rustic of Burns—Jeffrey>) <what is genuine knowledge, and what is its counterfeit—Newman> It is idiomatic to say of a work (as a portrait) "this is an authentic portrait of George Washington" (that is, it was painted from life) and "this is a genuine Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington" (that is, it is properly ascribed to Gilbert Stuart, the painter). Veritable implies a correspondence with truth; it is seldom used without a suggestion of assurance or of affirmation of belief (<I who am now talking . . . am the veritable Socrates—Blackie> <though Christ be the veritable Son of God—Quiller-Couch>) It also is applied to words or phrases used figuratively or hyperbolically to assert the justice of the designation or of its truth in essentials (<his fits of passion are veritable hurricanes> <he is a veritable fool> Bona fide, though often used as though it were the equivalent of genuine or authentic, is properly applied when good faith or sincerity is in question (<a bona fide sale of securities> <a bona fide bid for a piece of property>)

Ana authoritarian, oracular (see DICTATORIAL): <reliable, trustworthy, dependable: *correct, right, exact: true, *real, actual

Ant spurious —Con *fictitious, apocryphal, fabulous, mythical, legendary: *false, wrong: deceptive, *misleading, delusive, delusory: *supposed, supposititious, putative, purported, hypothetical

authenticate validate, verify, *confirm, substantiate, corroborate

Ana certify, accredit, endorse, *approve: *prove, try, test, demonstrate: avouch, warrant (see ASSERT)

Ant impugn: —Con *deny, gainsay, contradict, traverse, negative, contravene: reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE)

author 1 *maker, creator
2 *writer, composer

authoritarian 1 dogmatic, *dictatorial, magisterial, doctrinaire, oracular

Ana despotic, autocratic, arbitrary, tyrannical, tyrannous, *absolutist, domineering, imperious, *masterful
Ant liberal, libertarian: anarchistic, anarchic
2 *totalitarian

authority 1 *power, jurisdiction, command, control, dominion, sway

Ana ascendency, *supremacy; government, ruling or rule (see corresponding verbs at GOVERN)
2 *influence, weight, credit, prestige

Ant exemplar, ideal, standard, pattern, *model, example: *expert, adept, artist; connoisseur, *aesthete

authorize, commission, accredit, license denote in common to invest with power or the right to act. One authorizes a person to act for oneself when he is given the necessary legal right or power with or without instructions of a specific character. Often discretionary powers are implied (<authorize a friend to make an answer to an attack on one's character> <our clerks are authorized to receive contributions for the Red Cross>) One commissions a person when one not only authorizes but instructs him to perform a definite duty or office (<I am commissioned to make you an offer which I have told him . . . you would not accept—Gray> Commission may imply appointment as one's business agent (as in buying, selling, or supplying goods) or it may suggest an order to do a certain kind of work, especially work of a professional or artistic nature (<commissioned an artist to paint his children's portraits> One accredits a person when one sends him, invested with authority and possessed of the proper credentials, as a representative, delegate, or ambassador (<John Hay was accredited to the Court of St. James's> <the sovereign to whom I am accredited—Molloy>) One licenses a person for a business, a trade, or a craft when one grants formal legal permission to act in a certain capacity or to carry on a particular business, trade, or craft (<license a teacher> <license medical school graduates to practice medicine> <a licensed dental laboratory> License sometimes stresses permission so strongly that the implication of authorization is obscured and that of regulation substituted (<license beggars> <license a restaurant to sell liquor>)

Ana empower, *enable: permit, allow, *let

Con enjoin, *forbid, prohibit, interdict

autobiography memoir, life, *biography, confessions

autochthonous indigenous, *native, aboriginal, endemic

Ant naturalized

Con foreign, alien, extraneous, *extrinsic

autocratic arbitrary, *absolute, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous

Ana *dictatorial, magisterial: authoritarian, *totalitarian: *masterful, domineering, imperious: overbearing, arrogant (see PROUD)

Con yielding, deferring, submitting, capitulating (see YIELD vb): tolerant, lenient, *forbearing, indulgent

automatic adj 1 Automatic, spontaneous are not close synonyms but they agree in meaning brought into being or action by an internal as opposed to an external agency. Automatic was originally used to describe a thing that was self-acting or self-activated because it contained the principle of motion within itself (<in the universe, nothing can be said to be automatic—Davy>) Now it is applied more often to machines and mechanical contrivances which, after certain conditions have been fulfilled, continue to operate indefinitely without human supervision or until the conditions have materially changed; thus, an automatic firearm is so constructed that after the first round is exploded the force of the recoil or gas pressure loads and fires round after round until the ammunition is exhausted or the trigger is released; a thermostat is an automatic device which maintains the temperature of artificially heated rooms by operating the appropriate parts of a furnace when the temperature exceeds or falls below the point at which it is set. Spontaneous (see also SPONTANEOUS) applies not so much to objective things as to processes, particularly natural processes, thought of as originating without external agency or without human agency; thus, spontaneous generation implies origin of living directly from nonliving matter; spontaneous combustion implies a generation of heat through chemical changes in matter causing it to burn; a spontaneous growth
autonomous

average

refers to vegetation produced neither from humanly sown seed nor from plantings.

2 mechanical, instinctive, *spontaneous, impulsive

Ana trained, disciplined, schooled, instructed (see TEACH); prompt, *quick, ready

Con deliberate, *voluntary, intentional

autonomous independent, sovereign, *free, autarchic, autarkic

autonomy independence, freedom, sovereignty, autarky, autarchy (see under FREE adj)

auxiliary, subsidiary, accessory, contributory, subservient, ancillary, adjuvant mean supplying aid or support. Auxiliary may imply subordinate rank or position (an auxiliary organization); an auxiliary bishop; the conclusion that the humanistic point of view is auxiliary to and dependent upon the religious point of view—T. S. Eliot. It often suggests something kept in reserve (an auxiliary motor in a sailboat). Subsidiary stresses subordinate or inferior status or capacity, often to the obscuring or loss of the notion of supplying aid (subsidiary streams). A subsidiary company controlled by another company that holds a majority of the shares of its stock. Accessory so strongly stresses association or accomplishment that the notion of assistance or support is often obscured or lost; thus, an accessory mineral is one present in a rock but not an essential constituent; a person accessory to a crime (as the hirer of an assassin or a receiver of stolen goods) need not actively participate in its commission (see also accessory n under CONFEDERATE). Contributory stresses the assistance rather than the subordinate status of the assistant and usually implies the effecting of an end or result (resentment against the unjust tax was one of the contributory causes of the revolt); contributory negligence on the part of a person suffering an injury may impair his right to recover damages. Subservient usually stresses the subordinate nature of the assistance (a catastrophe to which every incident should be subservient—Crabbe). It may stress the importance or usefulness of the end it serves and the nature of its motive (as commendable self-subordination or a sense of order and due relation); he has uniformly made his talents subservient to the best interests of humanity—Coleridge. (Those features of a work of art which by themselves would be unattractive or repulsive, like an "ugly" face, but in the work are subservient to the total effect and may even heighten its beauty—Alexander.) Ancillary more than the other terms stresses the intimacy of the assistance (some practice in the diet of words, with its corresponding definition of thought, may well be ancillary even to the study of natural science—Quiller-Couch). Adjuvant differs from auxiliary, its closest synonym, in attributing greater importance, more noticeable effectiveness, or a more definite influence to the thing so qualified; an adjuvant ingredient in a prescription often modifies the action of the major ingredient so as to make it effective (asceticism is merely an adjuvant discipline to...pathological forms of mysticism—Ellis). Ana *subordinate, secondary, tributary: supporting, upholding, backing (see SUPPORT vb): helping, aiding, assisting (see HELP vb); supplementary, complementary (see corresponding nouns at COMPLEMENT)

avail vb 1 *benefit, profit

Ana meet, answer, *satisfy, fulfill: *help, aid

Con harm, hurt, *injure, damage

2 utilize, employ, *use, apply

Con *abuse, misuse: *neglect, ignore, slight, overlook: reject, refuse, spurn (see DECLINE)

avail n *use, service, account, advantage, profit

avarice greed, *cupidity, rapacity

Ana avariciousness, covetousness, acquisitiveness (see corresponding adjectives at COVETOUS): stinginess, niggardliness, miserliness, parsimoniousness (see corresponding adjectives at STINGY)

Ant prodigality —Con extravagance (see corresponding adjective at EXCESSIVE); liberality, generosity, munificence, bountifulness, bounteouness, openhandedness (see corresponding adjectives at LIBERAL)

avaricious *covetous, acquisitive, grasping, greedy

Ana miserly, close, closefisted, parsimonious, *stingy

Ant generous —Con *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent: lavish, prodigal (see PROFUSE)

average, revenge mean to inflict punishment on a person who has wronged oneself or another. Once close synonyms, these verbs are now increasingly divergent in implications. One may average or revenge (oneself or another who is wronged), but average is to be preferred when the motive is a desire to vindicate or to serve the ends of justice or when one visits just or merited punishment on the wrongdoer (average, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints—Milton). (I swear on my knees, on these stones, to average you on Foulon—Dickens). (He had avered himself on them by havoc such as England had never before seen—Macaulay.) On the other hand, one revenges oneself or, rarely, another when one inflicts injury on or upon an offender in a desire to exact satisfaction for his offense. Revenge may imply a desire for vindication or an aim to serve the ends of justice, but more often it suggests a desire to get even, to pay back in kind or degree, and therefore variously connotes malice, spite, or an unwillingness to forgive (the hope of revenging himself on me was a strong inducement—Austen). (The novelist obsessed with the errors of his past...is irresistibly drawn to revenge himself on his past by rewriting it—Rolo). (He saw that his true policy was not to revenge himself by executions and confiscations—Stubbs). Also, one may either average or revenge a wrong or injury but average usually implies that the end is just retribution whether the activity is in one's own or another's behalf, whereas revenge implies that the end is retaliation and the compelling spirit of the act hatred or bitterness; thus, Orestes revenged his father's murder by killing the murderer, his mother, but the gods avered his matricide by driving him mad.

Ana requite, recompense, compensate, *pay: vindicate, defend, justify (see MAINTAIN): *punish, chasten, chastise

Con forbear, refrain, abstain: remit, pardon, forgive (see EXCUSE)

aver declare, avouch, avow, profess, affirm, *assert, protest

Ana *maintain, defend, justify

Ant deny —Con gainsay, negative, contradict, traverse (see DENY)

average n Average, mean, median, norm, par denote something and usually a number, a quantity, or a condition that represents a middle point between extremes. Of these words average, mean, median, and par are also used as adjectives. Average is an arithmetical term applied to a quotient obtained by dividing a total by the number of items entering into this total so that the quotient represents the value each item would have if all were alike; thus, the average of 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 is 15 (that is, 90 + 6). Such averages are computed to give one a fair estimate of a group or a series in which there are inequalities (his average for his high school course was 82). (The daily average of the apple pickers was 25 bushels.) When (as in sports) the total represents the number of chances taken or of opportunities offered or provided, the average is obtained by dividing the number of successes or successful

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
performances by this total. Such an average may be expressed as a percentage or a permillage and gives a fair estimate of a player’s performance and a basis for comparison with others; thus, a baseball first baseman who handles a total of 1114 chances and makes 6 errors has a fielding average of .9946 (that is, 1108 + 1114); a baseball batter who is credited with 605 appearances at bat and has made 201 hits has a batting average of .332 (that is, 201 + 605). A similar method is used in estimating probabilities (as the chances of death for a person between given ages and the length of the period between recurrences of an unpredictable phenomenon); thus, the average of mortality for persons of a given age is computed from statistics of deaths at that age and of the population group consisting of persons of that age. Average also may be applied to a concept of what is the typical or ordinary person or thing of its kind (see also average, under medium) (the boy is above the average for his age and background) (the play is below the season’s average in dramatic interest) Mean originally and still in certain idioms named a condition, quality, intensity, or rate that is midway between two extremes (observe a happy mean between abjection and arrogance or between effusiveness and reserve) (he that holds fast the golden mean, and lives contentedly between the little and the great—Cowper) In its mathematical use mean is more general than average (for which another name is arithmetical mean): it covers also the geometric mean, that is, the square root of the product of two numbers or quantities (or the nth root of the product of n quantities); thus, 10 is the arithmetical mean or average of 4, 16; while 8 is the geometric mean of 4, 16. Median refers to a midway point in position; in statistics it names the figure or quantity which represents the point at which there are as many instances below as there are above it; thus, the average of a group of 5 workers earning respectively 6, 8, 10, 16, and 20 dollars a day is 12 dollars a day, whereas the median for the same group is 10 dollars, because one half of them earn less than 10 dollars a day and one half more. Norm suggests a rule for guidance or a definite pattern to be followed: it also denotes especially in such fields as psychology and sociology, an average, whether mathematically computed or estimated, of performance or achievement of a group, class, or category that can be set up as a standard for or a minimum of accomplishment by a similar larger group, class, or category: thus, a course of study for a particular school grade is based upon a norm determined by the performance of children of the age, experience, and background commonly found in that grade (crime is merely a name for the most obvious, extreme, and directly dangerous forms of . . . departure from the norm in manners and customs—Ellis) (it is everything to have acquired and to possess such a norm of Poetry within us that we know whether or not what he wrote was Poetry—Quiller-Couch) Par usually refers to an average for an individual that is like the norm for a group. It often refers to an individual person’s average in health, accomplishment, or performance (I feel below par (that is, below my average in health) today) (this theme is above par for that student) In British use par may be employed in reference to an average in amount (the par of crop production for this farm) Ant maximum or minimum average adj 1 mean, median, par (see under average n) 2 middling, *medium, indifferent, fair, moderate, mediocre, second-rate Ana *common, ordinary, familiar: *usual, customary Ant exceptional: extraordinary —Con outstanding, prominent, conspicuous: *noticeable: superlative, *superlative, surpassing, preeminent

average 1 *discriminated, indisposed, loath, reluctant, hesitant Ana recoiling, shrinking, flinching, quailing (see recoil vb): uncongenial, unsympathetic (see inconsonant): balky, *contrary, perverse Ant avid (or of or for): athirst (for) 2 unsympathetic, *anti-pathetic

average adj 1 *dislike, distaste, disfavor
Ana antipathy, hostility, antagonism (see enmity): horror, dread, *fear Ant predilection —Con partiality, bias (see predilection): *leaning, propensity 2 *anti-pathy

average n prize, *premium, reward, guerdon, meed, bonus

award vb *grant, accord, vouchsafe, concede
Ana bestow, confer, present: *give: assign, *allot, apportion, allocate: adjudicate, adjudge, *judge, arbitrate
aware, cognizant, conscious, sensible, alive, awake mean having knowledge of something, especially of something that for some reason is not obvious or apparent to all. One is aware of something through information or through one's own vigilance in observing or in drawing inferences from what one sees, hears, or feels. To be aware does not necessarily imply firsthand or certain knowledge (he is not, as yet, fully cognizant of the facts) through the servants, or from other means, he had made himself cognizant of the projected elopement—Trollope One is conscious of something that he sees, hears, feels, or apprehends when it allows him to enter his mind so that he recognizes its existence or fixes his attention on it; thus, one may or may not be conscious of his heartbeat or of someone passing through the room (he stood there motionless and in wonder, dimly conscious that Hallward was speaking to him—Wilde) to be happy or miserable without being conscious of it seems to me utterly inconsistent and impossible—Locke (a lifelong short-sightedness . . . of which he has never ceased to be conscious—Ellis) One is sensible of something who through intuitive feeling or a rational perception realizes its existence (she was disturbing him extremely . . . but he was much too sensible of her goodwill to wound her feelings by telling her so—MacKenzie) (even he was sensible of the decorous atmosphere—Joyce) One who is alive to something is acutely susceptible to its influence or sensible of its existence (the Spring finds thee not less conscious and in wonder, dimly conscious of the decorous atmosphere—Joyce) One who is awake to something is aroused to it or on the alert for developments (the country is not awake to the potential evils of a strict censorship) Ana *sure, certain, positive: informed, acquainted, apprised (see INFORM) Ant unaware—Con *insensible, insensitive, impassive, anesthetic: *ignorant awe n fear, *reverence Ana respect, esteem, *regard: *wonder, wondernent, admiration Con contempt, scorn, disdain, despite (see under DISPISE): insolence, superciliousness, arrogance (see corresponding adjectives at PROUD) awful *fearful, dreadful, frightful, terrible, horrible, shocking, appalling, terrific, horrific Ana impressive, *moving: solemn, serious, grave: imposing, august, majestic (see GRAND): sublime, superb, *splendid: *ominous, portentous awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche mean not adapted by constitution or character to act, operate, or achieve the intended or desired ends with ease, fitness, or grace. Awkward and clumsy are by far the widest of these terms in their range of application. Awkward often involves the idea of unfitness for easy handling or dexterous management. It may suggest unhandiness or inconvenience (an awkward tool) (awkward arrangement of controls) It may suggest embarrassment or discomfiture (an awkward situation) (an awkward silence) (an awkward meeting) (how earnestly did she then wish that her former opinions had been more reasonable, her expressions more moderate! It would have spared her from explanations . . . which it was exceedingly awkward to give—Austen) When applied to persons, their build, their movements, or their manners, awkward usually implies a lack of ease or grace and often suggests inadequate muscular coordination or deficiency in poise; thus, an awkward gait implies lack of muscular control; an awkward greeting implies want of tact or address (an awkward dancer) (sitting in silence, felt awkward; but I was too shy to break into any of the groups that seemed absorbed in their own affairs—Maugham) (his manners were awkward and unconciliatory—Buchan) Clumsy stresses stiffness or heaviness with consequent want of flexibility or dexterity and is often applied to something so constructed or contrived as to be lumbering or ponderous (a boy of clumsy build) (a bear is the most clumsy of animals) (a clumsy narrative style) (clumsy boots) (when a great writer . . . creates a speech of his own which is too clumsy to be flexible and too heavy to be intimate—Ellis) (a great play in spite of . . . the clumsy machinery of the plot—T. S. Eliot) Often, and especially when applied to persons and their acts, it implies a lack of expertness or adroitness in manipulation often with a suggestion of bungling (the clumsy attempts of governments or other social bodies to interfere . . . will only make matters worse—Hobson) (he was a clumsy dissector because of his injury—H. G. Wells) Maladroit and inept imply awkwardness or clumsiness in managing whatever requires mental or social dexterity and are applicable only to persons and their acts or utterances. Maladroit implies a lack of tact or of skill in avoiding difficult situations in human intercourse and is often opposed to political or diplomatic in their extended senses (a maladroit reply to a letter) (a maladroit remark) (it was more correct to "break" a piece of bad news to a person by means of a (possibly maladroit and unfailing) messenger—Thackeray) Inept stresses inappropriateness or lack of aptness especially in a person's acts or utterances; often, in addition, it carries a suggestion of futility or absurdity; thus, a remark may be inept because it is so out of keeping with the topic under discussion as to seem pointless and also maladroit if it gives an awkward turn to the conversation (the conviction that the British were everywhere so inept that they deserved to lose—Abend) (one of the most often encountered weaknesses in the trial of criminal cases is the inept and unconvincing testimony of the law enforcement officer—Paul Wilson) (the sharp-eyed and penetrating critic for whom . . . this extraordinary and extraordinarily inept society has in fancied security unwittingly been waiting—Brownell) Gauche suggests a lack of social graces that makes for clumsiness or ineptness: it may imply also shyness, inexperience, or ill breeding (this journey . . . tended to reduce my shy, taciturn, and somewhat gauche manner—G. G. Scott) Ana *stiff, wooden, rigid: embarrassing, discomfiting, discourteous (see EMBARRASS) Ant handy, deft: graceful—Con adroit, *dexterous: skillful, adept, *proficient: *easy, simple, facile, effortless Awry, askew, askance mean deviating from a straight line or direction. They may all imply divergence from what is straight or straightforward, direct, symmetrical, or orderly, but they are seldom applicable to the same things. Awry carries a strong implication of disorderliness, of disarrangement, or of confusion (the blind and staggered awry) (everything in the kitchen was awry) (their plans went awry) Askew stresses crookedness or distortion. It implies that the thing so described is set at a wrong angle, is twisted out of its proper position, or goes off in the wrong direc-
disfavor, jealousy, or disapproval <aside the Devil turned for envy; yet with jealous leer malign eyed them askance
—Milton> <both . . . were viewed askance by authority
—Gladstone> axiom *principle, fundamental, law, theorem

mountain peaks and blue sky, others preferred an architectural background, such as a group of buildings or an interior> In its common extended use the term is often widened in scope to include the whole aspect of the environment of something (as an historical event, a movement, a career, or a phase of a person's or a people's development) that is capable of being seen in perspective and that may be viewed as antecedent, causal, or intimately related to the fundamental quality of what it enlivens <to know a person well one needs to know his background> <students of English literature must have as background a knowledge of English history> landscape is treated as an accessory to human life and a background to human events—Binyon> Setting also derives its basic implications from the arts, originally from the jewelers' art, where the term is used of the framework of precious metal in which a gem is mounted, and later from the dramaturgs' art, where it is used of the framework (as scenic paintings and furniture) which indicates to the spectator the surroundings in which the action of a play takes place. Hence setting is preferred to background as a designation of the element in a novel, a play, or other literary representation of human life which is distinguished from the plot and the characters and which is the author's imaginative reconstruction of the time, place, and conditions in which his characters live and act. When used in reference to real life, setting commonly connotes the standpoint of one who looks at human beings and their activities as though they were dramatic or literary representations <what a social setting it was, that little world into which Mark Twain was born! It was drab, it was tragic—Brooks> Environment basically denotes the surroundings and especially the natural surroundings (as of a town, a body of water, or an individual) <relaxed . . . in a cozy environment of apple-green furniture and art linoleum—Punch> When relating to a person or a living being environment commonly suggests not only natural surroundings but any or all external factors (as social or economic conditions, nutrient supply, or crowding) that are important in the physical, mental, and moral development of the species or the individual or as formative influences <the environment which produced Jonathan Edwards and Cotton Mather—Brownell> When the formative influences in a person's development are the result of heredity or nature, background is the preferred term; when they are the product of his surroundings or his nurture, environment is the more likely choice; thus, one may say that, although it is impossible to change a child's background, he may turn out well if brought up in a different environment. Milieu carries none of the scientific implications of environment, yet it also means surroundings and is used chiefly in reference to the physical and social surroundings of a person or group of persons. It is preferred to environment when there is the intent to evoke a clear picture or to suggest the specific character or atmosphere of such surroundings; it may be used in reference to imagined as well as to actual

ænologous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
persons and therefore is often interchangeable with setting (his chief object...is not to make an isolated study of this or that milieu, or to describe a particular social sphere—Athenaeum) Mise-en-scène is the equivalent of setting, especially as referred to a theatrical performance. However its stronger suggestion of the use of properties to achieve a given atmosphere or theatrical effect is the reason for its preference by some writers when the reference is not specifically to a dramatic performance or even to invented scenes (in The Scarlet Letter how truly in the spirit of art is the mise-en-scène presented...). The material investiture of the story is presented...by the reserved, fastidious hand of an artist, not by the gaudy fingers of a showman or the mechanical industry of a department-store window dresser—Cather) Backdrop denotes a drop curtain at the rear of the stage which provides the decorative or realistic background for the action of a play and brings players and their movements into relief; it is increasingly common in an extended sense as a substitute for background or setting or milieu when there is the intent to stress pictorial effect rather than social influence or spiritual significance (Against the multi-towered backdrop of New York he has pictured...the passions and hopes, the dreams and desolations, the greed and corruptions, of the seven million souls that are its lifeblood—Atlantic)

backslide vb relapse, lapse *lapse
Ana revert, return: deteriorate, degenerate, decline (see corresponding nouns at deterioration): recede, retreat, retrograde
backslider *renegade, apostate, recreant, turncoat
backsliding n relapse, lapse (see under Lapse vb)
Ana retrogressiveness or retrogression, retrogradation (see corresponding adjectives at backward): abandoning, deserting, forsaking (see abandon)
backward, retrograde, retrogressive, regressive all involve the idea of not moving or going ahead, or forward, or in advance. Only when applied to motion or a movement does backward imply the reverse of forward motion (a backward thrust of a hand) (the backward swimming of a crayfish) Its commonest implication is failure to move ahead; in this sense it is chiefly applied to human beings who do not or cannot progress or develop with others of their age, kind, or class or to persons or things that hold back or are held back from doing what is normal or to be expected; thus, a child who is unable to keep up with others of his age in school because of some degree of mental deficiency is described as backward; a person who holds back from expressing his appreciation, or in urging his candidacy for a position, because of shyness or self-distrust is also describable as backward: when cold weather and frosts delay the development of vegetation beyond the normal or usual time, the season may be called backward (England, throughout the middle ages, was one of the backward countries of Europe: it was on the outskirts of the great continental civilization—Mumford) Retrograde is not only applicable to backward motion and backward movement but also to any moving or seemingly moving thing that proceeds in a direction which is contrary to the direction usually followed by things of its kind (retrograde motion of a wheel) (retrograde planet seemingly moving from east to west) It is also applicable to a process (as of natural development) in which the events occur in an order contrary to the usual or progressive; thus, an animal that passes from a more complex to a simpler and often degenerate state during its development is said to manifest retrograde development. Retrograde when applied to races, cultures, institutions, or movements differs from backward in implying decline or degeneration; thus, a backward society is one that does not progress, while a retrograde society is one that is relapsing into barbarism or sinking into an inferior state. Retrogressive implies opposition to progressive. Like retrograde, and unlike backward, it implies movement in the direction that is the reverse of forward; unlike retrograde, however, it is seldom applied to physical movement; thus, one speaks of a retrograde (but not a retrogressive) movement or rotation, but one might speak of retrogressive (or retrograde) cruelties or behavior when stressing decline from some higher or more progressive level. Retrogressive is sometimes preferred as a milder term when the reverse of improvement or betterment rather than positive decline from an improved or better state is implied (a retrogressive policy) (objections were made to the proposed legislation on the ground of its probable retrogressive effect) Regressive carries a stronger implication of going backward by steps or degrees and often, also, a weaker implication of failure to progress or move ahead than any of the others. Consequently it is often the preferred term when a colorless or uncolored statement of fact is intended; thus, when one infers a cause from an effect or a principle from a number of facts he follows a regressive process of reasoning; the process of growing old may be described as a retrograde development when the emphasis is on its backward direction, as a retrogressive development when the stress is on the absence of progress, and a regressive development when the intent is to indicate that it is marked by an inversion of order in its stages; a regressive loss of memory implies that the most recent memories disappear first and the earliest linger longest.
Ana laggard, dilatory, *slow: *stupid, slow, dull, dense: *lethargic, sluggish: *abnormal, atypical
Ant advanced —Con civilized, cultured (see corresponding nouns at civilization): cultivated, cultured, refined (see corresponding nouns at culture): educated, instructed (see teach)
bactericidal adj germicidal, antiseptic, disinfectant (see under antiseptic n)
bactericide germicide, *antiseptic, disinfectant
bacterium *germ, microbe, bacillus, virus
bad 1 Bad, evil, ill, wicked, naughty are comparable when they mean not meeting with the approval of the ethical consciousness. Bad is a very general term and applies to anyone or anything reprehensible, for whatever reason and to whatever degree (almost as bad, good mother, as kill a king, and marry with his brother—Shak.) (Johnny’s been a bad boy today: he’s emptied the cookie jar) (bad dog! you’ve torn up my scarf) Evil is a stronger term than bad and usually suggests the sinister or baleful as well as the reprehensible (evil deeds) (the evil eye) (he knew nothing bad about him, but he felt something evil—Cather) (an evil and treacherous folk, and they lied and murdered for gold—Morris) (the evil counselors who...abused his youth—J. R. Green) III is close to evil in basic meaning and may suggest an active malevolence or vicious intent (an ill deed) (it was ill counsel had misled the girl—Tennyson) Often ill may be used in a weaker sense to suggest the imputing or implying of evil or sometimes of mere objectionableness or inferiority to someone or something (held in ill repute by his fellows) (attached an ill significance to the statement) (had an ill opinion of their abilities). Wicked implies the actual often conscious or deliberate contravention or violation of moral law (God is angry with the wicked every day—Ps 7:11) (wicked designs) It is sometimes used with weakened, even play

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
but is now trivial in its application. Mostly it implies mischievousness on the part of a child too young to have a lively sense of right and wrong (Charles never was a naughty boy. He never robbed birds’ nests, or smoked behind the barn, or played marbles on Sunday—Deland). Sometimes it expresses charitable censure of a person of responsible age who has done wrong (it was only one naughty woman out of the world. The clergyman of the parish didn’t refuse to give her decent burial—Meredith). Often it is applied to what is impolite, impudent, or amusingly risqué (the still popular, and still naughty, and perpetually profane Decameron—Higher).

Ana iniquitous, *vicious, villainous: *base, low, vile: *immoral, un moral, amoral

Ant good —Con righteous, virtuous, *moral, ethical, noble

2 Bad, poor, wrong are comparable when they mean not implying up to a standard of what is satisfactory. Bad implies a failure to meet one’s approval; it need not imply positive condemnation, but it always suggests that the thing so described falls below the mark or is not up to what one would call good (he is a bad correspondent) (her handwriting is very bad) (it’s a bad day for a long walk). It often applies to positive harmfulness (a bad light for the young) (bad food for the young) (a bad book for a depressed person) (a bad environment) (it is bad for her to live alone). Sometimes it suggests corruption or pollution (this meat is bad) (bad air) (bad water). Often also it may suggest unpleasantness in any degree, in this sense ranging from the merely displeasing to the strongly offensive or painful or distressing (it leaves a bad taste in the mouth) (have bad news) (he always comforted himself when things were bad by thinking how much worse they might have been). Poor also implies a failure to reach a satisfactory point or level, but it usually imputes to the thing so described a deficiency in amount or in returns or a lack of a quality or qualities essential to excellence; thus, a poor crop is one that is relatively scanty; poor land is wanting in fertility, while bad land lacks the potentiality for agricultural development; a poor book may be devoid of interest or artistic quality, but a bad book is commonly offensive to one’s sense of propriety; a poor carpenter is one lacking in skill (business was poor this year) (a poor dancer) (a poor bread) (a poor return for one’s effort)

Wrong (see also FALSE) implies a failure to conform to a strict standard; it suggests deviation from a standard of what is satisfactory or, more specifically, fit, appropriate, proper, or orderly (I know that something is wrong with this suit) (do not make a wrong choice in selecting your profession) (hang a picture in the wrong light) (there is nothing wrong in this arrangement of the furniture)

Ant good —Con excellent, perfect, meritorious (see corresponding verbs at EXCELLENCE): right (see GOOD)

bait vb catch, trap, snare, entrap, ensnare, *catch

badlands *waste, desert, wilderness

baffle balk, circumvent, outwit, foil, thwart, *frustrate

Ana *puzzle, mystify, confound, dumbfound: discomfit, rattle, faze, *embarrass, disconcert: *confuse, addle, muddle: *hamper, fetter, hog-tie: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block

bag n Bag, sack, pouch denote a container made of a flexible material (as paper, cloth, or leather) and open or opening at the top. Bag is the widest in its range of application and is referable to anything that comes under this general description and is used to hold something (money bag) (traveling bag) (paper bag) (saddlebag) (mailbag). Sack is usually more restricted in its application than bag: within these limits, however, the terms are interchangeable. Sack commonly suggests oblong shape, a coarse material and, often, crude workmanship (gunny sack) (paper sack) (flour sack). It is probably more often used than bag when it refers to containers and their contents (deliver 1000 sacks of grain) (sacks of potatoes). Sell coal by the sack. Pouch is applied chiefly to a small bag carried on the person or in the hand and used as a substitute for a pocket; it often specifically designates a bag that is opened or closed by means of a gathering string, zipper, or flap (tobacco pouch) (pouch for bullets) (pouch-shaped handbag) (mail pouch)

bad b a v e captivate, molest, plague, tease

badger vb worry, hectored, and bullied, and treated so taunted the workers, so badgered he was worried into their graves—Conrady

badly vb counsel, process, enforce, support, encourage, raise

bail vb *waste, desert, wilderness

bail bond, surity, security, *guarantee, guaranty

bail n bond, surity, security, *guarantee, guaranty

baillie b u c e will province, district, territory, *field, sphere

bait vb Bait, badger, heckle, hector, chiv y, hound, ride mean to persist in tormenting or harassing another. Bait derives its implications from its basic reference to the action of dogs set on to bite and worry an animal (as a chained bear, boar, or bull). Both in this and in extended use it suggests wanton cruelty or malicious delight in persecution (the diversion of baiting an author has the sanction of all ages—Johnson). Badger is more specific than bait. Basically it suggests the baiting of a badger that has been trapped in a hole or barrel and can neither escape nor adequately defend itself from attack; in reference to persons it implies pestering or persecuting that drives the victim into a hopelessly confused or frenzied state of mind (badger a witness being cross-examined) (the mill foreman so taunted the workers, so badgered them and told them that they dared not quit—Sinclair Lewis). Heckle implies persistent questioning of a speaker (as a candidate for election, a legislator discussing a bill before the house, or a person advocating or condemning a movement or cause) and an attempt to bring out his weaknesses or to destroy the effect of his argument. It suggests an intent to harass and confuse a speaker by frequent interruptions and by inconvenient or embarrassing questions (the advocates of any unpopular cause must learn to endure heckling) (infuriates some of his fellow Justices by heckling lawyers who appear before the Court—Sat. Review).

Hector always carries a suggestion of bullying and implies a spirit-breaking scolding or maddeningly domineering treatment (we are . . . not to be hectored; and bullied, and beat into compliance—Fielding) (they had hard times when they were little . . . and were hectored and worried when they ought to have been taking some comfort—Stowe). Chivy and hound both stress relentless chasing and pursuing. Chivy, however, often also suggests teasing or annoying past the endurance of the victim (have seen two successive wives of the delicate poet chived and worried into their graves—Conrad). Hound implies persistent and long-continued persecution till the tormentor's
end is achieved or the victim acknowledges himself defeated <he was hounded by reporters until he made his stand known> <grandfather had been hounded out of his congregation because he couldn’t hold her to their standards of behavior for a minister’s wife—Mary Austin> <Ride> implies persistent goading or spurring (as by unfair criticism, ridicule, or onerous impositions) <a hard taskmaster rides those who serve him> <he was ridden so hard by the coach that he was no longer fit to remain on the team> <Ana> *worry, annoy, harass, harry: torment, rack, torture, try, afflict<Ana> <bait> n *lure, snare, trap, decoy<Ana> <bake> parch, *dry, desiccate, dehydrate<bake> <balance n 1 Balance, equilibrium, equipoise, poise, tension<balance> are comparable when denoting the stability or efficiency resulting from the equalization or exact adjustment of opposing forces. Balance suggests a steadiness that results when no part is properly adjusted to each other, when no one part or constituting force outweighs or is out of proportion to another <kept her balance on the icy street> <keeping his emotional balance under stress> <the balance between civilian and military needs—Collier’s Yr. Bk.> <establish an acceptable balance between satisfactions and frustrations—Kardiner> <I doubt that Thoreau would be thrown off balance by the fantastic sights and sounds of the 20th century—E. B. White> Equipoise may be interchangeable with balance (retain physical and emotional equilibrium under stress) but is more often restricted to a mechanically produced or producible property deriving from a thing’s construction, support, or relation to external forces and then often suggests a tendency to return to an original position after disturbance <a ship’s equilibrium> <an equilibrium of opposing human impulses—Sinclair Lewis> <estimating an equilibrium between the Western forces and a possible aggressor—Current History> <a fundamental lack of equilibrium between different aspects of the constitutional distribution of power—R. M. Dawson> Equipoise suggests perfection of balance or stability of equilibrium <to maintain . . . equipoise among contending interests—Butterfield> <the structure remains upright, a marvel of equipoise—Norman Douglas> <the equipoise of intellectual and pictistic interests in him—H. O. Taylor> Poise denotes an equality of opposing or different things or forces and often implies a state or an appearance of perfect balance or serenity especially of mind <he was in letting the whole physical system lose tone, for lack of the tension which gaiety imparts—Brownell> 2 *symmetry, proportion, harmony 3 *remainder, rest, residue, residuum, leavings, remnant, remains<balance> vb 1 counterpoise, counterbalance, *compensate, countervail, offset<balance> <Ana> attenuate, *harmonize, tune: correspond, accord, square, *agree 2 poise, ballast, trim, *stabilize, steady<Ana> settle, *set: wave, sway, oscillate, fluctuate <see SWING>: rock, *shake<Con> *overturn, upset, capsize<bald> *bare, barren, naked, nude<Ana> austere, *severe: unembellished, unadorned, unornamented (see affirmative verbs at ADORN): *colorless, uncolored<Con> *ornate, florid<balderdash> *nonsense, twaddle, drivel, bun, poppycock, gobblegook, trash, rot, bull<baleful> maleficient, malefic, malign, *sinister<Ana> threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): *ominous, portentous: fateful: hellish, *infernal: diabolical, *fiendish, devilish<Ant> beneficial —CON *beneficial, advantageous: salutary, wholesome, *healthful: benign, *favorable, propitious, auspicious<balk> vb 1 *frustrate, thwart, foil,uffle, bafflement, outreach<Ana> defeat, beat, lick, *conquer, overcome: block, obstruct, impede, *hinder: *prevent, forestall<Ant> forward —CON further, promote, *advance: abet <see INCITE>: assist, aid, *help: *support, uphold, back 2 jib, shy, bobble, stickle, scrape, *demur, strain, stick<Ana> *hesitate, falter, wave: refuse, *decline: shrink, flush, quail, *recoil<Con> *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent<balky> *contrary, restive, perversive, froward, wayward<Ana> hesitant, reluctant, averse, loath, *disinclined, indisposed: *obstinate, stubborn, mulish: refractory, recalcitrant, *unruly<Con> amenable, docile, tractable, *obedient, biddable: submissive, subdued, *tame<ballast> vb *stabilize, steady, balance, trim, poise<ballet> n vote, *suffrage, franchise<ballyhoo> n *publicity, promotion, propaganda<Ana> advertisement, broadcasting (see under DECLARE)<balmy> 1 aromatic, fragrant, *odorous, redolent<Ana> refreshing, restoring, rejuvenating (see RENEW): pleasing, grateful, welcome, *pleasant<Ant> rank, nose—CON *malodorous, fetid, stinking, *rank, noisome<Ana> agreeable, *pleasant, gratifying, grateful: gladdening, delighting, rejoicing, regaling (see PLEASE): assuaging, allaying, lighten, relieving (see RELIEVE): salubrious, salutary (see HEALTHFUL)<Con> *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: vexing, bothering or bothersome, irking or irksome, annoying (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY)<bamboozle> trick, hoodwink, *dupe, gull, hoax, befoul<Ana> delude, *deceive, beguile, mislead: outreach, circumvent (see FRUSTRATE): defraud, cozen, overreach, *cheat, swindle<ban> vb prohibit, *forbid, interdict, inhibit, enjoin<Ana> bar, block, *hinder: *prevent, preclude: *exclude, debar, rule out<Con> allow, permit, suffer, *let: tolerate, abide, suffer (see BEAR)<bana> flat, jejune, inane, vapid, wishy-washy, *insipid<Ana> *trite, hackneyed: *simple, fatuous, silly, asinine: commonplace, platitudeous, bromidic (see corresponding
nouns at COMMONPLACE

Ant original: recherché — Con fresh, *new, novel; witty, terse, succinct (see CONCISE): stimulating or stimulative, provoking or provocative, exciting, piquing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE)

band n 1 *bond, tie

Ana connection, linking (see corresponding verbs at JOIN): *joint, articulation, suture
2 *strap, stripe, ribbon, fillet
3 troop, troupe, *company, party

bandy vb *exchange, interchange

bane vb *poison, venom, virus, toxin

baneful *pernicious, noxious, deleterious, detrimental

banish, exile, expatriate, ostracize, deport, transport, extradite are comparable when denoting to remove by authority or force from a country, state, or sovereignty. To banish is to compel one, usually by public edict or sentence, to leave a country or section, although not necessarily one's own, either permanently or for a fixed time and with or without restriction to a given place (banish an enemy of the King) (the Newtonian scheme of the universe does not banish God from the universe—Times Lit. Sup.) To exile is to banish or cause to depart under constraint from one's own country; it may connote either expulsion by formal sentence or decree or the compulsion of circumstances and an enforced absence or sometimes a prolonged voluntary absence; thus, Russians and foreigners alike may be banished from Russia, but only Russians can be exiled to Siberia; Dante was banished from his native Florence because of political troubles, but he exiled himself for the rest of his life as a protest against conditions there. Expatriate differs from exile sometimes in its implication of loss of citizenship in one's own country (expatriate Jews from Germany) but oftener in its implication of voluntary exile or naturalization in another country (Henry James expatriated himself from the United States) Exile often suggests a possibility of return with full rights to one's own country; expatriate, however, may imply the exclusion of that possibility. In historical context ostracize denotes a temporary banishment by popular vote from one of the cities of ancient Greece; the term is used more commonly in an extended sense which implies not expatriation, but a forced exclusion by common consent, from recognition or acceptance by society (the dangers inherent in ostracizing from public service men of eminence—Kimmis Hendrick) (exposed as a cheat and ostracized by his fellow officers) To deport is to send a person out of which is not a citizen either because his presence is considered inimical to the public welfare or because he has not lawfully entered that country. It often implies return to the country of which the deported person is a citizen or subject or from which he has emigrated, especially if he is without funds to go where he chooses. To transport is to banish to a penal colony a person convicted of a crime (convicts were transported to Australia) To extradite is to deliver over an alleged criminal at the request of the sovereignty or state having jurisdiction to try the charge (since no treaties existed between the Allied Control Commission and neutral states, it follows that no duty to extradite existed among the latter—Neumann) (the escaped prisoner was extradited by the State of Illinois at the request of the State of Georgia)

Ana *eject, expel, oust: *exclude, debar, eliminate, shut out

Con admit, *receive, accept: *harbor, shelter, entertain: protect, shield (see DEFEND)

bank n 1 *shoal, bar, reef
2 *shore, strand, coast, beach, foreshore, littoral
3 mass, heap, pile, stack, shock, cock (see under HEAP vb)
4 *aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomeration: assemblage, assembly, collection, gathering (see under GATHER)

bank vb mass, *heap, pile, stack, shock, cock

Ana collect, assemble, *gather

Con *scatter, disperse

bank vb *rely, count, reckon, trust, depend

bankrupt vb impoverish, exhaust, *deplete, drain

Ana denude, *strip, bare: sap, cripple, disable, undermine (see WEAKEN)

banner n *flag, standard, ensign, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack

banquet *dinner, feast

banter vb Banter, chaff, kid, rag, rib, josh, jolly are comparable when denoting to make fun of good-naturedly (as by reminding one of an actual fault, foible, failure, or shortcoming, by exaggerated praise obviously remote from the truth, or by playful imputation of undeserved success). The same distinctions in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding nouns. Banter is the generic term and may usually be substituted for any of the others, though not without loss of specificity ("Why didn't you get tipsy, Sir? Don't you ever intoxicate yourself but at lawful marriages?..."
Ripton endured his bantering that he might hang about Richard—Meredith) To chaff is to nettle with rough banter (they chaffed me for leaving so early—Price) Kid is frequently as general in meaning as banter (he is very fond of placing his hand on his heart and declaiming about his warm virtues. He gets a lot of kidding for it—Gunther) More often than perhaps any other word in this group, however, it specifically implies an attempt at good-natured imposition on one's gullibility; thus, "No kidding?" is a common way of asking "Are you serious?" of one who has made a statement that sounds incredible (she says he's going to do a portrait of her. I think he's kidding her—Harper's) Used with a reflexive pronoun, kid implies specifically the enactment of a role on the part of the ribber (high government officials are ribbed in the skits presented yearly before the Gridiron Club in Washington) (ribs her fellow Russians as the temperamental ballerina who introduces her equals as her "supporting cast"—Time) Josh and especially jolly imply transparent good humor in the funmaker. Josh usually suggests homeliness and unsophistication (for children he has jokes and candy. He cheers the men... and joshes the women—Time) (running the chatty, homespun, joshing sort of thing that actually goes on in a town—S.R.L.)

Jolly often implies an ulterior aim such as putting the person bantered into good humor so that he will grant a favor (he was a good salesman who jollied his customers, but not too obviously—Jollied and joked with sailors in the street—Wecter)

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
bar

vb obstruct, block, dam, impede (see HINDER)

1 Bar, barrier, barricade mean something which hinders or obstructs. Both bar and barrier apply to something that prevents free communication or passage; more specifically, bar frequently suggests a restriction of ingress or egress, while barrier suggests an obstacle to advance, progress, or attack; bar also may suggest a simple structure and barrier a more extensive or elaborate one. \(<\text{the bar of a prison}) <\text{a harbor}

\(<\text{a mountain}

\(<\text{a reef}

Reli-

\(<\text{erect}

\(<\text{the fighting at the barricades in Paris during the Commune}

2 *obstacle, obstruction, impediment, snag

\(<\text{hindrance, block, dam (see corresponding verbs at HINDER))

*: difficulty, hardship, vicissitude

\(<\text{advantage}

\(<\text{Con odds, edge (see ADVANTAGE)}

\(<\text{help, aid, assistance (see under HELP vb)

\(<\text{shoal, bank, reef

\(<\text{obstruct, block, dam, impede (see HINDER)

\(<\text{shut out, debar, *exclude: *prevent, preclude, obviate: *forbid, prohibit, interdict: *close, shut

\(<\text{admit: open —*Con accept, *receive, take

barbarian adj Barbarian, barbaric, barbarous, savage are comparable when applying to people or characteristics of people that are not fully civilized. Barbarian frequently applies to a state about midway between full civilization and tribal savagery. Some barbarian peoples have brought their mores into true adjustment to their life conditions and have gone on for centuries without change. —Sumner

Barbaric and barbarous may also be used to express this notion. They had passed the barbaric stage when they invaded Chaldea. They knew the use of metals; they were skillful architects and . . . good engineers —Clodd

Caesar’s short sketch of the Germans gives the impression of barbarous peoples they had not yet reached the agricultural stage, but were devoted to war and hunting —H. O. Taylor

Savage implies an even less advanced and more primitive state for savage or semicivilized men . . . authority is needed to restrain them from injuring themselves —Eliot

Barbarous and savage are somewhat more commonly used than barbaric and barbarian to indicate uncivilized cruelty, but all may be so used. He required as a condition of peace that they should sacrifice their children to Baal no longer. But the barbarous custom was too inerterable —Frazer

The King’s greed passed into savage menace. He would hang all, he swore —man, woman, the very child at the breast —J. R. Green

The bar had further traits and customs which are barbaric rather than specifically Teutonic: cruelty and faithlessness toward enemies, feuds, wergeld —H. O. Taylor

For him those chambers held barbarian hordes, hyena foeman, and hot-blooded lords —Keats

Barbaric and barbarous are more common in relation to taste and refinement. Barbaric suggests a wild, profuse lack of restraint —this audacious and barbaric profusion of words —chosen always for their color and their vividly expressive quality—Symons

The march became rather splendid and barbaric. First rode Feisal in white, then Sharraf at his right in red headcloth and henna-dyed tunic and cloak, myself on his left in white and scarlet, behind us three banners of faded crimson silk with gilt spires —T. E. Lawrence

Barbarious implies an utter lack of cultivated taste and refinement —a race of unconscious spiritual helots. We shall become utterly barbarous and desolate —Lewishohn

But this deeply barbarous book may, in its very vulgarity of expression, be in advance of its time —Dorothy Thompson

Ant civilized

barbarian n *obscurantist, philistine

barbaric *barbarian, savage, barbarous

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Con}

\(<\text{help, aid, assistance (see under HELP vb)

\(<\text{shoal, bank, reef

\(<\text{obstruct, block, dam, impede (see HINDER)

\(<\text{shut out, debar, *exclude: *prevent, preclude, obviate: *forbid, prohibit, interdict: *close, shut

\(<\text{admit: open —*Con accept, *receive, take

barbarous

1 savage, barbaric, *barbarian

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Con}

\(<\text{culture, cultivation, refinement

barbarity *barbarism

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ant}

\(<\text{barbarousness, savagery, ferociousness or ferocity, cruelty, inhumanity (see corresponding adjectives at FIERCE)

\(<\text{Ant humaneness —*Con gentleness, mildness, smoothness, lenity or leniency (see corresponding adjectives at SOFT)

barbarous 2 savage, inhuman, ferocious, *fierce, cruel, fell, turbulent

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ant}

\(<\text{civilized: humane

2 savage, inhuman, ferocious, *fierce, cruel, fell, turbulent

\(<\text{Ana}

\(<\text{Ant}

\(<\text{civilized: humane

\(<\text{Ant}

\(<\text{mercy, *forbearing, tolerant, lenient: *tender, compassionate, sympathetic: humane, humanitarian, benevolent (see CHARITABLE)

bard n *poet, minstrel, troubadour, rhymer, rhymester, versifier, poetaster

bare adj 1 Bare, naked, nude, bald, barren are comparable when they mean destitute or divested of the naturally or conventionally appropriate covering or clothing. Bare

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
strongly suggests the removal or, often, the rejection of something additional, superfluous, dispensable, or acquired; thus, a bare head is one without a hat; bare legs suggest lack of socks or stockings; bare trees have lost all their leaves; one takes another's bare word for a thing when one demands no confirmation or documentary proof; a bare room may be empty of furniture or may have only such furniture as is indispensable (the bare statement that "art is useless" is so vague as to be really meaningless, if not inaccurate and misleading—Ellis) Naked suggests absence of all covering, especially in the way of protective or ornamental covering. When used with regard to persons and implying absence of clothing, the word is not uniform in its pictorial and emotional evocations; it may suggest many conditions, such as a state of nature and of physical beauty, a state of destitution and of pitiful suffering, a state of privacy and of pitiful suffering, a state of shameful publicity or of wanton exhibitionism (Eve . . . in naked beauty more adored, more lovely, than Pandora, whom the gods endowed with all their gifts—Milton) Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are, that hide the pelting of this pitiless storm—Shak. In extended use, therefore, naked is preferred to bare when the emphasis is on revelation or exposure, or on the power of revealing or exposing something as it is in its severe outlines or structure, in its plain truth or without disguise, or in its hidden weakness or strength (craft must have clothes, but truth loves to go naked—Fuller d. 1734) (it is not asked that poetry should offer naked argument—Day Lewis) (the power of striking out, in a few naked, simple words, a picture which is ineffaceable—Lowes) Nude and naked are very close synonyms when they are used in reference to persons, but nude, because of its association with the representation of undraped figures in art, tends to suggest little more than the absence of covering and to be comparatively a colorless word with little extended use and with few, if any, significant and distinctive implications. Because of its unequivocal meaning, nude is preferred to naked when the mere fact of being without clothing is indicated and there is no intent to convey an aesthetic or ethical implication (three nude statues in the exhibition) (residents of the houses along the river objected to nude swimmers) Bald implies absence of the hair of the head or, sometimes, actual or apparent absence of another covering (as of foliage, feathers, or vegetation); thus, the bald eagle is the common eagle after it has reached an age when its head and neck feathers are white and inapparent at a distance; a bald tree is one that no longer bears leaves at its top; a bald mountain is one whose peak is bare of vegetation. In extended use bald implies austere or colorless barrenness and a conspicuous absence of qualities that might add charm, vividity, or interest; thus, a bare style is one that employs economy of means or a meanness of ornament; a naked style is one that disguises nothing and shows not the slightest obscurity or hesitancy in presenting the thought; a bald style is bare and plain to the point of severity (his expression may often be called bald . . . but it is bald as the bare mountaintops are bald, with a baldness which is full of grandeur—Arnold) Barren (see also Sterile) implies a lack of fertility or productive power and therewith also implies absence of natural or appropriate covering as an outward sign of impoverishment, impotence, or aridity; thus, barren lands are not only bare but they are waste, desolate lands incapable of producing crops; a barren style is the style of a person who has not the mind, heart, or imagination to give his style any signs of life or vitality or any coloring of fancy (without social history, economic history is barren and political history is unintelligible—Trevelyan) Ana stripped, divested, denuded (see Strip vb) unclothed, undressed, unrobed (see affirmative verbs at Clothe) Ant covered 2 mere bare vb denude, divest, *strip, dismantle Ant cover —Con *clothe, dress, apparel, robe, attire: *disguise, cloak, mask, disguise, camouflage barefaced brazen, *shameless, brash, impudent Ana open, plain, *frank, candid: indecent, unseemly, *indecorous Ant furtive —Con covert, surreptitious, stealthy, *secret bargain n *contract, compact, pact bark vb Bark, bay, howl, growl, snarl, Yelp, yap mean to make the sound of or a sound suggestive of a dog. Bark implies the sharp, explosive utterance characteristic of dogs; it may be used not only of them and of another animal (as a seal) that produces a similar noise but also of a person or a sonorous thing that gives the same effect (heard the barking of wolves in the distance) (the guns barked all night long) (they [critics] had . . . barked at you, foamed at you day after day, now you were ended. They praised you . . . and laid you away—Lindsey) (thunder . . . barked in the distance—McFee) Bay implies a repeated or almost continuous barking in deep prolonged tones that is characteristic of hounds in pursuit of quarry (I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon, than such a Roman—Shak) (dogs baying and driving him up a tree—Darwin) Bay is seldom used of any animals other than members of the dog family (including mythical ones such as Cerberus) and is infrequently used in reference to men. When it is so used, it generally implies the action not of an individual but of a group (as a mob) that acts like a pack of dogs baying (I dare avouch you'd stand up for yourself, though all the world should bay like winter wolves—Tennyson) Howl implies a loud, mournful cry made by dogs seemingly in distress and often interpreted as evidence of hunger or loneliness. The term implies also similar sounds made by other animals, but its strongest association has been with dogs and wolves (a dog howled each night) (pursued by howling wolves) Howl (see also Roar) may be used in reference to human beings to imply loud crying, laughing, or derisive calling, and to other sounds that suggest the howling of animals (as in loudness and prolongation). Growl applies to the long, low rumbling sound suggesting a threat that is made by an angry dog; less often it is used in reference to other animals (as the bear or cat). Like howl, it is applied to persons and to inanimate things (as thunder and winds). When used of persons, it suggests utterance in a surly or snarling manner (as in eagerness, in pain, or in fear); less often it is used in reference to other sounds that suggest the howling of animals (as in loudness and prolongation). Growl applies to the long, low rumbling sound suggesting a threat that is made by an angry dog; less often it is used in reference to other animals (as the bear or cat). Like howl, it is applied to persons and to inanimate things (as thunder and winds). Like howl, it is applied to persons and to inanimate things (as thunder and winds). Howl implies not only a growling but a snapping and baring of fangs; it, too, is used typically of dogs and suggests an aggressive or infuriated state (the dog never snarled until he was mistreated) (children run from a snarling dog) Snarl when used of a person's manner or speech implies a highly disagreeable quality and usually suggests spleen or malignity and a menacing attitude (the midwife wondered and the women cried "O, Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth!" And so I was; which plainly signified that I should snarl and bite and play the dog—Shak) Yelp has as its basic implication the utterance of short, shrill barks by a dog (as in eagerness, in pain, or in fear); when used in reference to men, the word often implies a number of short, shrill utterances, especially indicating surprise, fear, or excitement (a . . . huntsman
clad for the field, with his fresh pack yelping . . . about him—Dickens> (the nominations have accordingly furnished something to yelp on—Jefferson) "Look out," yelps the crowd and the high walls fall—Lindsay> Yap comes close to yelp, but it chiefly implies the short, shrill barking of a small dog or excited, staccato sounds that are comparable <half a dozen little yapping dogs . . . assaulted me—Braddon> It may suggest excessive talking that conveys little but is usually uttered in an insistent or offensive and often high-pitched voice. 

*Ana* bellow, vociferate, bawl, *roar: yell, *shout, scream, shriek

*bark* n *skin, rind, peel, hide, pelt

*baroque* adj *ornate, florid, rococo, flamboyant

*barren* 1 *sterile, unfruitful, infertile, impotent

*Ant* fecund —Con *fertile, prolific, fruitful

*Ana* arid —dry: desolate, forlorn (see ALONE): impoverished, exhausted, dejected (see DEPLETE): austere, *severe: stern

*Con* luxuriant, lush, *profuse: opulent, *luxurious, sumptuous

*barricade* n barrier, *bar

*barricade* n barricade, *bar

*barrister* *lawyer, counselor, counsel, advocate, attorney, solicitor

*basal* basic, underlying, *fundamental, radical

*base* n Basis, *basis, foundation, ground, groundwork* are comparable when meaning something on which another thing is reared or built or by which it is supported or fixed in place. *Base* may be applied to the lowest part or bottom of something without strong implication of purpose as a support or prop <the *base* of a tree> <base of a mountain> but more often it implies specific reference to a broad bottom or to a substructure on which a thing rests or seems to rest for support or by which it is kept upright or stable <the *base* of a pyramid> <the *base* of a lamp> <the *base* of a triangle> <the first of four cabinets the liberal leader was to form . . . in attempts to achieve a combination of ministers with a wide enough *base* to ensure effective support—Current Biog.> The word may fail to stress an underlying and then applies to something which serves either as a starting point of a development, an operation, or a process <a *base* of operations> <a submarine *base*> <coal tar is the *base* from which whole families of useful compounds are derived> or as a necessary ingredient that carries or contains the active ingredient of a mixture <lanolin is the *base* of many cosmetics> <dynamite often has an absorbent *base* such as sawdust> 

*Basis* like *base* may be used in reference to something that underlies and supports or to something that serves as a starting point, but the term is rarely applied to a physical or material thing; thus, one may speak of the *base* (but not the *basis*) of a monument, or of the *basis* (not the *base*) for a certain belief <implicit trust is the *basis* of a lasting friendship> <phrase a question as a *basis* for discussion> <tradition forms a *basis* for the acquiring of literary taste—Day Lewis> 

*Foundation* usually implies solidity in what underlies and supports and fixity or stability in whatever is erected on that support; thus, a house has a *base* even if it rests directly on the ground but it may properly be said to have a *foundation* only when it rests on a substructure (as a wall of stones or bricks lining an excavation and usually rising above the surface of the ground); a report may be said to have its *basis* (not *foundation*) in speculation, but a report that is said to be without *foundation* has no *basis* in fact <let me pry loose old walls; let me lift and loosen old foundations—Sandburg> <as the happiness of the people is the sole end of government, so the consent of the people is the only *foundation* of it—Adams> <how firm a *foundation*, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!—Old Hymn> *Ground* implies something solid or firm beneath, or a substratum comparable to the earth or ground in its firmness and capacity for support; the term is therefore applied to a material, a substance, or a surface upon which another thing is built or against which it is displayed; thus, a piece of net may serve as a *ground* upon which a pattern is worked in lacemaking; before a decorative design is applied to a wall, the *ground*, or wall surface, must be treated and colored so that it will take the pattern and display it properly. *Groundwork* is applied not to a substratum but to a substructure; like *foundation*, the term suggests something built up before the superstructure is erected, but, unlike *foundation*, it is used chiefly in a figurative sense <early training is the *groundwork* of good habits> <lay a groundwork in college for one's professional studies> <the *groundwork* of all happiness is health—Hunt> 

*Ant* top —Con *summit, peak, apex

*base* vb *Base, found, ground, bottom, stay, rest* are comparable when they mean to supply or to serve as a basis. 

*Base* now rarely suggests a material support upon which a material superstructure is built <the pile . . . I reared up to the cloud . . . based on the living rock—Browning> but rather something material or immaterial that underlies a nonmaterial superstructure (as a belief, a system, a judgment, a hope or an action) (is it not the conviction that action should be *based* . . . on solid fact?—Eliot> <shares, or bonds, or other pieces of paper, the value of which is *based* upon the estimated future earnings or profits—Hobson> *Found* comes so close to *base* as often to be indistinguishable from it and, therefore, to be interchangeable with it (and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew . . . and it fell not: for it was *found* upon a rock—Mt 7:25> Often, however, it suggests not what merely underlies but what is consciously advanced as support (as for an opinion, a principle, a judgment, a belief, or an affection) <a man that all his time hath *found* his good fortunes on your love—Shak> <certain fixed laws and principles which he proceeds to *found* upon Aristotle—Babitt> <this criticism is *founded* in misconception—Cardozo> *Ground* denotes an implanting (as into the earth) that gives solidarity and firmness; it may apply to something (as personal virtue, education, or an institution) which can grow and thrive only when it is firmly based (as if by deep roots) <that ye, being rooted and *grounded* in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints . . . and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge—Eph 3:17-19> <ofttimes nothing profits more than self-esteem, *grounded* on just and right—Milton> But *ground* may be used, less strictly, in a sense approaching that of *base* and *found* <he grounds his theory on evidence gathered over a long period of time> <their quarrel was *grounded* on a dispute over petty matters> 

*Bottom* implies a broad or strong *base* <bottomed upon solid principles of law and policy—Burke> *Stay* implies a support that keeps upright or prevents from falling and may suggest adding a supplementary support to correct an observed or anticipated tendency <stay a weakened wall with props> <his nature looked coldly upon its early faith and sought to *stay* itself with rational knowledge—H. O. Taylor> *Rest* stresses reliance or dependence on something as a base or fundamental support <their academic reputations *rest*, quite largely, upon their academic power—Mills> <metrical forms are conventional, and therefore *rest*, like all matters of usage, on acceptance—Lowes> <if the Germans are to justify the high claims
they make for Lessing as a critic, they must rest them on other grounds than his intellectual originality or the fineness of his taste—Babbitt

base adj Base, low, vile mean contemptible because beneath what is expected of the average man. What is base excites indignation because devoid of all nobility or even of humanity; the term usually implies the setting (as through cowardice or avarice) of self-interest ahead of duty to others <peace had brought only the shabby, dispiriting spectacle of Versailles, with its base greeds and timidities—Montague> What is low outrages one's sense of decency or propriety. The term, when implying moral contemptibility, often suggests a taking advantage (as by cunning, deceit, or other devious practice) of a person who is helpless or not in a position to defend himself <no one thought he could be low enough to steal a nickel from a blind beggar's cup> <whenever a dramatist wished to introduce intrigue, chicanery, or other dirty work, his dramatics personae included a low attorney—Low Times> Low also is often used of persons, thoughts, language, or actions that strongly offend one's sense of propriety <low humor> <they were low, those sensual feelings: they were ignoble—Huxley> What is vile is inexpressibly base or low: the word often implies disgusting fakeness or depravity <it was vile indeed to unaccustomed and unhardened senses. Every little habitation ... left its own heap of refuse on its own landing, besides flinging other refuse from its own windows—Dickens> <the vilest epithet in the English language—Freeman>

Ana mean, ignoble, abject, sordid: *bad, evil, ill, wicked: ignominious, infamous, disfamous (see corresponding nouns at DISGRACE)

Ant noble —Con *moral, ethical, virtuous, righteous: honorable, upright, honest, just

baseless, groundless, unfounded, unwarranted mean not justified or justifiable in any way. Baseless implies an entire lack of foundation: it imputes to a thing lack of actuality in itself or in the events or facts upon which it is supposedly based <the baseless fabric of this vision—Shak> <he proved the rumors baseless> <no claim could have been more utterly baseless—J. R. Green>

Groundless stresses the absence of a cause or reason; it is applied especially to thoughts, emotions, or feelings that arise seemingly from nothing and have no perceptible or justifying cause <groundless fears> <groundless suspicions> Unfounded sometimes implies baselessness but more often suggests lack of support or want of evidence, authority, or proof <his theory is not entirely unfounded> <an unfounded belief> Unwarranted emphasizes the fact of exceeding the bounds of what is authorized, sanctioned, believable, or reasonable <the unwarranted proceedings of a lower court> <take unwarranted liberties> <an unwarranted assumption>

Ana *false, wrong: unsupported, unsustainable (see corresponding affirmative verbs at SUPPORT)

Con true, actual, *real: *authentic, veritable, bona fide, genuine

bashful *shy, diffident, modest, coy

Ana shrinking, recoiling (see Recoil vb): timorous, *timid: embarrassed, abashed (see Embarrass)

Ant forward: brazen —Con brash, barefaced, impudent, *shameless: bold, intrepid (see Brave)

basic 1 basal, *fundamental, underly, radical

Ana principal, capital, *chief, main: primordial, *primary

Ant top: peak 2 *alkaline

basis *base, foundation, ground, groundwork

Ana *principle, fundamental, axiom, law, theorem: premise, postulate, presupposition, presumption, assumption (see under presuppose)

baste vb *beat, pummel, thrash, buffet, pound, belabor

Ana chastise, castigate, *punish, discipline

bastion breastwork, parapet, *bulwark, rampart

bathos *pathos, poignancy

Ana mawkishness, maudlinism, soppiness, mushiness (see corresponding adjectives at SENTIMENTAL)

batter vb mangle, *maim, mutilate, cripple

Ana *beat, pound, pummel, thrash, buffet, belabor, baste

batter n *dough, paste

battle n Battle, engagement, action denote a hostile meeting between opposing military forces. Battle is commonly used of a general and prolonged combat and is distinguished, therefore, from such terms as skirmish or brush (see encounter). Engagement stresses the actual encountering of forces and may be applied to either a general encounter (as between entire armies) or a minor encounter (as between subdivisions or outposts). Action is often employed in place of battle or engagement when the stress is on the idea of active, frequently sharp offensive and defensive operations <clear the warship's decks for action> <Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, was killed in action at Lutzen, 1632> <a brisk action between scouting patrols>

Ana *encounter, skirmish, brush: *attack, assault, onslaught, onset: combat, conflict, fight, *contest

battle vb war, fight, *content

Ana combat, oppose, *resist, withstand, fight: *attack, assail, assault, bombard: kid, protest, *object

bawl vb 1 *roar, bellow, bluster, vociferate, clamor, howl, ululate

Ana yell, *shout, scream, shriek: bay, *bark, growl, yelp: *cry, wail

2 rate, berate, tongue-lash, upbraid, *scold, chew out, wag, rail, revile, vituperate

Ana reprimand, rebuke, reproach, *reprove, chide: censure, denounce, condemn, reprehend, reprobate (see criticize)

bay vb *bark, howl, growl, snarl, yelp, yap

Ana bellow, vociferate, clamor, *roar: yell, holler (see shout)

be vb Be, exist, live, subsist are comparable when they mean to have actuality or reality. Be applies to whatever has a place in the realm of things describable as real in a material or immaterial sense; only its context makes clear whether it asserts physical or spiritual reality <to be, or not to be: that is the question—Shak> <I think, therefore I am—translation> <whatever is, is, right—Pope> Exist adds to be the implication of continuance in time; it also commonly implies a place in the realm of things which are describable as entities or as having independent, objective being <a fact which has existed cannot be made never to have existed—John Marshall> <everybody saw the drawings of the temples, strange walls and columns, but nobody believed these things existed—Stark Young>

Live basically implies existence in the realm of things possessing the character called life, which distinctively characterizes plants and animals and is manifest especially in metabolism, growth, and reproduction <many men live to be three score and ten> <plants cannot live without moisture> <whatever lives must have sustenance> Live, however, is often applied in an extended sense to immaterial entities (as ideas or beliefs); in this use it may carry a suggestion of qualities associated with life (as persistent existence, vigor, activity, and development) <his name will live as long as his country lives> <poems that live>

Subsist may be used in place of be, or exist, or live because it may imply the kind of reality or actuality connoted by

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
one of those terms, but it (or more particularly its related adjective, *subsistent*) often additionally suggests a relation to or dependence on something; thus, a thing that *subsists* by itself (a self-*subsistent* thing) is independent and self-contained; an idea *subsists* or maintains its existence only so long as it appeals to the mind of thinking men (those secret distributions without which the body cannot *subsist* in its vigor—*Addison*) In philosophical use *subsist* is used often in reference to purely mental conceptions and implies logical validity or the character of being true or logically conceivable (the round square...is an object, which neither exists, nor *subsists*, nor has any kind of being at all—*Chisholm*)

**beach** n strand, coast, foreshore, *shore, bank, littoral*. 

**bear** vb *carry, convey, transport, transmit* 

**beam** vb *beaming* 

**strand, coast, foreshore, *shore, bank, littoral*. 

**Yield** just written) <the glands 

**produce** produces produced 

**Ana** flashing, gleaming, glittering, glistening, glinting, sparkling, coruscating, scintillating (see flash vb) glowing, flaming, (see blaze vb) 

**bear** vb *carry, convey, transport, transmit* 

**Ana** move, remove, shift, transfer: hold, *contain* 

**produce** produces produced 

**bear** bared, bearing, beared, been, bore, bore, bore, borne, born, born, born **produce** produces produced 

**bear** produce, yield, turn out are comparable when they are used in their specific senses because of their customary reference, with *bear*, to things that are heavy or difficult or, with *suffer*, to things that are painful or injurious. *Bear* suggests more the power to sustain than the manner in which something is sustained <water as hot as one can bear it> (his decency which has made him *bear* prolonged and intolerable humiliation with control and courtesy—*Mannes*) *Bear* affection *Suffer* more often implies acceptance of infliction than patience or courage in bearing <I am laiday by Beauty...> Oh, savage Beauty, *suffer* me to pass—*Milly*> (*bear* a man of uncommon spirit, he never *suffered* the least insult or affront to pass unchastised—*Smollet*) *Endure* and *abide* usually refer to long-continued trials or sufferings borne without giving in. *Endure* usually connotes stamina or firmness of mind, while *abide* suggests patience and submission <I am able now, methinks...to *endure* more miseries and greater far—*Shak*> <what fates impose, that men must needs *abide*—*Shak*> *Tolerate* and *stand* imply overcoming one’s own resistance to what is distasteful or antagonistic. *Tolerate* often connotes failure to resist through indifference or, sometimes, through a desire for peace or harmony <tolerate differences in opinion—*Archer’s New York*> *Endure* typically implies a suffering or expenditure involving time and effort while *abide* implies a more permanent and possibly unceasing condition of something. *Abide* will refer to something regarded as established and existing in the present or future, especially something that will or must continue. *Endure* will be more often applied to something as it remains through a specific period or as it continues over a period of time. *Tolerate* is usually applied to something that is regarded as either disagreeable or useful but not essential or necessary. *Bear* is an almost entirely descriptive term referring to some persistence of something and implying the ability to keep from flinching <he can *stand* teasing—*the stood the attack well*> *Brook* occurs chiefly in negative constructions and implies self-assertion and defiance <restraint she will not *bear*—*Milton*> (he is not well-born enough to succeed there, and his sense of intellectual superiority did not *bear* subordination—*Laski*) The other verbs are also used commonly in negative clauses but with weakened emphasis. In such constructions *bear* (with the negative) commonly implies dislike, *suffer* rejection, *endure* intolerance, *abide* impatience, *tolerate* contempt, and *stand* repugnance. *Ana* accept, *receive*: *afflict*, try, torment, torture 

*press*, *bear* down, squeeze, crowd, jam 

*Ana* weigh, oppress, *depress*: *burden*, encumber, load, saddle 

*bear*, relate, pertain, appertain, belong, apply are comparable when used intransitively with the meaning to have a connection, especially a logical connection. One thing *bears* on or upon another thing when the first touches so directly upon the second (usually something in question) as to carry appreciable weight in its solution or in the understanding of issues it involves <ignore all facts except that *bear* upon this particular case> (this situation *bears* directly upon the question under discussion) One thing relates to another thing when there is some connection between them which permits or, more often, requires them to be considered together with reference to their effect upon each other. The connection implied is usually closer in the intransitive than in the transitive verb (see *join*), being commonly one of dependence or interdependence <in an organism each part relates to every other part> <show how the demand relates to the supply> (each incident relates to the plot) (a detail in a painting relates to the design of the whole) (the duties of the citizen, as he understood them, related only to acts, but also to thoughts—*Mencen*) One thing *pertains* or *appertains* to another when there is a connection that permits their association in practice or thought. Both of these words are more widely applicable than *bear* and *relate*, for they cover not only the connections specifically implied in those words but also those close connections implied by *belong* and those remote connections. 

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
implied by have to do with; thus, the things that pertain to happiness are all the things that can be thought of as causing, contributing to, preventing, or affecting the quality of happiness <moral philosophy is the branch of philosophy that deals with all problems pertaining to morals or ethics> Pertain more often implies a necessary connection or a very close relation than the more formal appertain, which commonly suggests an incidental or acquired connection <a ... faithful high priest in things pertaining to God—Heb 2:17> The crown and all wide-stretched honors that pertain by custom and the ordinance of times unto the crown of France—Shak> (to that simple object appertains a story—Wordsworth> Belong, usually with to, implies a relation in which one thing is a part or element without which another cannot exist, function, have its true character or being, or be complete. In this sense a thing that belongs is a property, an attribute, a duty, or a proper concern <the Government of the United States ... does not possess all the powers which usually belong to the sovereignty of a nation—Tane> (nor does value belong to what concerns men only—Alexander> But belong also may be used of things as they pertain to persons, then implying possession <the watch belongs to James> (this land belongs to the government) or informally of persons with reference to their qualifications for fitting into a group, especially a social group <she's smart and jolly and everything, but she just doesn't belong—Ferber> Apply, also with to, implies a relation in which a more inclusive category (as a law, a principle, a rule, a theory, a general term) covers a less inclusive specific instance, usually also explaining, interpreting, or describing the latter or having some clear bearing upon it <the rules of addition apply to our debts as rigorously as to our assets—James> (he really was the only child to whom the "spare-the-rod" precept did not apply—he was naturally good—Deland> Ana *concern, affect: touch, influence, *affect: weigh (see DEPRESS> beard vb *face, brave, challenge, dare, defy Ana confront, *meet, encounter bear down *press, bear, squeeze, crowd, jam bearing n Bearing, deportment, demeanor, mien, port, presence are comparable when they denote the way in which or the quality by which a person outwardly manifests his personality and breeding. Bearing is the most general of these words; it may imply reference to a person's mental attitude to others, his conduct in society, or his characteristic posture or way of holding himself <if I were so, she could not sway her house, command son's mental attitude to others, his conduct in society, *concern, affect: touch, influence, *affect: weigh> —Rose Macaulay> his personality on others or to attract their attention, and such a presence would seem to be a thing that directs the most affable appeal to our poor human weaknesses—Meredith> beastly bestial, *brutal, brute, brutish, feral Ana abominable, detestable, *hateful: loathsome, repulsive, revolting, *offensive: disgusting, sickening, nauseating (see TACT> Con agreeable, gratifying, grateful, *pleasant, pleasing: delicious, *delightful, delectable beat vb 1 Beat, pound, pummel, thrash, buffet, baste, belabor are comparable when they mean to strike repeatedly. Beat, the usual and general word of this group, may imply no more than the simple action of repeated striking (as with one's hands or an implement). The purpose is usually suggested by the object beaten, even when the manner of beating or the kind of implement used is not specifically stated <clean a rug by beating it> (beat his breast in anguish) (the shocking increase in the battered child syndrome, the physical result of viciously beating a young child) (the horse restlessly beat the ground with his hooves) Pound suggests beating with a weight or pestle to crush or reduce to a pulp or powder (as in grinding meal). More often the term implies heavier, more damaging blows than beat; it may suggest repeated striking (as by a heavy hammer, strong doubled fists, the hooves of horses, bombs, or shells), and it often also suggests rhythmical, loud, and heavy sounds <the big boys who sit at the tables pound them and cheer—Hughes> (the hooves of the horses pounding on the bridge—Ander- son) (he could hear his own heart pounding) (he pounded on the door in an effort to rouse the sleeping family) (night after night the port was pounded by bombs> Pummel implies the beating of a person with one's fists; although it does not suggest as heavy blows as pound, it carries a stronger suggestion of continuous raking of blows and, often, of the infliction of injury than beat <a desire to pummel and wring the nose of the aforesaid Stiggins—Dickens> (he pummelled and slapped and scrubbed the somewhat obese nudity of his companion—Buchan> Thrash in its basic sense means to separate the grain (as of wheat) from the husks and straw, originally by beating or striking again and again (as with a flail). Consequently thrash usually means to strike repeatedly in a manner suggestive of strokes with a flail and usually with an implement (as a stick or whip) <thrash a hedge with a cane in order to drive out the rabbits> (propelled himself through the water with wildly thrashing arms> (everyone fought fire. Everyone went to the woods and thrashed out some new blaze—Vorse> Buffet implies a repeated striking with or as if with an open hand; it there-
fore suggests a slapping rather than a pouting and in extended use is employed chiefly with reference to something which dashes against the face or the body in the manner of a slap or which one fights as if by slapping. The two hands of Madame Defarge buffeted and tore her face—Dickens. Buffeted by high waves. Baste implies a sound vigorous thrashing with any weapon (including the tongue) I took a broom, and basted her, till she cried extremely—Pepys. If you will give me the loan of a horsewhip, I'll baste the backs of these lazy fellows of yours—Wheelwright. Belabor implies a prolonged and mighty basting or buffeting. He saw Virago nell belabor, with Dick's own staff his peaceful neighbor—Swift. A group of demonstrating Egyptians being belabored by police—Doty.

**Ana** slug, clout, sweat, punch, *strike, hit, smite, slap, box, cuff*

2 defeat, lick, *conquer, vanquish, subdue, subjudget, reduce, overcome, submont, overthrow, rout

**Ana** surpass, excel, outstrip (see EXCEED): confound, nonplus (see PUZZLE)

3 *pulsate, throb, palpitate

*Ana* quer, quaver, quake (see SHAKE): vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, pendulate (see SWING)

**beat** n pulsation, pulse, throb, palpitation (see under PULSATE)

**Ana** accent, accentuation, stress (see EMPHASIS): *rhythm, cadence

**beatitude** blessedness, bliss, felicity, *happiness

**Ana** rapture, *ecstasy, transport: joy, fruition, enjoyment, *pleasure


**beau** n *top, exquisite, dandy, coxcomb, dude, buck

**beau ideal** ideal, exemplar, pattern, *model, example, mirror, standard

**beauteous** pulchritudinous, fair, good-looking, handsome, pretty, comely, bonny, lovely, *beautiful

**Ana** alluring, attractive, fascinating, charming (see under ATTRACT)

**beautiful** adj Beautiful, lovely, handsome, pretty, bonny, comely, fair, beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking are comparable when they express judgment of a person or a thing perceived or contemplated with sensuous or aesthetic pleasure. Although they differ widely not only in their implications and connotations but also in their range of reference, they carry in common the meaning very pleasing or delightful to look at. Of all these adjectives beautiful is usually the richest in significance; since the abstraction it represents the beautiful has been for many centuries the subject of discussion by philosophers, artists, and aestheticians, its content in a particular context often depends upon the speaker's or writer's cultural background, his chosen philosophy, or his own peculiar definition. In general, however, both in learned and in ordinary use beautiful is applied to what excites the keenest pleasure not only of the senses but also through the medium of the senses of mind and soul. It also suggests an approach to or a realization of perfection, often specifically the imagined perfection associated with one's conception of an ideal. That is why beautiful is applicable not only to things that are directly perceived by the senses (a beautiful woman) (a beautiful scene) (the beautiful "Winged Victory") (an exquisitely beautiful painting) but to things that are actually mental constructions formed in the mind through the instrumentality of language or as a result of inferences from certain outward manifestations (a beautiful poem) (a beautiful plan) (a beautiful character) Lovely, like beautiful, usually suggests more than sensuous pleasure, but it implies keen emotional delight rather than profound intellectual or spiritual pleasure. It is applied therefore to what is so pleasant to look upon, to hear, to smell, or to touch that the person affected dwells delightedly, sensuously, or amorously upon it or the sensations it produces (why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?—Shak.) (in after years . . . thy mind shall be a mansion for all lovely forms—Wordsworth) (a sailing ship—that loveliest of human creations—Ellis) Handsome, on the other hand, carries little connotation of emotional or spiritual pleasure; it implies rather a judgment of approval occasioned by something that is pleasant to look upon because it conforms to one's conception of what is perfect in form and detail or in perfect taste, and pleasing because of its due proportions, symmetry, or elegance. It is applied chiefly to what can be regarded unemotionally and with detachment; thus, a woman who is described as handsome rather than as beautiful or lovely is by implication one whose appearance aesthetically satisfies the observer but does not markedly stir his deeper feelings (a handsome dress) (a handsome house) (a handsome table) (They say I'm handsome, "You're lovely, Bella!" She drains in his homage—Meredith) Pretty, in contrast to handsome, is applied largely to what pleases by its delicacy, grace, or charm rather than by its perfection or elegance of form or style. It is seldom used to describe something large or impressive; consequently it often connotes diminutiveness, daintiness, or exquisiteness (a group of pretty girls) (a very pretty child) (a pretty cottage) Pretty is often used depreciatively to suggest mere pleasingness of appearance and the absence of qualities that make for beauty, grandeur, or strength (a pretty poem) (a pretty view) Bonny, which is more common in British and especially Scottish use, implies approbation of a person's or thing's looks but it may also imply various pleasing qualities (as sweetness, simplicity, healthiness, plumpness) (a bonny day) (a great actress and a bonny girl—Donn Byrne) (a bonny baby) (what the sentimental women of the neighborhood called a "bonny man.") His features were remarkably regular, and his complexion was remarkably fair—G. D. Brown) Comely implies an opposition to what is homely and plain and suggests pleasant wholesomeness with a measure of good looks or physical attractiveness (a comely barmaid) (the comeliest woman in the club) (Jack was so comely, so pleasant, so jolly—Dibdin) (once a moorland Helen, and still comely as a blood horse and healthy as the hill wind—Stevenson) Fair applies especially to something which gives delight because of the purity, the flawlessness, or the freshness of its beauty (fair as a star, when only one is shining in the sky—Wordsworth) (forever wilt thou love, and she be fair—Keats) Beaufres and pulchritudinous are used especially in ironic or journalistic prose where they often carry a suggestion of derogation or imply an emphasis on mere physical attractiveness (beauteous candidates for the title of Miss America) (a beauteous platinum blonde) (pulchritudinous chorus girls) Beauteous in poetical and dignified use often carries a stronger implication of opulence of charms than beautiful (how beauteous mankind is!) O brave new world, that has such people in't!—Shak. Good-looking is a less expressive word than handsome or pretty but is often used as a close synonym (the children of that family are all good-looking) Ana *splendid, resplendent, glorious, sublime, superb: exquisite, elegant, *choice

**Ant** ugly — Con repulsive, repugnant, revolting, *offensive

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**beautify** embellish, deck, bedeck, *adorn, ornament, decorate, garnish

**Ana** enhance, heighten (see INTENSIFY)

**Ant** uglify — **Con** *deface, disfigure: *deform, distort, contort; mar, spoil, *injure, damage

**because**, for, since, as, inasmuch as are the chief causal conjunctions in English. Because assigns a cause or reason immediately and explicitly; as, I hid myself, because [=for the express reason that, or as caused to do so by the fact that] I was afraid; he must have passed this way, because [=owing to the specific fact that] there is no other road or because [=as is directly proved by the fact that] his footprints are here. For is a particle of less immediate reference than because; it regards the statement to which it is subjoined as relatively independent and proceeds to adduce for it some ground, reason, evidence, proof, explanation, or justification; as, I hid myself, for [=as I may add by way of explanation] I was afraid; he must have passed this way, for [=as you may readily see] here are his footprints; I like him, for [=I ask, in justification of the fact] who can help it? Since is less formal and more incidental than because; as assigns a reason even more casually than since; each of them frequently begins its sentence; as, Since (or As) I was afraid, I hid myself (I will come, since you asked me).

<As I knew him to be out of town, I did not call> Inasmuch as assigns a reason in a somewhat concessive or qualified fashion; as, Inasmuch as [=in view of, or considering, the fact that] I was afraid, I hid myself. I am ready to accept your proposal, inasmuch as [=seeing that] I believe it is the best you can offer.

**becloud** cloud, eclipse, fog, befog, *dim, darken, dim, bedim, *obscure, *obfuscate

**Ana** *confuse, muddle, addle, befuddle: *puzzle, perplex, distract

**bedeck** deck, garnish, embellish, beautify, decorate, ornament, *adorn

**bedim** dim, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate, *obscure, darken

**Ana** cloak, mask, *disguise: conceal, *hide, screen

**befoul** foul, dirty, sulky, *soil, smirch, besmirch, grime, begrime, tarnish

**Ana** *spot, splotter, sprinkle

**befuddle** fuddle, addle, muddle, *confuse

**Ana** bewilder, distract, confound, perplex (see PUZZLE): intoxicate, inebriate (see corresponding adjectives at DRUNK)

**Ant** clarify, clear

**beg** entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate, adjure, importune mean to ask or request urgently. Beg suggests earnestness or insistence especially in asking a favor (why, boy, before I left, you were constantly begging to see Town—Meredith) Entreat implies an attempt to persuade or to overcome resistance in another especially by ingratiating oneself (he was accustomed to command, not to entreat—Cather) Beseech implies great earnestness and often anxiety or solicitude (she besought him, for his soul's sake, to speak the truth—Kipling) Implore, often used interchangeably with beseech, at times suggests even greater urgency in the plea or more manifest anguish (the last look of my dear mother's eyes, which implored me to have mercy—Dickens) Supplicate adds to entreat the suggestion of fervent prayer or of a prayerful attitude (invite, entreat, supplicate them to accompany you—Chesterfield) (fall on his knees and supplicate the God of his fathers—Terrien) Adjure implies an injunction as well as a plea and is strengthened by the expressed or implied invocation of a sense of responsibility or duty or of something sacred (I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ—Mt 26:63) It may sometimes suggest little more than urgency or peremptoriness (so E company . . . doubled for the dear life, and in the rear toiled the perspiring sergeant, adjuring it to double yet faster—Kipling) Importune commonly suggests repeated attempts to break down resistance and often connotes annoying pertinacity (a valued adviser who connotes won't let me with the dear old doctrines of the church—Emerson)

**Ana** solicit, request, *ask: plead, pray, petition, sue (see under PRAYER): *demand, exact
begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate are comparable when they mean to set something going or in progress or to take the first step in a course, process, or operation. Begin, commence, and start are also used intransitively with the activity, work, or instrument as the subject in the sense of to get going or in progress (he began the letter) play begins when the whistle blows (start a race) (the race starts at ten) Begin (implying opposition to end) and commence (implying opposition to conclude) are identical in meaning: the former is often preferred because less formal than the latter (begin work) the lecture began with an apology) well begun is half done (things never begun with Mr. Borthrop Trumbull; they always commenced—George Eliot) Traditional usage often supports the choice of commence in reference to court proceedings, religious or other ceremonies, or industrial, commercial, or military operations (commence a lawsuit) divine service commences promptly at eleven) will commence drilling for new wells) directs the commission to commence its work not later than thirty days from the adoption of this resolution—Current History) Start is often used as though it also were identical in meaning with begin and commence; the term, however, carries implications which distinguish it sharply from the other words. Start implies opposition to stop: it therefore suggests a setting out from a particular point (as on a journey, a race, or a course) often after inaction or waiting (the horses are ready to start (that is, to begin the race)) the children like to see the train start (that is, set out from the station at which it has stopped) conversation started and stopped and after a pause started again Start also frequently takes as its subject not the person or agency that begins a process or course but the one that causes, enables, or permits him or it to begin (his father started him in business) Initiate (see also initiate) suggests reference to the first step in a process and carries no implication of an end or ending; it often suggests a contrast with carry on, continue, or maintain; thus, a person initiates (more precise than begins or starts except in informal speech) a custom or practice when he is its originator; a diplomat initiates negotiations between the government he represents and another when he takes the first step leading to future discussions in which he may or may not take part, but he begins negotiations on behalf of his government when he enters into actual discussions which in the natural course of events will end only when there is agreement or hopeless disagreement (Taft had to make himself popular as a necessary incident to initiating a civil government—Heiser) Inaugurate retains, from its more frequent sense of to induct into office (see initiate), a hint of a ceremonial beginning. Often it is an inflated term for begin or commence (the Curies inaugurated a new era in science by their discovery of radium) (inaugurate proceedings on behalf of the heirs) The word sometimes takes as its subject the act, action, or incident that serves as the first step in a course or procedure the discovery of radium inaugurated a new era in science (prayers and scripture inaugurated the official day—H. G. Wells) Ana *found, institute, establish, organize: introduce, admit, *enter: originate, derive, *spring, arise, rise Ant end —Con *close, terminate, conclude, finish, complete: *stop, cease, quit, discontinue, desist: achieve, accomplish, effect, fulfill (see perform) beginning, genesis, rise, initiation are comparable when they mean the first part or stage of a process or development. Although beginning, often in the plural form beginnings, may mean the point at which a person or thing commences its existence (compare begin) it is more often used as denoting the period when something takes form or shape (the beginning of justice is the capacity to generalize and make objective one’s private sense of wrong, thus turning it to public account—Earl Warren) Often, especially when applied to something whose entire course can be viewed, beginning or beginnings is contrasted with middle and end or with end alone (a drama, according to Aristotle, is composed of three parts, a beginning, a middle, and an end) (he eschews speculation on first beginnings and ultimate ends, on the ground that no theory about them will assist him to produce . . . an end to suffering—Humphreys) Canada has had a dramatic and colorful history, particularly in her beginnings—J. D. Adams) (in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth—Gen 1:1) Genesis is usually distinguished from origin (see origin) in that the latter applies to the point at which or from which a thing started, whereas the former to the stage in which it has arrived (a beginning of a new stage, in which a thing has obtained its distinctive form or shape or was brought into being: usually, therefore, genesis suggests the gradual formulation, formulation, or unfolding, but not the full development or evolution of the thing in question; thus, one speaking of the origin of the phrase “art for art’s sake” gives the first use discoverable of the phrase, whereas one speaking of the genesis of the theory of “art for art’s sake” dwells upon what happens between the origin of the phrase and its attachment to definite ideas, or upon the period when the theory is receiving its first formulation (the genesis and growth of his ideas and attitudes—G. L. Kline) (the genesis of personality is in all probability determined largely by the anatomical and physiological makeup of the individual—Sapir) (the little theater movement . . . had its genesis in small groups of idealists eager to experiment with new methods and new media—Amer. Guide Series: Va.) Rise, although sometimes used in place of genesis, usually denotes the upward course of a new thing as opposed to its downward course or decline. It differs, therefore, from genesis, which represents a period comparable to gestation, in commonly representing a period comparable to that between a man’s birth and his full maturity or prime of life (the rise and fall of a great state) (this use of an old word in a slightly new sense took its rise out of the same milieu that led . . . to the addition of lynch law—Mathews) (the rise of large newspapers brought special problems, for their power of inflicting injury was enormous—Plucknett) Rise, however, is sometimes more limited in its signification, often being referred to that part of a growth or development which precedes its full flowering (the greater French novelists . . . chronicle the rise, the regime, and the decay of the upper bourgeoisie in France—T. S. Eliot) Initiation may refer to the period of indoctrination (as in the mysteries, rites, and ordeals of a religion or state of life or in the performance of one’s duties or functions): usually this indoctrination is by instructions which follow a system or it may be the unconscious result of many influences, but in any event it is felt as the beginning of a new period or state characterized by maturity fully attained (that universal preoccupation among men everywhere with initiation, that mysterious male rebirth of the youth into full membership in the society of men—La Barre) (such a love is the initiation into the higher life, the spring at once of virtue, of philosophy, and of religion—Dickin-
beguile

But often initiation loses this clear suggestion of attained maturity and is then essentially interchangeable with beginning (resolutely opposed the initiation and development of the researches that lead to the thermo-nuclear bomb—Times Lit. Sup.) (the platform...called for civic reform...and for the initiation of the city-manager form of government—Current Biol.).

Ana

*origin, source, inception, root: rise, derivation, emanation (see corresponding verbs at spring): emergence, appearance (see corresponding verbs at appear)

Con

termination, ending, *end: conclusion, completion, closing (see corresponding verbs at close)

begrime

grime, smirch, besmirch, dirty, sully, *soil, foul, befoul, tarnish

Ana

*spot, spatter, sprinkle

begudge

*covet, envy, grudge

beguile

1 delude, *deceive, mislead, betray, double-cross

Ana

*duplicate, guile, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle: cajole, wheedle, blandish, *coax: *cheat, cozen: *lure, entice, seduce

2 *while, wile, beguile, fleet

Ana

divert, *amuse, entertain: *comfort, solace: *speed, hasten, hurry

behave

1 Behave, conduct, comport, demean, deport, acquit, quitt are comparable when they mean to act or to cause oneself to act in a specified way or in a way that evokes comment. Behave denotes the performing of various actions or the saying of various things in the manner indicated by modifiers (one must keep one's contracts, and behave as persons of honor and breeding should behave—Rose Macaulay) (you will bitterly reproach him in your own heart, and seriously think that he has behaved very badly to you—Wilde). Used without modifiers, it indicates action and conduct adjudged proper and seemly: in this use it is common in relation to children and adolescents (the average parent is likely to say that the child behaves if the child conforms to what the parent thinks is right—Fishbein)

Conduct often applies to actions showing direction or control of one's actions or bearing with command, will, knowledge, and resolution (he conducted himself with patience and tact, endeavoring to enforce the laws and to check any revolutionary moves—W. E. Stevens)

Comport, in this sense always reflexive, is somewhat more formal than behave and conduct but usually lacks any other special suggestion though it sometimes may convey the notion of conformance to the expected (as of one's class) or suitable (as to one's position) (the missionaries...comported themselves in a way that did not rouse general antagonism or they could have been easily ousted—Spicer) (a man is judged now by how well he comport himself in the face of danger—Aldridge) (after having seen him thus publicly comport himself, but one course was open to me—to cut his acquaintance—Thackeray). In this sense demean and deport are close synonyms for comport; the former is becoming rare (it shall be my earnest endeavor to demean myself with grateful respect towards her—Austen). The latter may suggest deportment according to a code (Dido and Aeneas, in the Roman d'Eneas, deport themselves in accordance with the strictest canons of courtly love—Lowes). Acquit and quit, the latter archaic, are always used reflexively in this sense; they are likely to apply to action deserving praise or meeting expectations (I trust we acquit ourselves worthily as custodians of this sacred mystery—Wylie) (he then acquitted himself well as a hardworking and level-headed chairman of the judiciary committee of the House—Pearson) (the endless heroes of life and death who still bravely meet their separate hours...and quit themselves like men—Yale Review)

2 *act, react, operate, work, function

behavior, conduct, deportment are comparable when denoting a person's actions in general or on a particular occasion, so far as they serve as a basis of another's judgment of one's qualities (as character, temperament, mood, manners, or morals). Behavior may be used in reference to a human being regardless of status (as in age, development, or social standing), for it need not imply consciousness of what one is doing. Behavior may be thought of as instinctive or as voluntary and, hence, as either a spontaneous expression of personality or character or as the result of training or breeding (the captain's behavior to his wife and to his wife's father...was as if they had been a pair of not very congenial passengers—Conrad) (courageous behavior is easier for a man who fails to apprehend dangers—Russell) (grandfather had been bounted out of his congregation because he couldn't hold her to their standards of behavior for a minister's wife—Mary Austin). Since behavior is increasingly used in the various sciences in reference to animals and even substances, the term as referred to human beings tends to present usage to become more sharply differentiated from conduct than in the past. The latter term consistently carries a hint of moral responsibility and is less likely to confuse or mislead than behavior when this thought is prominent: thus, one diserves a servant because of his conduct (better than behavior because it implies violation of principles) (no animal's behavior is controlled by moral principles. Generally speaking, they do not rise from behavior to conduct—Clarke)

Department (see also bearing) is often used of behavior as taught or as the result of discipline; its strongest implication is that of degree of conformity to the accepted code of good manners or the conventions governing one's relations to one's fellows, one's superiors, or one's inferiors (children held up as models of deportment) (his old-fashioned deportment marked him out from others)

Ana

demeanor, mien, deportment, *bearing: *action, act, deed

behest

n bidding, dictate, injunction, *command, order, mandate

Ana

precept, rule, *law: request, solicitation (see corresponding verbs at ask)

behind *after

Ant

ahead

behindhand *tardy, late, overdue

Ana

dilatory, laggard, *slow: delayed, retarded, detailed (see delay vb)

Ant

beforehand —Con *early, soon, betimes: punctual (see careful): *quick, prompt

behold *see, view, survey, observe, descry, espy, notice, perceive, discern, remark, note, contemplate

Ana

watch, look, *see: regard, *consider

beholder

onlooker, looker-on, observer, witness, eye-witness, *spectator, bystander, kibitzer

being *existence, actuality

Ana

personality, individuality, character (see disposition)

Ant

becoming: nonbeing

2 *entity, creature, individual, person

Ana

*thing, object, article: *idea, concept, thought

belabor

*beat, pound, pummel, thrash, buffet, baste

Ana

*strike, hit, smite, slug, clout, swat, punch, box, cuff, slap

Ana

analogous words

Ant

antonyms

Con

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
belch vb Belch, burp, vomit, disgorgе, regurgitate, spew, throw up are comparable when they mean to eject matter (as food or gas) from the stomach by way of the mouth or, in extended use, from a containing cavity by way of an opening. Belch denotes the noisy voiding of gas from the stomach and may be extended to something ejected in volume and often with noise (as smoke and fire from a cannon or a volcano) (there stood a hill not far, whose grisly top belched fire and rolling smoke—Milton) (the war- fiend shrieks and belches out his fury—Capern)

Burp in its basic sense is interchangeable with belch (mopping his face solemnly with his cologne-scented handkerchief, and burping surreptitiously under it—Mencken) but in extended use is much less forceful and usually refers to something sounding like a human belch (the engine burped and ran out of gas—Road and Track).

Vomit is the usual word for the ejection through the mouth of what has been eaten or swallowed; ordinarily it implies nausea, but it may suggest a previous gorging or surfeit- ing or the use of an emetic (and the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land—Jonah 2:10). It is often used to suggest a forcible rejection or an emission or a discharge of contents (that huge black-mouthed sewer, vomiting its pestilential riches across the mud—Kingsley).

Disgorge, though close to vomit, more specifically implies an ejection of something swallowed, in essentially its original state (Jonah was disgorged by the whale after three days and three nights). Especially in extended use it may suggest an ejection or yielding up (as of something held or secreted) that is induced by force or pressure from without (make the French generals disgorgе the church plate which they have stolen—Wellington). Basically regurgitate implies a flowing or gushing back, typically of food from the stomach to the esophagus or mouth (cattle regurgitate small cuds of hebage for further chewing). In extended use regurgitate may reflect quite neutrally its basic meaning (“Mind you,” he said regurgitating his article slowly by phrase, “the subject doesn’t make the work of art”—Huxley) but more often it carries some suggestion of the unpleasantness of the physiological phenomenon (Henry was incapable of reversing himself or of regurgitating Cromwell’s wealth—Hackett).

Spew is rare in modern usage as a synonym for vomit but has extended use as connoting a pouring forth in a stream that cannot be restrained or, sometimes, a spurring or spitting forth (the steer . . . dying spews a flood of foamy madness, mixed with clotted blood—Dryden). It also may imply specifically a pouring forth of something offensive (as abusive or foul language) (Thersites spews over everything that we had deemed high and sacred, his foul . . . insults—Downen). Basically throw up is closely equivalent to vomit, though it may stress the matter ejected rather than the physiological process. In extended use it is distinctly less vigorous than vomit and usually implies no more than a producing or bringing forth of something (all the voluminous information thrown up by successive . . . investigations—Bemis).

beleaguer vb besiege, invest, blockade

beleaguer vb besiege, invest, blockade

beleaguer vb besiege, invest, blockade

beleaguer vb besiege, invest, blockade

believable vb credible, plausible, colorable, specious

belittle vb depreciate, disparage, derogate, detract, minimize, decry

belief 1 Belief, faith, credence, credit are comparable when they mean the act of one who assents intellectually to something proposed or offered for acceptance as true or the state of mind of one who so assents. Belief is less restricted in its application than the other terms, for it may or may not imply certainty or certainty in the one who assents; it may even suggest nothing more than his mere mental acceptance (his conclusions are beyond belief) (the theory merits belief) (nothing could shake his belief in the Bible as the word of God) (hope is the belief, more or less strong, that joy will come—Sydney Smith) (belief consists in accepting the affirmations of the soul; unbelief, in denying them—Emerson).

Faith implies full assent of the mind and therefore certainty, but it adds to this a strong implication of complete trust or confidence in the source (as the divinity, the institution, or the person) that proposes something or offers itself for belief and confidence. Consequently, although belief may represent the mind’s act or state when something is assersted to, regardless of whether it is or is not fully supported by evidence, faith characteristically represents the mind’s act or state only when something is assersted to on grounds other than the merely those of the evidence of one’s senses or of conclusions entirely supported by reason (faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen—Heb 11:1) (to believe only possibilities is not faith, but mere philosophy—Browne). (Such tales, whether false or true, were heard by our ancestors with eagerness and faith—Macaulay).

Faith often carries a strong suggestion of credulity or overreadiness to accept authority (he takes everything on faith). Credence stresses mere intellectual assent without implying weak or strong grounds for belief and without suggesting credulity or its absence. Consequently it is seldom used in reference to religious or philosophical doctrines and is commonly employed in reference to reports, rumors, and opinions (there is no superstition too absurd to find credence in modern England—Inge). (We are not now concerned with the finality or extent of truth in this judgment. The point is that it gained a widespread credence among the cultured class in Europe—Day Lewis).

Credit (see also influence) carries a weaker implication than any of the preceding words of certitude or of acceptance as a result of conviction; often it specifically suggests as its ground a reputation for truth in the person who offers something for acceptance (anything he will tell you about the circumstances is entitled to credit) (full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State—U.S. Constitution).

Ana certitude, assurance, *certainty, conviction: assenting or assent, acquiescing or acquiescence (see corresponding verbs at assent).

Ant unbelief, disbelief (see also incredulity) *uncertainty, doubt, mistrust.

2 conviction, persuasion, view, *opinion, sentiment.

Ana *dogma, tenet: *principle, fundamental: conclusion, judgment (see under infer).

belittle vb depreciate, disparage, derogate, detract, minimize, decry.

believable vb credible, plausible, colorable, specious.

Ana *probable, possible, likely.

Ant unbelievable *Con fabulous, mythical (see fictitious) *doubtful, dubious, questionable.

believable vb credible, plausible, colorable, specious.

belittle vb depreciate, disparage, derogate, detract, minimize, decry.

Ana underestimate, undervalue, underrate (see base words in estimate): diminish, reduce, lessen, *decrease.

Ant aggrandize, magnify *Con *exalt: heighten, intensify, enhance, aggravate: vaunt, gaud, brag, *boast, crow.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
bellicose *belligerent, pugnacious, combative, contentious, quarrelsome

*Ant* militant, *aggressive, assertive: antagonizing or antagonistic, combative or combative (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): fighting, warring, battling, contesting (see CONTEND): rebellious, factious, seditious, mutinous (see INSUBORDINATE)

*Ant* pacific: amicable — *Con* peaceful, pacifist, peaceable (see PACIFIC)

belligerent adj Belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, combative, quarrelsome, contentious mean having or taking an aggressive or fighting attitude. Belligerent usually implies actual engagement in hostilities (the belligerent powers in the World War) (define a nation’s status as not neutral yet not belligerent) When applied to such things as tones, speeches, or gestures, the term implies an actively hostile mood or warlike temper (a belligerent reply to a diplomatic note) Bellicose applies usually to a state of mind or temper: it suggests a desire or readiness to fight or sometimes a disposition to stir up a fight (a bellicose tribe) (an intoxicated man in a bellicose mood) (an editorial in a bellicose vein) Pugnacious and combative differ from bellicose (which is sometimes given an ironic or mock-heroic turn) in applying more commonly to disposition or character: they need not, however, convey the impression of pettiness or ill nature or of readiness to fight without genuine cause, so frequently implied in quarrelsome (the Scotch are certainly a most pugnacious people; their whole history proves it—Borrow) (in combat in the field of sports ... [is] generally approved. The combative impulses in human nature may thus find an expression—Cohen (soon every father bird and mother grew quarrelsome, and pecked each other—Cowper) (on the days they worked they were good-natured and cheerful ... on our idle days they were mutinous and quarrelsome—Franklin) Contentious frequently suggests perversity of temper and wearisome persistence in dispute (a very kind woman, though saying what she liked about her neighbors, and contentious toward all antireformers—Canby)

*Ana* hostile, antagonistic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY): fighting, warring, battling, contesting (see CONTEND): warlike, *martial

*Ant* friendly — *Con* neighborly, *amicable: *neutral, indifferent

curvature *curve, twist

cureulate, *curve, twist

crying, *shout, scream, shriek: bay, *bark, yelp: *cry, wail, keen

belly *abdomen, stomach, paunch, gut

belong *pertain, appertain, relate, apply, *bear

belongings *possessions, effects, means, resources, assets

below, under, beneath, underneath mean in a lower position relatively to some other object or place. Below (opposed to above) applies to something which is anywhere in a lower plane than the object of reference; under (opposed to over) to something which is below in a relatively vertical line, and it may imply actual covering (below sea level) (the valley far below us) (under a tree) (under the bed) (hide one’s light under a bushel) (the Whirlpool Rapids are below, and the Cave of the Winds is under Niagara Falls) (the whole visible landscape is below, but only a small portion of it under, an observer in a balloon) Beneath is an equivalent of both below and under (heaven above, or ... the earth beneath—Exod 20:4) (beneath the spreading tree—Goldsmith) Underneath is often employed in place of under or beneath. It is, however, the preferred term when there is the intent to imply complete or nearly complete concealment (mines underneath the city) (garments worn underneath a dress)

In their extended senses below and under agree in expressing inferiority but differ (like above and over) in the immediacy of the relation expressed; thus, one officer may be below another in rank without being under him in immediate subordination. Similarly, with reference to deficiency, below is commonly used in general, under in more specific, relations (below the accepted standard) (below normal temperatures) (under six years of age) Beneath frequently suggests social, moral, or general inferiority (married beneath herself) (criticism beneath his notice) (beneath contempt) Underneath suggests, not inferiority, but something underlying and not indicated clearly by what is outwardly manifest (underneath his ingratiating manner one felt a sinister intention) (there is something underneath this announcement, I am sure)

*Ant* above — *Con* over (see ABOVE)

bent zone, *area, tract, region

bemoan *bemoan bewail, lament, *deplore

*Ant* exult

bemuse *bemuse *daze, stun, stupefy, benumb, paralyze, petrify

*Ant* confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle, befuddle

*Con* illuminate, enlighten: arouse, rouse, *stir, awaken: excite, stimulate, *provoke

bend vb *bend *curve, twist

*Ant* contort, *deform: defect, divert (see TURN)

*Ant* straighten

beneath underneath, under, *below

*Ant* above, over

benefaction *benefaction *donation, contribution, alms

*Ant* gift, present, largess, boon: endowment (see corresponding verb at DOWER): grant, subvention (see APPROPRIATION): *charity, philanthropy

beneficent *beneficent

*Ant* charitable, humanitarian, philanthropic, eleemosynary, altruistic: munificent, bountiful, bounteous, open-handed, generous (see LIBERAL)

*Ant* maleficient

beneficial, advantageous, profitable are applied to what brings good or gain. Beneficial refers to what promotes health or well-being; advantageous, to what more directly conduces to relative superiority or subserves a desirable end; profitable, to what yields useful or lucrative returns (a climate beneficial to rheumatism) (measures ... beneficial to the kingdom—J. R. Green) (the enemy were in an advantageous position on the hill) (you see ... how swift and advantageous a harbinger it [a good reputation] is, wherever one goes—Chesterfield) (a profitable study) (profitable investments)

*Ant* salutary, *healthful, wholesome: *favorable, benign, propitious

*Ant* harmful: detrimental — *Con* *pernicious, deleterious, bane, noxious

profit vb Benefit, profit, avail mean to do good or to be of advantage to someone. Benefit usually implies personal betterment or improvement (as of one’s physical, intellectual, moral, or spiritual condition), but it may suggest enrichment or a furtherance of one’s ends (a summer at the seashore benefits the entire family) (we all benefit greatly by lighthouses, even those of us who have never seen the sea and never expect to—Shaw) (the expansion of the city’s industries benefits everyone indirectly) Profits carries a strong implication of gain, especially material gain. It is therefore preferred to benefit when an increase or yield, as opposed to a decrease or loss, in one’s store (as of wealth, power, or knowledge) is to be suggested; thus, he always profits (not benefits, unless one wishes to imply a salutary effect) by the misfortunes of...
benevolent

benign, *kind, kindly

Ant malign — Con malevolent, spiteful, *malicious: merciless, unrelenting, implacable, relentless, *grim

bent n turn, talent, aptitude, knack, *gift, faculty, genius

Ana propensity, penchant, *leaning, proclivity, flair: *predilection, bias, prepossession, prejudice, partiality: capacity, *ability, capability

Con disinclination, indisposition, reluctance (see corresponding adjectives at DISINCLINED): aversion, *antiathy

benumb *daze, stun, bemuse, stupefy, paralyze, petrify

Ana chill, freeze (see corresponding adjectives at COLD): congeal (see COAGULATE): dumbfound, confound, nonplus, bewilder (see PUZZLE)

bequeath *will, devise, leave, legate

Ana *give, present, bestow: *distribute, dispense

bereate *worry, annoy, harass, harry, pester, plague: assail, *berate

bequeath *will, devise, leave, legate

belong *distribute, dispense

beneficent 1 charitable, philanthropic, eleemosynary, humanitarian, humane, altruistic


Ant malevolent — Con *malicious, malignant, malign, spiteful: *stingy, close, miserly

2 Benevolent, beneficent are closely related rather than strictly synonymous terms. Benevolent, which applies primarily to persons, means kindly in feelings and disposed to be generous or charitable, thereby expressing the will to do good, while beneficent, which applies to persons and things, means doing or effecting good, thereby emphasizing the fact of doing good. Consequently benevolent is not only applied to a person, a group, or an institution, but to matters (as looks, attitudes, intentions, manners, and tones) that suggest a kindly disposition or a wish to help

beleaguer, invest, blockade mean to surround an enemy in a fortified or strong position so as to prevent ingress or egress. Besiege implies a sitting down before the entrance to a fortified place (as a castle or a walled town), and it may be used to denote the operation of attackers of a strongly fortified or naturally protected position of the enemy and usually implies the surrounding of it and frequent assaults upon it in order to break down the resistance of the enemy (Troy was besieged by Greek armies for ten years) Beleaguer does not materially differ from besiege in meaning, although it springs from a different type of warfare, one where fortifications are less the objects of attack and is then applicable to the benefits produced by things (overflows its banks and leaves beneficent layers of fertile soil—Mumford) (the beneficent Gulf stream prevents things from really getting cold—Joseph)

Ana, Ant, Con see those at BENEVOLENT 1

benign 1 benignant, kindly, *kind

Ana *gracious, genial, cordial, affable: sympathetic, *tender, compassionate: *suave, urbane, bland

Ant malign — Con malignant, malevolent, *malicious, spiteful: *caustic, acrid, mordant

2 auspicious, *favorable, propitious


Ant malign — Con *sinister, baleful, malefic, maleficient: threatening, menacing (see THREATEN)

benignant benign, *kind, kindly


Ant malignant — Con malevolent, spiteful, *malicious: merciless, unrelenting, implacable, relentless, *grim

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In extended use besiege stresses a blocking up (they will besiege your doors) or an assailing with importunities (I was besieged by four small Bedouin children who had been whimpering for money as I read the papers—Liebling) and beleaguer emphasizes a pestering or annoying (the girl
is . . . beleaguered . . . a worthy gentleman—Richardson

〈the family is beleaguered by peddlers〉 Invest comes very close to besiege, but it does not, by comparison, carry as strong an implication of strength or of persistence in attack. In many cases it implies the use of men and weapons to prevent ingress or egress, but it carries little suggestion of frequent assaults upon the position 〈Astorga is invested, but has not been vigorously attacked—Wellington〉 〈Charleston was never besieged nor was any serious effort made . . . to invest it on the land side—Spaulling〉 Blockade usually stresses a closing of all sea-lanes to those who wish to enter or leave hostile territory. The term usually implies the use of ships or mines to attain this end, but if the attacking country is sufficiently strong, it may imply prohibition of neutral or enemy vessels entering or leaving and efforts to seize or detain those that disobe[y. The object of blockading is usually to starve the enemy or to prevent the entrance of essential supplies 〈in any showdown the West's ultimate power to blockade might make the Russians think twice—Time〉

Ana *enclose, envelop, pen: *surround, environ, encircle, encompass, hem: beset (see INFEST): assail, *attack, assault

besmirch smirch, dirty, sully, *soil, foul, befoul, grime, begrime, tarnish

Ant cleanse

besotted infatuated, *fond, insensate

Ana fatuous, asinine, foolish, silly, *simple: *drunk, drunken, intoxicated, inebriated: *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass

Con sensible, sane, *wise, judicious, prudent: *rational, reasonable: sober, *serious, earnest

bespangled spangled, spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mot-

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ted, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled (see under SPOT

v b)

Ana *bright, brilliantly, radiant: illuminated, il-
lumined, lighted (see ILLUINATE)

bespeak betoken, attest, *indicate, argue, prove

Ana manifest, evidence, *show, evince, demonstrate: im-

ply, hint, *suggest

bestial brutish, brute, *brutal, feral, beastly

Ana debased, depraved, corrupted or corrupt (see under DEBASE): degenerate, *vicious: degraded (see ABASE): sen-

sual, fleshly, *carnal

bestow confer, present, donate, *give, afford

Ana *distribute, dispense, divide: *grant, award

bet n Bet, wager, stake, pot, ante denote in common something of value, usually money, risked in the confidence or hope that something is true or will turn out in a certain way, something else of value being risked by at least one other party in support of an opposing confidence or hope. Bet and wager are used with little distinction of meaning either of what is risked or of the act of risking it. Stake implies money or valuables bet and actually produced and entrusted to a neutral party (stakeholder) or placed in the pot in a card game. By extension a stake is anything material or nonmaterial that one stands in jeopardy of losing 〈and will probably always have the largest commercial stake in the African continent—Livingstone〉 〈with my most affectionate wishes for Dr. Johnson's recovery, in which his friends . . . have so deep a stake—Dick〉 A pot is an aggregate of the bets made by all the bettors or players especially in poker 〈won several big pots in successive deals〉 An ante typically is a stake which each player in a poker game who wishes to continue a particular hand puts up after he has seen his original five cards but before he draws other cards, but in some games of stud or draw poker and in blackjack the ante is a compulsory stake put up by each player before the cards are seen. By extension an ante is a share or amount which must be put up, usually as a price or as a prelude to a joint venture 〈considerations that tend to raise the ante so as to discourage all but the most efficient producers—Amer. Fabrics〉 〈the ante of these shareholders and other private sources of financing the steel expansion will come to about 1.7 billion dollars—Atlantic〉

bête noire *abomination, bugbear, anathema

bethink recollect, remind, *remember, recall, reminisce, mind

better befell, *happen, chance, occur, transpire
times *early, soon, beforehand

Ant unseasonably, inopportunately

betoken bespeak, attest, *indicate, argue, prove

Ana presage, augur, portend, forebode (see FORETELL): import, signify, denote, *mean: evidence, manifest, *show, evince, demonstrate

betray 1 misleading, delude, *deceive, beguile, double-cross

Ana trap, entrap, snare, ensnare (see CATCH): *dupe, trick, befool, hoodwink, gull 2 discover, *reveal, disclose, divulge, tell

Ana manifest, evidence, evince, *show, demonstrate: at-
test, betoken, bespeak, argue, *indicate

Con shield, guard, safeguard, protect, *defend

better adj Better, superior, preferable mean more worthy or more pleasing than another or others. Better, which often serves as the comparative of good, in this sense implies a quality or character in a person or thing that surpasses or exceeds that in the one or ones called good 〈the theme is good, but I think you can write a better one〉 〈he proposed a better scheme than any that had been discussed〉 Often, however, better is used in comparison or contrast with something that can be described as bad 〈give him time to show his better nature〉 〈looking upon myself as no better than a dead man—Steele〉 or with something that may be good, bad, or indifferent yet from the point of view of the speaker or writer is to be rejected as totally undesirable in comparison 〈it is better for him that a mill-stone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea—Mk. 9:42〉 〈better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven—Milton〉 Superior in all its uses retains some feeling of its basic meaning, higher in physical position, which is now largely restricted to technical contexts in which it implies opposition to what is below 〈inferior〉; thus, the upper jaw or maxilla is sometimes distinguished as the superior maxilla from the lower jaw or mandible which is then designated the inferior maxilla. Superior often implies a scale (as of values or ranks) and emphasizes height (as of status, quality, or worth); thus, if a student is doing good work one might suggest that he could do better 〈as compared with his previous accomplishment〉 if he tried, and might hope that his added efforts would produce a truly superior result (as compared either with any relevant accomplishment or with a scale of possible accomplishments); one might like an author's new book better than his last but rate it superior to anything he had previously written 〈a sergeant is superior to a corporal〉 〈certain rights are superior to constitutions and to statute laws—Lippincott〉 〈the superior durability of parchment—Caulon〉 〈superior with or without desired experience—Trewarthwa〉 Preferable implies a choice between two things or one thing and all others usually on the ground that the thing chosen is better by comparison or is superior in quality, status, or kind. But its chief emphasis is upon relative desirability, and the other implications may be greatly

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
obscured or lost upon occasion (he finds a walk in the country preferable to reading a book)  
*Ana* *choice, delicate, dainty: selected, culled, picked, preferred (see *choose*)

**better** *vb* *improve, ameliorate, help*  
*Ana* *correct, amend, reform, rectify, remedy, redress: enhance (see *intensify*)

**Ant** worsen — *Con* impair, mar, harm, damage, *injure: *debase, vitiate, corrupt

**between, among** are comparable when they take as object two or more persons or things and indicate their relation (as in position, in a distribution, or in participation). **Between** in its basic sense applies to only two objects (*between* Seylla and Charybdis) (*between* two fires) *When this word is used of more than two objects, it brings them severally and individually into the relation expressed* (*a treaty between three powers*) (*the three survivors had but one pair of shoes between them*) (*I hope that between public business, improving studies, and domestic pleasures, neither melancholy nor caprice will find any place for entrance—Johnson*) *Among always implies more than two objects which it brings less definitely into the relation expressed* (*among so many candidates one must find a good one*) (*among the survivors were two boys*) *five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?—*bn 6:9*

**bewail** lament, *deplor, bemoan*  
*Ana* sorrow, *grieve, mourn: wail, weep, *cry*  
*Ant* rejoice

**bewilder** mystify, perplex, distract, *puzzle, confound, nonplus, dumbfound*  
*Ana* *confuse, addle, muddle: fluster, flurry, per- turb, agitation, upset (see *discompose): baffle, foil (see *frustrate*)

**bewitch** enchant, captivate, fascinate, charm, allure, *attract*  
*Ana* *thrill, electrify: delight, *please: infatuate, enamor*  
*Ant* *confuse, addle, fuddle, muddle: fluster, flurry, per- turb, agitate, upset (see *discompose): baffle, foil (see *frustrate*)

**biannual, biennial, semiannual** though not synonymous, are frequently confused. The chief source of confusion is biannual, which is used to mean either twice a year or happening every two years. If no clue to its meaning is given by the term and is used inclusively by ornithologists for such a structure; in popular usage, however, *bill* suggests a structure that is straight and often flattened or long and slender (as in the duck, swan, hummingbird, crane, heron, sand- piper, or snipe) or one that is short, stout, and conical (as in the cardinal bird or hawkfinch). *Beak* is associated with striking or tearing and is the usual term for a structure, characteristic especially of birds of prey, in which the tip of the upper mandible has a sharp downward curvature and overhangs the lower mandible (as in the eagle, vulture, or hawk) (*although the kite soar with unbloodied beak—Shak.*) *Neb* and *nib* are equivalent to *bill or beak* chiefly in dialect or poetry but derive from this use their com- moner extended sense of a jutting or pointed thing or part (*the nib of a pen*)

**bias** *n* prejudice, prepossession, partiality, *predilection*  
*Ana* slant, standpoint, *point of view, viewpoint, angle: *leaning, propensity: inclining or inclination, predisposi- tion, disposition (see corresponding verbs at *incline*)

*Con* fairness, justness, impartiality, dispassionateness (see corresponding adjectives at *fair*)

**bias** *vb* *incline, dispose, predispose*  
*Ana* sway, influence, *affect, impress*

**bicker** squabble, spat, tiff, quarrel, wrangle, altercate (see under *quarrel*)

*Ana* *content, fight, battle, war*

**bickering** spat, tiff, squabble, *quarrel, wrangle, altercation*  
*Ana* *discord, contention, dissension, strife, conflict*

**bid** *vb* 1 *command, order, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge*  
*Ana* *summon, summons, call, cite*  

*Ant* forbid — *Con* prohibit, enjoin, interdict, inhibit (see *forbid*)  
2 *invite, solicit, court, woo*  
*Ana* *ask, request*  

**bid n** tender, *overture, advance, approach*  
*Ana* offering or offer, proffering or proffer (see corre- sponding verbs at *offer*: *proposal, proposition: inviting or invitation, soliciting or solicitation (see corresponding verbs at *invite*)

**biddable** docile, amenable, tractable, *obedient*  
*Ana* *compliant, acquiescent: obliging, complaisant, good-natured, *amiable: submissive, *tame*  
*Ant* willful — *Con* intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, headstrong, ungovernable, *unruly: *obstinate, stubborn, stiff-necked, mulish

**bidding** behest, *command, order, injunction, mandate, dictate*  
*Ana* direction, instruction (see corresponding verbs at *command*: summoning or summons, calling or call, citing or citation (see corresponding verbs at *summon*)

**biennial** *biannual, semiannual*  
big *large, great*  
*Ana* *grand, magnificent, imposing, grandiose, majestic, august: *huge, immense, enormous, gigantic, colossal*  
*Ant* little — *Con* small, diminutive, wee, tiny, petite, minute, microscopic, miniature

**bigot** fanatic, *enthusiast, zealot*  
**bigoted** *illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant, hidebound*  
*Con* tolerant, *forbearing, lenient: *liberal, progressive, advanced, radical*

**bill** *n*  
*Bill, beak, neb, nib* denote the jaws of a bird together with their projecting horny covering. *Bill* is the general term and is used inclusively by ornithologists for such a structure; in popular usage, however, *bill* suggests a structure that is straight and often flattened or long and slender (as in the duck, swan, hummingbird, crane, heron, sand- piper, or snipe) or one that is short, stout, and conical (as in the cardinal bird or hawkfinch). *Beak* is associated with striking or tearing and is the usual term for a structure, characteristic especially of birds of prey, in which the tip of the upper mandible has a sharp downward curvature and overhangs the lower mandible (as in the eagle, vulture, or hawk) (*although the kite soar with unbloodied beak—Shak.*) *Neb* and *nib* are equivalent to *bill or beak* chiefly in dialect or poetry but derive from this use their com- moner extended sense of a jutting or pointed thing or part (*the nib of a pen*)

**biography** life, memoir, autobiography, confessions are comparable when they mean a more or less detailed account of the events and circumstances of a person's life. *Biography* is the technical, neutral term for this kind of writing or for an example of it; the term suggests neither length nor brevity of treatment, neither factuality nor in-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
interpretation of facts, neither partisanship nor detachment, for it may be characterized by any of these qualities, but it does imply that the course of a career is covered at least in its main events: the official biography . . . written by his son is in print and easily available—Nock. (Lynton Strachey's biography of Queen Victoria restricts itself to the facts which develop his conception of her.) Life usually suggests a fuller and more intimate treatment than biography; a work so designated may, however, be written on a brief scale or be drawn out so that very little is escaped. Life is often used in place of biography when the author especially wishes to suggest a vivid or graphic or interpretive account or to imply the addition of firsthand material (as letters or a journal); the term is also often used in the combination "life and times" as the title for a biography placing the subject in the background of his period. Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson: (Ray Stannard Baker's Life and Letters of Woodrow Wilson): Life and Times of Jesus by J. F. Clarke: Memoir (or often the plural memoirs) refers to a biography written by one who has intimate knowledge of its details; although it does not necessarily imply that the subject of the biography is the writer, it very frequently does so. Also, memoir may suggest reminiscences of a whole or of part of a life; the term therefore carries no promise of completeness, or fullness, but it does connote a more personal approach than biography or, usually, than life. Hallam Tennyson's biography of his father is called Alfred, Lord Tennyson: A Memoir: its spirit is so devoted as to make it almost more a memoir than a biography—Nock. Autobiography refers to a biography of oneself typically written toward the end of one's life or at the completion of one's active career. Autobiography usually implies some distinction in the writer and a demand for or the desire to give information about the personalities and events of his time or about the background of the events in which he has played a part. The term is seldom used in the titles of books and is preferred as a designation of a type. My Life is Havelock Ellis's autobiography: what would we give for such an autobiography of Shakespeare—Carlyle: Confessions as a type belong to the genre of autobiography. Confessions are usually written by a person who desires to avow fully the experiences of his life, both shameful and creditable. The motive of such a book is as varied as the books themselves; thus, to give extremes, the Confessions of St. Augustine were written for the glorification of God, who has brought him out of a life of sin; the Confessions of Rousseau were written to reveal truly and sincerely all his experiences without reference to the opinions of men: De Quincey's Confessions of an English Opium Eater: biologic *drug, simple, medicinal, pharmaceutical

*particle, mite, smidgen, whit, atom, iota, jot, tittle

piece, fragment, detail, fraction, *part, portion

bite, gnaw, champ, gnash are comparable when they mean to attack with or as if with the teeth. Bite fundamentally implies a getting of the teeth, especially the front teeth, of cutting into something so that it stings or pricks, or implies a getting of the teeth, especially the front teeth, of cutting into something so that it stings or pricks. Sometimes bite denotes wound by biting the dog has bitten a boy (unable to fight with hands or feet, he savagely bit his antagonist) In extended use bite implies unusual power of penetration or power of cutting into something so that it stings or pricks, or gives support to a good grip or hold scissors that snip sheet steel and bite off heavy bars—Shaw (bite an etching plate with acid) saws . . . as they . . . bite the notion of the bisexual character of man—Mullahy. Hermaphroditic and hermaphrodite when applied to human beings usually indicate primarily the presence of physical characteristics and especially of actual gonads of both sexes in the same individual and imply an abnormal state hermaphroditic children, where both ovaries and testes are present Newsweek: Hermaphroditism frequently or hermaphroditically occasionally has extended use in which it suggests the combination of two readily distinguishable and often more or less incongruous elements; thus, a hermaphrodite wagon is one made up of a two-wheeled cart with an extra pair of wheels and a rack added: hermaphroditism calipers have one caliper and one divider leg a young Konigsberg architect, a Bait (that is to say a kind of hermaphroditic Russian and Prussian too) Clare Sheridan everybody in every war, barring the hermaphrodite soldier who wears a uniform but doesn't fight, lives in a sort of hell—Kenneth Roberts: Androgynous in reference to human beings or to qualities or characteristics rarely connotes abnormality but rather suggests a congruous and pleasing blending has the androgynous Greek beauty which suits a youth or a goddess equally well, combining the vigor of one sex with the grace of the other—The Critic: if one is a man, still the woman part of the brain must have effect; and a woman must also have intercourse with the man in her. Coleridge perhaps meant this when he said that a great mind is androgynous—Woolf: Androgynous is also the preferred term for use in respect to deities, their attributes or appearances: a somewhat androgynous Apollo—Grigson: the androgynous character of the Bodhisattva: masculine Avalokiteshvara, feminine Kwan Yin Joseph Campbell: Unlike the preceding terms, epicene has no technical application to physical or functional status; however, in its often allusive reference to sex in characterizing human beings, their attributes, or the products of their being it may approach the other terms in meaning decapitated by a hero disguised as a woman . . . his brothers suspect the epicene wife because of her masculine arms—Lowie: More often epicene suggests deficient sexuality and may imply intersexuality, effeminacy, or sexlessness the hearty sportsman who is really epicene beneath his tweeds—Gibbs: if only all this messy business of sex could be done away with and we could all remain . . . happy, epicene Peter Pans—Dwight Macdonald: In some contexts epicene loses all direct reference to sex and suggests rather the weakness inherent in deficiency which may be expressed on the one hand in extreme delicacy something dreamy, ambiguous, almost epicene—Norman Douglas or on the other in utter decadence the glass of fashion and the mold of form, so dainty a figure, indeed, that he turned Mark Twain's stomach and appears as an epicene clown in the American's robust story—G. W. Johnson.
bizarre: debar, shut out, *exclude, eliminate, rule
blackguard: *villain, scoundrel, knave, rascal, rogue,
bitter, acrid: *caustic, mordant, acrid: *pungent, poignant, piercing
Bitter
blame: reprehend, reprobate, condemn, denounce, censure, *criticize
Blame
blameworthy: culpability, guilt, fault are comparable
culpability: blame, culpability, guilt, fault are comparable
culpability: blame or criticism and must suffer or receive reproach, censure, or even more severe punishment (they therefore still, blameworthy as thou art . . . thee I account still happy, and the chief among the nations, seeing thou art free—Cowper)
A person is guilty who is justly chargeable with responsibility for a delinquency, crime, or sin,

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
either in his own knowledge or in that of others, by his confession or by proof (often legal proof) of his responsibility; the term may stress either the fact that guilt has been proved or the fact or the fear of resulting punishment (the defendant was found guilty) suspicion always haunts the guilty mind; the thief doth fear each bush an officer—Shak.> <let no guilty man escape, if it can be avoided—Grant> Often the term suggests merely a state of mind (as a consciousness that one has committed a sin or a crime or a fear that one is justly suspected of wrongdoing or of a misdeed) a guilty conscience there is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty—Russell> A person is culpable who has been shown to be blameworthy and open to severe censure or condemnation (the judge . . . remarked that those whom Smith had gulled were almost as culpable as he—Altick> The term is also applicable to a blameworthy act, condition, or practice for which one is responsible or which leads to wrong or harm culpable ignorance culpable neglect is it not . . . culpable and unworthy, thus beforehand to slur her honor?—Shelley> Ant blameless —Con faultless, *impeccable, flawless


Con *expressive, meaningful, significant, pregnant *blasphemous *improbable, profane, sacrilegious blasphemy 1 Blasphemy, profanity, swearing, cursing are comparable when meaning impious or irreverent speech. Blasphemy, the strongest term (see also PROFANATION), applies strictly to an intentional or malicious utterance in which the Supreme Being is defied or offered indignity; as such it is regarded as a serious sin in theology and as a crime at the common law genuine blasphemy, genuine in spirit and not purely verbal, is the product of partial belief and is as impossible to the complete atheist as to the perfect Christian—T. S. Eliot> Profanity has a wider range and includes all irreverent reference to holy things; it is particularly applied to speech in which the names of God, Jesus, and the Virgin Mary are used lightly and irreverently, especially in expressing rage or passion in oaths, curses, and imprecations (he had what one might call a preliminary recourse in his profanity, those "scorch- ing, singing blasts" he was always directing at his compa- 2 *profanation, desecration, sacrilege...
**blaze**

*vb* Blaze, flame, flare, glare, glow are comparable both as verbs meaning to burn or appear to burn brightly and as nouns denoting a brightly burning light or fire. Blaze implies great activity in burning, the thorough kindling of the burning substance or material, and the radiation of intense light and often heat (the sun blasted down upon them with a crushing violence—Forrestor) (everyone fought fire. Everyone went to the woods and threshed out some new blaze—Vorse) (her eyes blazing in her white face—Stevenson) Flame suggests a darting tongue or tongues of fire formed by rapidly burning gas or vapor; it therefore often connotes less steadiness than blaze and sometimes less intense heat and light (the burning house was soon a mass of flames) (the torches flamed in the wind) (the dry fuel soon burst into flame) (dimmed hope's newly kindled flame—Shelley) Flare implies flame, especially a flame darting up suddenly against a dark background or from a dying fire (torches that guttered and flared—Howlett) (he . . . lighted a cigarette and then remembered that the flare of the match could probably be seen from the station—Anderson) Glare (see also Gaze) emphasizes the steady emission or reflection of bright light; it sometimes connotes an almost unendurable brilliance (dazzed by the lantern glare—Kipling) (the snow glares in the sunlight) (the glare of a forest fire in the sky) (he . . . lets the fire glare on the sullen face for a moment, and it sears itself into the memory forever—J. R. Lowell) (his days were passed in the glare of publicity—Buchan) Glow also stresses the emission of light, but it suggests an absence of flame and therefore connotes steadiness, intensity, radiance without brilliance, and often warmth and duration (the glow of coals) (her fine effect of glowing from within as a lamp glows—Mary Austin) (the fire that burned within him, that glowed with so strange and marvelous a radiance in almost all he wrote—Huxley) Ana *illuminare, illumine, light: *burn: *flash, gleam, glance

**bleach**

*vb* Bleach, fire, kindling, igniting or ignition (see corresponding verbs at LIGHT): effulgence, refugence, radiance, brilliance or brilliancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT)

**blind**

*vb* Blind, stain, *stigma: tainting or taint, pollution, defilement (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE): *fault, failing, frailty: *lack, want, privation

**blendedness**—Con purity, simplicity (see corresponding adjectives at PURE): cleanliness, cleanlinessness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAN): clearness, transparency, pellucidness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR)

**blessed**—*holy, sacred, divine, spiritual, religious

**bleach**

*vb* Bleach, fire, kindling, igniting or ignition (see corresponding verbs at LIGHT): effulgence, refugence, radiance, brilliance or brilliancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT)
blind 105 blossom

(\text{the intolerable narrowness and the purblind conscience of the society—George Eliot}) (in Washington purblind congressmen, sensitive only to the demands of big business, fastened . . . the McKinley tariff—Nevins & Commanger)\textit{Con} seeing, perceiving, discerning, noticing, noting (see \textit{SEE}): *aware, alive, conscious, sensible, cognizant, awake

\textbf{blind n} Blind, shade, shutter mean a device that serves as a screen for a window. Blind is used especially in British countries to designate a window covering, usually of fabric and operating on a roller, that shuts out the sunlight or at night prevents those outside from seeing in. In this sense shade is more usual in the United States. The use of the term \textit{blind} as an element of or as a shortened form for \textit{venetian blind} is common both in American and British countries. \textit{Venetian blind} refers to a flexible inside curtain composed of light and narrow laths fixed on tapes which may be raised or lowered as desired and whose laths may be opened or closed according to the amount of light needed. But \textit{blind} (or \textit{blinds}, since a pair of the devices is usually fitted to a single window) is used chiefly for a device fitted on the outside or on the inside of a window, made of a wooden frame with slats that are movable or fixed, and typically hinged at the side so that when opened it lies flat against the outside wall or folds into an inner recess of the window frame. This device is also called a \textit{shutter}. But \textit{shutter} is actually a more inclusive term and implies a device that can be shut (as to exclude light, rain, or wind, to insure privacy, or to make safe against intruders). The term therefore includes such devices as those made of solid panels whether used singly or in pairs or sets to each window, and whether left permanently in place or hung when desired (\textit{storm shutters}) (\textit{hurricane shutters}) (\textit{each night the shopkeeper put up his shutters})

\textbf{blink vb} *wink

\textit{Ana} ignore, disregard, overlook, slight, *neglect: evade, elude, avoid, shun (see \textit{ESCAPE})\textit{Con} *see, note, notice, observe, remark

\textbf{bliss} beatitude, blessedness, felicity, *happiness

\textbf{blockade vb} *besiege, beleaguer, invent

\textit{Ana} *close, shut: block, impede, obstruct (see \textit{HINDER}): *enclose: *surround, environ, encircle

\textbf{bloodless} anemic, *pale

\textit{Ana} *colorless, uncolored: wishy-washy, vapid, inane (see \textit{INSIPID})

\textbf{Ant} sanguine: plethoric —\textit{Con} vital, alive, *living: vivid, *graphic: *vigor: *lusty, nervous

\textbf{bloody, sanguinary, sanguine, sanguineous, gory} are comparable when they mean affected by or involving the shedding of blood. \textit{Bloody} may be used in place of any of the succeeding words, but it specifically and distinctively applies to that which is covered with blood or is actually or apparently made up of blood (\textit{a bloody knife}) (\textit{bloody hands}) (\textit{a bloody discharge from a wound}) \textit{Sanguinary} usually and \textit{bloody} also when a simpler, more forcible word is desired apply to something attended by or someone bent upon bloodshed (\textit{a sanguinary conflict}) (\textit{sanguinary deeds}) (\textit{my thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth—Shak.}) (\textit{a bloody battle}) \textit{Sanguine} and \textit{sanguineous} are used chiefly in a literary context in place of either of the preceding words or in specifically implying an association with the demands of bloodlustiness or the color of blood (to find his way through the sanguine labyrinth of passion through which he was wandering—Wilde) (his passion, cruel grown, took on a hue fierce and sanguineous—Keats) \textit{Gory} sometimes suggests clotted blood, but more often it suggests a profusion of blood that testifies to slaughter (\textit{a gory fight}) (\textit{never shake thy gory locks at me—Shak.})

\textbf{bloom n} flower, blow, blossom (see under \textit{blossom vb})

\textit{bloom vb} flower, blow, *blossom

\textit{Ana} flourish, thrive, prosper (see \textit{SUCCEED})

\textit{blossom n} flower, bloom, blow (see under \textit{blossom vb})

\textit{blossom vb} *Bloom, blossom, flower, blow are comparable as verbs when meaning to become florescent and as nouns when meaning the period or state of florescence or (except for \textit{blow}) meaning the florescent part itself. \textit{Blossom} may be used of a plant that reaches the condition of florescence, but typically it applies to trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants (and to their florescent parts) that normally proceed to bear what is ordinarily (not technically) called a fruit (\textit{the cherry trees are in blossom}) (\textit{the apple trees will blossom next month}) (\textit{the tomatoes have shed their blossoms}) \textit{Bloom}, though sometimes employed interchangeably with \textit{blossom}, is typically used of such herbaceous plants, shrubs, or trees (or their florescent parts) as have reached the height of their beauty during the period of florescence (\textit{the roses are in bloom}) (\textit{the iris is blooming}) (\textit{the rhododendron has blooms in early June in this locality}) \textit{Flower} in technical use as a noun refers to the part of a seed plant which normally bears reproductive organs; in popular use it is usually restricted to such part when its gross structure is showy and conspicuously colored or white. Fragrance, freshness, shortness of life or of beauty are the implications in the popular use of the noun and the verb that distinguishes \textit{flower} from \textit{bloom} chiefly but also from \textit{blossom}; also \textit{flower} is often thought of as apart from the plant where it has grown (\textit{a bouquet of flowers}) (\textit{the rambler's period of flowering is short}) (\textit{one after another the garden plants were} flowered, but always in the meantime some had faded) (\textit{as for man, his days are grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth—Ps 103:15}) (\textit{full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air—Gray}) (\textit{there can be no perfect flower without fragrance—Symons}) \textit{Blow}, in this

\textit{Ana} analogous words \textit{Ant} antonyms \textit{Con} contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sense, has an archaic or poetic flavor except in the combination full-blown. Usually it suggests a bursting into flower or bloom and often, especially in the noun, connotes a great display of blooms 〈I know a bank where the wild thyme blows—Shak〉 〈the blossoms blow; the birds on bushes sing—Dryden〉 〈such a blow of tulips, as was not to be matched—Addison〉

All of these words have extended use. Blossom usually suggests something analogous to a natural blossom (as in freshness or rich development) 〈after a shy girlhood she is blossoming out in college〉 Bloom usually suggests a time or period of perfection, vigor, or beauty 〈the bloom of perfect manhood—Hamilton〉 〈the hills are full of marble before the world blooms with statues—Phillips Brooks〉 Flower implies the choicest part, specimen, or product of something or its coming into being 〈the flower of a nation died in that war〉 〈always the flower of courtesy—Cather〉 〈I think it [Greek literature] one of the brightest flowers of the human spirit—Benson〉 〈art, he thought, should flower from an immediate impulse towards self-expression or communication—Huxley〉 Blow, by far the least frequent of these terms in such use, implies a bursting into beauty or perfection.

blot n  ∗stigma, brand, stain
Ant  ∗taint, defilement, pollution (see corresponding verbs at contaminate) 〈blemish, flaw, defect; shame,  ∗disgrace, ignominy, obloquy〉
blot out vb  delete, obliterate, expunge,  ∗erase, cancel, extirpate
Ana  ∗abolish, annihilate, extinguish; wipe,  ∗exterminate, suppress
Con  preserve,  ∗save, conserve: imprint, print, impress, stamp (see corresponding nouns at impression)
blow vb  ∗blossom, bloom, flower
Ana  ∗expand, swell: enlarge, augment (see increase)
blow n  blossom, bloom, flower (see under blossom vb)
blowsy frowzy,  ∗slatternly, dowdy
Ana  ∗frowzy,  ∗slatternly, dowdy
bluster vb  ∗bluster, blare, holler, roar, bawl, bellow, vociferate, clamor, howl, ululate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
boast

vb Boast, brag, vaunt, crow, gasconade mean to give vent in speech to one’s pride in oneself or something (as family, connections, race, or accomplishments) intimately connected with oneself. Boast and vaunt are often used transitively as well as intransitively; the other words are chiefly intransitive. Boast is the general term; it may or may not carry a suggestion of contempt or impute exaggeration, ostentation, or vaingloriousness to the boaster (what folly then to boast what arms can do!—Milton) (the wretch . . . abhors the craft he boasted of before—Cowper) (he was childishly anxious to boast that he had walked the whole of the six or seven miles—Mackenzie) Brag is more forceful than boast and carries a stronger implication of exaggeration and conceit; it often also implies glorying in one’s superiority or in what one can do as well as in what one is, or has, or has done (nor shall death brag thou wander’st in his shade—Shak.) (even when they brag, their eyes are generally self-mocking, mildly wise—Lord) (that we may brag we have a lass, there’s none again sae bonie—Burns) Vaunt is more literary than either of the preceding terms; it usually connotes more pomp and bombast than boast and less crudeness or naiveté than brag (charity vauntest not itself, is not puffed up—1 Cor 13:4) (and ye vaunted your fathomless power, and ye flouted your iron pride—Kipling) Crow usually implies exultant boast or especially blatant bragging in a manner suggestive of the triumphal crowing of a cock (the barrister crowded with triumph but the professor was in no way put out—Kersh) Gasconade is the least common of these terms and implies habitual or extravagant self-vaunting (an enlightened statesman and not a gasconading militarist—Bowers)

Ana flaunt, parade (see show): *pride, plume, pique, preen: *exult, magnify, arrogandise Ant depreciate (oneself, one’s accomplishments) —Con *decry, disparage, belittle, minimize: depreciate (see disapprove)

boat, vessel, ship, craft are comparable when they denote a floating structure designed to carry persons or goods over water. Boat is sometimes used as a general designation of such a structure but more specifically it is applicable to a small, typically open structure operated by oars, paddles, or poles (a rowboat) or by sails or a power mechanism (a sailboat) (a motorboat) Vessel suggests a purpose as well as a form, the term in general applying to anything hollowed out so as to serve as a receptacle. Hence, vessel is appropriate when the containing and transporting of goods and persons is stressed; it is applied chiefly to large boats, especially seagoing boats, in the business of carrying passengers or freight or serving as a base of operations at sea (as in fishing or in war) (a steam vessel) (a fleet of war vessels including dreadnoughts, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines) (fishing vessel) Ship is the preferred term for the large seagoing vessel, especially when its navigation rather than its business is emphasized (a sailing ship) (a steamship) (a battleship) (the captain stands by his ship) Ship also suggests more personality, more romance, and more beauty than the other words and therefore is far more common in poetry and in figurative use (sailing, like a stately ship . . . sails filled, and streamers waving—Milton) (O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done! The ship has weathered every wrack, the prize we sought is won—Whitman) Craft may be used as a singular or collective noun and is now applicable to any type of boat or ship that plies the water. Originally it was found only in the phrase small craft and was applied to smaller vessels, especially to those in the service of ships (as lighters, tugs, and fireboats) or to those forming part of a navy or fleet (when the winds increased the Coast Guard sent out small craft warnings) The word may still be used in the sense of small craft but it tends to become a comprehensive term covering all kinds of boats and vessels (the harbor is filled with craft) As a singular, craft unqualified is often a vague and general term (for me, my craft is sailing on, through mists today, clear seas anon—Bangs) However, for that very reason, craft is often, when it is qualified, a better choice than boat, ship, or vessel (a huge, lumbering craft) (for she is such a small little craft—Gilbert)

bodily, physical, corporeal, corporal, somatic are comparable when used narrowly to mean of or relating to the human body. Bodily suggests opposition to mental or intellectual (so engrossed in thought as to be unaware of his bodily needs) (he has never known bodily pain) Bodily illness is more easy to bear than mental—Dickens) Physical (see also material), though often used interchangeably with bodily, does not carry so strong a suggestion of organic structure; thus, bodily suffering implies some disturbance within the organism or, if external, some stimulus directly affecting the organism; physical suffering may also mean this, but often it is vaguer and less explicit in its implications or reference (bodily pains induced by physical exhaustion) (a sense of physical well-being is often the result of freedom from bodily ailments) Corporeal refers more specifically to the substance or matter of which the body is composed; like physical it has a more inclusive sense (see material) but when used with reference to the human body, it implies an opposition to immaterial or to spiritual as applied to substance or nature (our notion of man, for instance, necessarily includes its specific parts, rational soul and corporeal body—Connolly) (until, the breadth of this corporeal frame . . . almost suspended, we are laid asleep in body, and become a living soul—Wordsworth) Corporal applies almost exclusively to things that have for their object an often painful effect upon the body (subjected to corporal punishment) In some contexts (as in “corporeal works of mercy”) it may stand in contrast to spiritual. Somatic, because of its freedom from theological and poetic connotations, is now preferred to bodily and corporeal by physiologists, psychologists, and physicians with an implied opposition to psychological (somatic reactions to a stimulus) (a somatic disturbance) (somatic behavior)

Ana *carnal, fleshly, animal, sensual Con *mental, psychic, intellectual: spiritual (see holy)

body, corpse, carcass, cadaver denote the physical organism of a man or animal (especially one of the larger animals). Body refers to the animal organism, living or dead; but its commonest use is in reference to man, then often implying an opposition to mind or soul (absent in body, but present in spirit—1 Cor 5:3) (women take great care of their bodies) (they removed the body to a morgue) Corpse and carcass (of man and animal respectively) refer to the dead body (make a ring about the corpse of Caesar—Shak.) (there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion—Judg 14:8) Carcass is also used as a term of contempt for the human body, dead or alive (the bleak shore now lies th’ abandoned king, a headless carcass, and a nameless thing—Dryden) Cadaver (compare cadaverous at Haggard) applies to a corpse used for the purpose of dissection in a laboratory. The term is sometimes applied to living men and then suggests extreme emaciation or the appearance of a skeleton.

Ana *soul, spirit: *mind, intellect, psyche, intelligence Ant *boggle (vb) stickle, stick, strain, scrape, *demur, balk, jib.
bombard

vb prop, *support, sustain, buttress, brace

rhapsody, rant, fustian, rodomontade all designate

a style of speech or writing characterized by high-flown

bombastic grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical,

bogus adj *counterfeit, spurious, fake, sham, pseudo,

boisterous obstreperous, clamorous, blatant, *vociferous,

boil vb Boil, seethe, simmer, parboil, stew mean to prepare

(decorating) in a liquid heated to the point where it emits con-

considerable steam. Boil implies the bubbling of the liquid and

and the rapid escape of steam; it may be applied to the liquid

alone, but usually it suggests a fast method of accomplish-

boil n *abscess, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple, pustule

boil water

vb

beef)

imply inflation or a grandiosity or im-

atory in some degree; some of them are frankly contemp-

a style of speech or writing characterized by high-flown

devil, rash, foolhardy: mettlesome, *spirited: fearless,

a chicken before frying it) Stew

them with beef)

(see PLAY

FEARFUL)

to boil it thoroughly or to make an infusion of it <tomorrow

eggs) <boil clothes>

it suggests that the liquid is at the

point of boiling; it implies less steam and less bubbling than

boil and is used, therefore, to denote a gentle and slower

form of cooking <corned beef should be simmered, not

boiled> <simmer milk> Parboil usually implies boiling for

a limited time to prepare some food for further cooking (as

by roasting or frying) <parboil potatoes prior to roasting

them with beef> <parboil a chicken before frying it) Stew

implies long slow simmering, usually in a closed vessel; it

is used especially in reference to meats or fruits cooked

until they are tender or broken up <stew beef and kidneys

together> <stew fruit for dessert>

boisterous obstreperous, clamorous, blatant, *vociferous,

strident

Ana sporting, disordering, rollicking, frolicking, gambolling

(see play vb): *unruly, ungovernable: *indecorous, un-

seemly

Con quiet, noiseless, *still: peaceful, *calm, tranqul,

serene, placid: staid, sedate, *serious, sober

bold *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, val-

iant, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, audacious

Ana daring, reckless, venturesome, *adventurous, dare-

devil, rash, foolhardy: mettleosome, *spirited: fearless,

unapprehensive, unafraid (see affirmative adjectives at

FEARFUL)

Ant cowardly —Con *timid, timorous: quailing, flinch-

ing, shrinking, recoiling (see recoil)

bolster vb prop, *support, sustain, buttress, brace

Ana *strengthen, reinforce, fortify: uphold, champion

(see support)

bombard assail, storm, assault, *attack

bombast, rhapsody, rant, fustian, rodomontade all designate

a style of speech or writing characterized by high-flown

bombosity or pretentiousness of language disproportionate to

the thought or subject matter. All of them are derogatory in

some degree; some of them are frankly contemptuous. Bombast
does not necessarily connote emptiness of thought, but it

implies inflation or a grandiosity or impressiveness in lan-

guage and style which so outruns the thought that the attention is distracted from the matter and

concentrated upon the manner of expression. When used in
description rather than in censure, bombast often addi-
tionally suggests a soaring eloquence or a kind of oratorical

grandeur, such as is found in Marlowe’s Tamburlaine the

Great or is characteristic of Elizabethan drama in compar-
sion with modern realistic drama; when used in depre-
ciation, it suggests padding, windiness, verbosity, and

exaggeration <to outbrave better pens with the swelling

bombast of a bragging blank verse—Nash> <their elo-
queness is all bombast—Kingsley> <it looks like mere

“rhetoric,” certainly not “deeds and language such as men
do use.” It appears to us, in fact, forced and flagitious

bombast—T. S. Eliot> Rhapsody, like bombast, may be

scarcely or obviously derogatory. It designates an ecstatic or

effusive utterance or writing in which the language or

style is governed by the feelings rather than by logical

thought. It may, at one extreme, suggest inspired utterance

(as in rapture) or, at the other, a maudlin loquaciousness

>O then my breast should warble airs, whose rhapsodies

should feast the ears of seraphims—Quarles> <his char-

acters . . . are excellently drawn, but he writes as though

he had uncovered a new religion and thought it deserved

a rhapsody—New Yorker> In scholarly and critical use it

is often applied to a kind of writing that has no perceptible

argument and is seemingly incoherent, yet moves by a kind

of logic of its own from one expression of feeling or one

image to another <the traditional assumption that it [Kubla

Khan] was a rhapsody of enchanting images which “led

to nothing”—Times Lit. Sup.> Rant and fustian are defi-
nitely terms of derogation. Both are applicable to bombast

and rhapsody at their worst, but rant stresses its extra-

gance or violence of expression or utterance and fustian

the banality of its quality or the preposterousness of its

character <the hoarse rant of that demagogue fills the air

and distracts the people’s minds—Ascoli> he, whose

fustian’s so sublimely bad, it is not poetry but prose run

mad—Pope> romantic fustian; which may be defined as

the enormous disproportion between emotion and the

outer object or incident on which it expends itself. Victor

Hugo abounds in fustian of this kind—Babbity Rodon-

montade is applied especially to the rant of the braggart,

of the demagogue, or of anyone given to bluster and mag-

niloquence (the brothers set about abusing each other in

good round terms and with each intemperate sally their

phrases became more deeply colored with the tincture of

Victorian rodomontade—Marsh> Ana grandiloquence, magniloquence, rhetoric (see corre-

sponding adjectives at Rhetorical): inflatedness, turgid-

ty, turmidity, flatulence (see corresponding adjectives at

Inflated)

Con temperateness or temperament, sobriety or sobriety,

unimpassionedness (see corresponding adjectives at So-

ber): dispassionateness, justness (see corresponding ad-

jectives at Fair)

bomastic grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical,

aurate, flowery, euphistic

Ana *inflated, turgid, tumid: verbose, diffuse, *wordy:

eloquent, voluble, fluent, articulate, *vocal

Con temperate, unimpassioned, *sober: *sincere: unaf-

fected, *natural, simple, artless: dispassionate, just, impar-

tial, *fair

bona fide *authentic, genuine, veritable

Ana true, *real, actual: *reliable, dependable, trust-

worthy: *pure, absolute, simple, sheer

Ant counterfeit, bogus —Con simulated, feigned, pre-

tended, affected, shammed, assumed (see assume)

bond adj *bound, indented, articulated

Ant free —Con emancipated, manumitted, liberated, freed (see free vb): independent (see free adj)
bond 1 Bond, band, tie all denote something which serves to bind or bring two or more things firmly together, but they differ from each other not only in implications but in their specific applications. Bond often retains its basic implication of restraint upon the freedom of the individual. It may be applied to a restraining device (as a rope, a chain, a fetter, or a manacle) which prevents a prisoner from escaping or, more broadly, to something that interferes with one’s liberty and holds one down (it has been said that only the dying man is free, for death breaks every bond). But bond is equally applicable to something that connects or brings together two individuals (persons or things) or all the individuals comprising a group or mass into a stable union. In this sense the term may and often does refer to a connection that is primarily spiritual; occasionally, especially when the plural is used, there is also a hint of restraint or constraint (the bond of marriage) (the bond of faith) (the bond of fellowship) (the bonds of a common tradition) (the religion of the Greeks) [was] . . . the bond of their political life—Dickinson) Band (see also strip) may imply, like bond, a restraint, a fastening, or a connection, but it more usually also implies something malleable in the form of a flat and narrow piece of material, often one that forms a hoop or ring; thus, a band around the hair is worn to confine the hair and may be a ribbon with ends tied together or a hoop or half hoop (as of metal or plastic); an endless strip of rubber or elastic material is called a rubber band; a hooplike piece which holds together two parts of a structure (as the barrel and stock of a gun or two sections of a pillar) is called a band: also, a straight member of a wall (as continuous molding, a frieze, or a strip of brickwork in a different pattern) often serves to keep closely united or together but to bring together two things that are affected by common forces so that when they are subjected to strain or tension they will not spread or pull apart; thus, the transverse bars on which rails rest and which serve to keep the rails equidistant from each other are called ties; a piece (as a beam, a post, or a rod) which connects two parts or sides of a structure (as the ribs of a vessel or the two sides of a pointed arch) and serves to brace and stay the whole is called a tie.

2 surety, security, bail, *guarantee, guaranty

bondage *servitude, slavery
boner blunder, mistake, *error, howler, bull, slip, lapse, faux pas
bonny comely, pretty, good-looking, fair, lovely, *beautiful, handsome, beauteous, pulchritudinous
Ana pleasing, agreeable, *pleasant: attractive, charming, captivating (see under ATTRACT)  
Ant homely
bonus bounty, *premium, reward, guerdon, award, prize, meed

bon vivant gastronome, gourmet, gourmand, *epicure, glutton

Ant ascetic
bookish academic, scholastic, *pedantic
bookkeeper, accountant, auditor. A bookkeeper keeps a regular, concise, and accurate record of business transactions by making the proper entries in the various books of account for that purpose. An accountant is a person skilled in the art of bookkeeping and may be employed either to organize and set up a system of records suitable to the needs of a particular organization or to investigate and report upon the financial condition of an organization by a study and analysis of its books of record. An auditor is an examiner who checks and verifies the financial records of an organization to see that these records correctly represent its condition.

boon favor, *gift, present, gratuity, largess
Ana benefaction, *donation, contribution
Ant calamity—Con *misfortune, mischance, mishap: *trial, cross, tribulation, affliction
boor, churl, lout, clown, clodhopper, bumpkin, hick, yokel, rube are comparable when meaning an uncouth, ungraciously fallow. Most of these words may be applied to rustics, but they tend increasingly to imply referentiality to breeding, manners, and appearance rather than to origin or social status. The same distinctions in connotations and implications are apparent in the adjectives derived from the first four of these nouns, boorish, churlish, loutish, clownish. Boor implies an opposition to gentleman, especially in respect to characteristics indicative of good breeding and fineness of feeling. As a rule boor and boorish imply variously rudeness of manner, insensitiveness, lack of ceremony, or unwillingness to be agreeable in the presence of others (love makes gentlemen even of boors, whether noble or villain—Henry Adams) (to the European mind, with all its goodwill, the very things that make us more powerful make us also more boorish—Lerner) Churl may suggest low birth or social status but more often ill-bred surly meanness of expression or attitude. The latter implication is far more common in the adjective churlish, which characteristically implies surliness, irresponsiveness, or ungraciousness (warns all whom it concerns, from King to churl—John Morley) (by what magic was this divine sweet creature could be allied with that old churl —Meredith) (they object to the dairymaids and men crossing the elm vista . . . . It seems churlish—Shaw) Lout and loutish apply especially to hulky youths or men without regard to origin and usually suggest stupidity, clumsiness, and sometimes, abdomen of bearing or demeanor. Both words are terms of contempt frequently applied to idlers or loafers of particularly unprepossessing appearance (it was inevitable that the older boys should become mischievous louts; they bullied and tormented and corrupted the younger boys because there was nothing else to do—H. G. Wells) Clown and clownish come close to lout and loutish in connotation. Instead of stupidity, however, the terms often connote ignorance or simplicity and instead of hulkiness they suggest the unattractiveness of a person whose body and movements reveal hard plodding labor (the clown, the child of nature, without guile—Cowper). When used in reference to those who are not countrymen the terms still imply reference to rustics and awkwardness and often, by association with the other sense of clown, a propensity for absurd antics (he was the sort of boy that becomes a clown and a lout as soon as he is not understood, or feels himself held cheap—D. H. Lawrence) Clodhopper distinctively suggests the frame and the heavy movements generally associated with plowmen but is not restricted in application to rustics (though hon-
boorish

louche, clownish (see under BOOR)

Ana *awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept: rude, discourteous, ungracious, uncivil, impolite, ill-mannered

Ant gentlemanly — Con *suave, urbane, smooth: courteous, courtly, gallant, polite, civil

boost *lift, raise, elevate, hoist, rear, heave

ANA *limit, bound, confine, end

Con inside, interior (see corresponding adjectives at INNER)

bore vb *perforate, drill, puncture, punch, prick

Ana penetrate, pierce, *enter

boredom *tedium, ennui, doldrums

Ant amusement — Con diversion, entertainment, recreation (see under AMUSE)

bottom vb *base, found, ground, stay, rest

Ana *support, sustain: *set, fix, establish

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
bough
- branch, limb, *shoot

bounce vb *dismiss, drop, sack, fire, discharge, cashier

bound n *limit, confine, end, term
Ana *border, verge, edge

bound adj Bound, bond, indentured, articulated are comparable when they mean obliged to serve a master or in a clearly defined capacity for a certain number of years by the terms of a contract or mutual agreement. Bound not only stresses the obligation, but it also often connotes a condition of or approaching servitude. It frequently implies the status of an apprentice, one obliged to serve a master for an agreed term in return for being taught a trade, a craft, an art, or a profession. It may, however, imply the status of an unskilled laborer (as a domestic servant) who agrees to serve (as in a distant colony) in return for transportation, keep, and, sometimes, a wage (he emigrated from England to the American colonies as a bond servant). When the condition of servitude is emphasized and service without a wage is implied, bound (placed before the noun) is often used in place of bound <bond servant> (a bondwoman) Indentured implies apprenticeship and emphasizes the fact that the agreement is in writing, has been executed in duplicate, and has legal validity. Usually, it carries the implication of fairness and equity to both parties to the agreement (a tailor's indentured employees) (a solicitor's indentured clerk) Sometimes, especially in reference to an apprentice in a law office, articulated is preferred to indentured, though there seems to be no clear distinction between the two (he started out as an articulated clerk in an attorney's office)

bound vb 1 *jump, leap, spring, vault (see under JUMP vb)
Ana advance, progress (see under ADVANCE vb): *haste, hurry, speed, expedition

bound vb 1 *jump, leap, spring, vault
Ana *advance, progress: *speed, precipitate, hasten, hurry
2 *skip, ricochet, hop, curvet, lope, lollipop
Ana dart, skim, skud (see FLY): *rebound, recoil, resile
bounder *cad, rotter

boundless *infinite, uncircumscribed, illimitable, eternal, sempiternal
Ana vast, immense, enormous (see HUGE): *monstrous, prodigious, tremendous, stupendous
Con circumscribed, limited, confined, restricted (see LIMIT vb)

bountiful, bounteous generous, openhanded, munificent, *liberal, handsome
Ana *charitable, philanthropic, benevolent: prodigal, lavish (see PROFUSE)
Ant nigarily —Con *stingy, parsimonious, penurious, close, miserly: avaricious, *covetous, greedy, grasping: frugal, *sparing, economical

bounty award, reward, meed, guerdon, prize, *premium, bonus
Ana gratuity, largess, *gift, boon: grant, subvention, subsidy (see APPROPRIATION)

bouquet perfume, *fragrance, redolence, incense
Ana odor, aroma, *smell, scent

bout n stint, turn, trick, tour, *spell, shift, go
bob vb defer, *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent, cave

bow vb arch, *curve

bow vb *flex, crook, buckle
Ana bend, *curve, twist
box vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, slap, clout, cuff
boyish *youthful, juvenile, puerile, maiden, virgin, virginal
brace n *couple, pair, yoke
brace vb *support, sustain, buttress, prop, bolster

ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
one might refer to the valorous deeds of a valiant band of knights (the regiment itself is a proud one, with a valorous record—Infantry Jour.) Dauntless emphasizes determination, resolution, and fearlessness despite danger or difficulty (the dauntless English infantry were receiving and repelling the furious charges—Thackeray) (nothing appalled her dauntless soul—Beckford) Undaunted indicates continued courage and resolution after danger, hardship, or defeat (he watched them at the points of greatest danger falling under the shots from the scorpions, and others stepping undaunted into their places to fall in in the same way—Froude) Doughty combines the implications of formidable, sturdy, and brave but may have an archaic or humorous suggestion (when Fisk reached the head of the stairs leading to the boardroom, the doughty president of the endangered railway knocked him down to the ground floor—Charles & Mary Beard) (so doughty a warrior must break a lance—Parrington) Bold may indicate a forward or defiant tendency to thrust oneself into difficult or dangerous situations (it was a bold man who dared to walk alone through hundreds of miles of lion-infested country with nothing but a spear in his hand to seek work and adventure—Cloete) (these fellows who attacked the inn tonight—bold, desperate blades, for sure—Stevenson) (he knew a fool and a tyrant in high places, and was bold to call them by their true names—Parrington) When used of immaterial things (as plans, experiments, or deeds) bold suggests a disregard for danger, risk, or convention (a bold scheme to corner the wheat market) Audacious implies spirited and sometimes reckless daring (the place where the fiery Ethan Allen first sketched his scheme to corner the wheat market) (hitherto no liberal statesman has been so audacious as to . . . lay pro- fane hands on the divine right of nations to seek their own advantage at the cost of the rest—Veblen) Ana daring, venturesome, daredevil, *adventurous: fane hands on the divine right of nations to seek their own advantage at the cost of the rest—Veblen) Ant craven—Con *timid, timorous: shrinking, flinch-craven Ant timid, timorous, shy, diffident, modest, coy: *timid, timidous; stealthy, surreptitious, underhand, *secret

breach n 1 Breach, infraction, violation, transgression, trespass, infringement, contravention are comparable when denoting the act or the offense of one who fails to keep the law or to do what the law, one's duty, or an obligation requires. Breach occurs rarely by itself except in phrases such as “a law more honored in the breach than in the observance.” The word is usually followed by of and a noun or pronoun which indicates the thing which is broken or not kept (his action constitutes a breach of faith) (he was found guilty of breach of the peace by reason of his noisy, disorderly, and annoying conduct) (sued for breach of contract) Infraction is now more often used than breach (except in certain time-honored idioms) for a breaking of a law or obligation (an infraction of the school rules) (an infraction of a treaty) (an infraction of canon law) (we have scrutinized the case, but cannot say that it shows an infraction of rights under the Constitution of the United States—Justice Holmes) Violation adds to breach and infraction the implication of flagrant disregard of the law or of the rights of others and often suggests the exercise of force or violence; thus, the violation of a treaty suggests positive, often aggressive and injurious action, while its infraction may imply a mere failure strictly to adhere to its terms (a violation of military discipline) (the police interference was a violation of the right to free assembly) (when more of the people’s sustenance is exacted through the form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of Government . . . such exaction becomes ruthless extortion and a violation of the fundamental principles of a free Government—Cleveland) Transgression is applied to any act that goes beyond the limits prescribed by a law, rule, or order; often the term is used specifically of an infraction of the moral law or of one of the commandments (for sin is the transgression of the law—1 Jn 3:4) (“I was forgetting,” she said. “I am forbidden tea.” . . . She looked at the cup, tremendously tempted. . . . An occasional transgression could not harm her—Bennett) Trespass also implies an overstepping of prescribed bounds, but it carries in addition a strong implication of encroachment upon the rights, the comfort, or the prop-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
bread

break

ersty of others. In Scriptural and religious use a trespass is particularly an offense against God or one's neighbor—a forgery not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses—Mt 6:15. In law a trespass is an unlawful act, involving some degree of force or violence, committed against the person, the property, or the rights of others. The passing through another's premises against his wish or without his invitation constitutes a trespass. A burglar who is frightened away before he actually enters a house is liable to arrest for trespass.

Infringement is sometimes used as though it were identical in meaning with infraction—an infringement of the law; an infringement of a treaty. More often it implies trespass rather than violation and therefore is the idiomatic term when trespass involving an encroachment upon a legally protected right or privilege is at issue; thus, the unauthorized manufacture of something which has been patented constitutes an infringement (rather than an infraction or violation) of a patent (the unauthorized reproduction and sale of matter already copyrighted constitutes an infringement of the copyright). An infringement on the liberty of the American people.

Contra-contravention applies specifically to a going contrary to the intent of the law or to an act in defiance of what is regarded as right, lawful, or obligatory. Warrants in contravention of the acts of Parliament—Macauley. If there is in a work of art a contravention of nature—Lowe.

Ant observance

2 Breach, break, split, schism, rent, rupture, rift are comparable when they mean a pulling apart in relations or in connections. Breach, the most general in application of any of these terms, is capable of being referred to any such pulling apart without in itself, as apart from the context, throwing light on its cause, its magnitude, or its seriousness a breach in unity a breach between old friends having followed the high banks of the Tom to the furthest extremity . . . they happily found a breach in the inclosure—Kingston. It may be one man's privilege and duty to heal the breach between the Arab and the Jew—Douglas. Break (see also break n) is often substituted for breach when one wishes to emphasize the strain that is inducing or has induced a disruption (as between persons or groups) efforts to avoid an open breach with the conserver faction the break was final, and there was no course open for the nation except war. Split usually implies a complete breach, suggesting a division such as would be made by an ax or knife; often, also, it hints at the impossibility of bringing together again the two parts (as parties or factions) that once formed a whole. Split often implies a division of friends or friendly groups into opposing parties or factions a major split between the United States and most of the rest of the free world—Bundy. I fear the split betwixt Constable and Cadell will render impossible what might otherwise be hopeful enough—Scott. Schism implies a clear-cut separation between divisions of an original group and consequent discord and dissension between the two parts; typically the term is used of such a division in a religious communiton, but it may be applied to any union of rational beings (as a political party or a philosophical school) he succeeded in dividing the American Quakers into two bodies; and this schism . . . lasted on till the present year—inge. A school of literalists arose with all the mad consequence of schism and heresy—Blackmur. Rent suggests an opening made by tearing or rending and may impute characteristics (as irregularity, jaggedness, and narrowness) to a break to which it is applied (thy stately mansion, and the pride of thy domain, strange contrast do present to house and home in many a raggy rent of the wild Peak—Wordsworth) through the wide rent in Time's eternal veil, hope was seen beamimg—Shelley. A rent in the social fabric—Millstein. Rupture approaches breach in meaning, but it carries a more clearly defined stress upon a break in relations between people or groups; in addition, it frequently is affected by its special medical use and then often suggests an actual but not always clearly apparent break mother and son avoided an open rupture by never referring to their differences—Santayana. It was still the policy of the Cardinal . . . to carry on the convention that he had not provoked any direct rupture with Vienna—Bello. Rift implies a breach that is made usually by some natural process (as one that produces a separation of rocks in a mountain or a cracking of the earth); consequently it is often applied to a breach that is small at first and is in danger of growing larger this little rift it was that had widened to a now considerable breach—H. G. Wells. It is the little rift within the lute, that by and by will make the music mute—Tennison. It was, I believe, the terrible Wars of Religion that made the fatal rift between religion and science which we are now trying to close—Inge.

Ana division, severance, separation (see corresponding verbs at separate); dissension, *discord, difference, variance, strife: estrangement, alienation (see corresponding verbs at estrange)

Con union, *unity, solidarity, integrity: accord, *harmony, concord

bread, bread and butter sustenance, *living, livelihood, subsistence, maintenance, support, keep

break vb Break, crack, burst, bust, snap, shatter, shiver are comparable as general terms meaning fundamentally to come apart or cause to come apart. Break basically implies the operation of a stress or strain that will cause a rupture, a fracture, a fissure, or a shattering either in one spot or in many (break a dish by dropping it). A column broke when subjected to too great a weight. A flood resulted when the dam broke. But break goes much further than this. Often, with or without the help of an adverb, it suggests the disruption of something material or immaterial, either in whole or in part. It may then imply a collapsing or causing to collapse (the wagon broke down) the break the enemy by the only methods possible starvation, attrition, and a slow, deadly . . . envelope—Buchan. His spirit was broken. Similarly it may imply a destruction of completeness, integrity, or wholeness; thus, one breaks a set of china by losing or destroying one or more pieces of the set; one breaks a ten-dollar bill by spending part of it and getting the remainder in smaller bills or coins (break a solid group into factions) With the same underlying notion it may imply a destruction of continuity (as by interrupting, terminating, or disintegrating) (break a circuit) (break a journey) (break his silence) (break up a friendship) (it was the only time that day he saw her pale composure break—Cather). Sometimes the sense of disruption is not obvious, and the idea of piercing so as to let someone or something make entrance or exit predominates (break his way through the crowd) (break a new path) (break the news gently) she had just broken into her fifty-second year—Woolf. Most common of the senses that bear only a slight relation to the primary sense of break is one that implies violation or transgression (break the law) (break the Sabbath) (call the policy of the Cardinal . . . to carry on the convention that he had not provoked any direct rupture with Vienna—Bello. Rift implies a breach that is made usually by some natural process (as one that produces a separation of rocks in a mountain or a cracking of the earth); consequently it is often applied to a breach that is small at first and is in danger of growing larger this little rift it was that had widened to a now considerable breach—H. G. Wells. It is the little rift within the lute, that by and by will make the music mute—Tennison. It was, I believe, the terrible Wars of Religion that made the fatal rift between religion and science which we are now trying to close—Inge.

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Con union, *unity, solidarity, integrity: accord, *harmony, concord

bread, bread and butter sustenance, *living, livelihood, subsistence, maintenance, support, keep
break 114 break

break n 1 Break, gap, interruption, interval, interim, hiatus, lacuna all denote a lapse in continuity. **Break** applies not only to a lapse in continuity in something material or substantial (**a break in geological strata**) (**a break in the clouds**) (**he tried to find a break in the fence**) but also in things (as a course of action or something having extension in time) that may be considered in reference to their continuity (**he ran the long race without a break**) (**the book was written with no breaks except for eating and for sleeping**) (**a holiday makes a pleasant break in routine**) (**there was no break in the long, cold winter**) (**yet he felt that he was going away forever, and was making the final break with everything that had been dear to him—Cather**) **Gap** basically applies to an opening (as in a wall or fence) made either by natural decay or by deliberate effort as a means of ingress or egress; the term may also include an opening (as a gash between mountains) that serves as a passage inward or outward (**the great fracture at the Great Gap**) (**a chasm**) (**in representing either a break in continuity or in leaving an unfilled or unfillable space** (**here's our chief guest**. If he had been forgotten, it had been as a gap in our great feast—Shak.) (**so that the jest is clearly to be seen, not in the words—but in the gap between—Cowper** (**a fatal gap in our security structure**—Truman) (**one would like to cling to the old-fashioned theory that there is a gap between accusation and proof—Schlesinger b. 1917**) **Interruption** implies a break that not only makes for a lapse in continuity but that disturbs the procedure (as of an action, a work, or a discourse) and causes a temporary stop or that, less often, makes a void or gap in space or order (**the growing infirmities of age manifest themselves in nothing more strongly, than in an invertebrate dislike of interruption—Lamb**) (**those who hope to render themselves...oblivious to the harsh interruptions of reality—Day Lewis**) (**the mountain range continues without interruption until it meets the sea**. **Interval** refers to the distance (as in time or in space) that exists between two things that are basically alike; the term often serves simply as a basis for measuring or suggesting this distance (**at present, perhaps, it was as well to be asunder. She was...oblivious to the harsh interruptions of reality—Conby**) **Interim** applies to the interval between two events (as the death or abdication of a sovereign and the accession of his successor or the discarding of one method and the instituting of another) (**many contended that the Great War Waite instructed the inspectors like a chaser or void from Pesaro and her marriage to Bisceglie was sired by Cesare—Beuf**) (**in a healthy mind there is an interim between one duty and another—Crothers**) **Hiatus** applies mainly to an interruption or lapse in time or continuity, and so implies that something important or essential is missing (**Charles II had been restored to his kingdom...after an accession of his successor or the discarding of one method—Canby**) (**one who has broken with the old-fashioned theory that there is a gap between accusation and proof—Schlesinger b. 1917**) **Gap** implies a break or discontinuity (**the knight's lance shattered against his opponent's shield**) (**the Great War shook civilization to its base...another)** (**the willow scarce holds the sap that would...be restored to his kingdom...after an accession of his successor or the discarding of one method)** (**the news of the attack burst upon the nation**) (**the news of the attack burst upon the nation**) (**the willow scarce holds the sap that would...be restored to his kingdom...after an accession of his successor or the discarding of one method)** (**the knight's lance shattered against his opponent's shield**) (**the Great War shook civilization to its base...another**. **Gap** may be used informally in place of **burst** especially in the sense of to break under the strain of pressure, of tension, or of concussion (**this westernmost province...is beginning to burst its industrial britches—Wall Street Jour.**) **Snap** fundamentally implies a quick, sudden effort to seize (as by biting or by snatching at), but usually this action is accompanied by a short sharp sound (as a report or a click). **Snap** is often used to imply the action of breaking or bursting when the intent is to suggest a quick, clean-cut break and the sharp sound which accompanies it (**branch after branch snapped during the storm**) (**a string of his violin snapped**) (**sharp the link of life will snap—Housman**) **Shatter** literally implies a breaking into many pieces, but unlike **burst**, which emphasizes the cause, it stresses the effect, a scattering of the pieces far and wide, and a total destruction of the thing involved (**the flying debris shattered the window**) (**shatter a rock by an explosion of dynamite**) (**a bolt of lightning shattered the oak tree**) Consequently, especially as applied to intangible things, **shatter** consistently implies a far more devastating and destructive effect than **break**; thus, **"his health was broken by the experience" means that it was seriously impaired, but "his health was shattered by the experience" means that it was impaired beyond the point of complete recovery. The **shattering of his illusions** (**the pathetic groanings after the fragments of a shattered faith—Day Lewis**) (**the Great War shook civilization to its base:...another**) (**the Knight's lance shattered against his opponent's shield**. The legend of Rome's invincibility had been shattered—Buchan) **Shiver**, a chiefly rhetorical term, implies a shattering by dashing, smashing, or any usually external force and a wide scattering of fragments or splinters; in extended use it ordinarily preserves a context approaching the literal and so has never acquired a detached secondary sense (**the knight's lance shivered against his opponent's shield**) (**as he crossed the hall, his stature fell, and shivered on the stones—Froude**) (**the upshot of which, was, to smash this witness like a crockery vessel, and shiver his part of the case to useless lumber—Dickens**) **Ana** disintegrate, crumble (see DECAY): (**detach, disintegrate, crumble**) (**detach, disintegrate**) **Ant** cleave (together): (**keep (of laws)—Coheer**, clinging, (**stick: unite, join, combine; observe (see KEEP)**
used specifically of a blank in a text (as of a manuscript or inscription) where a few words have been omitted or effaced (translated the whole work anew, and succeeded in filling many lacunae in the text—Meger). In anatomical use the term more often stresses the minuteness than the vacuity of a gap (as a pit or chamber) (cartilage cells are isolated in scattered lacunae).

**Ana** division, separation, severance (see corresponding verbs at separate): falling, sinking, dropping (see fall): respite, null, intermission, recess, *pause*

2 *breach, split, schism, rent, rupture, rift*

**Ana, Con** see those at breach 2

3 chance, *opportunity, occasion, time*

**break down** *analyze, resolve, dissect*

**Con** concatenate, articulate, *integrate*

**breakdown** *analysis, resolution, dissection (see under analyze)*

**breastwork** *bulwark, bastion, parapet, rampart*

**bristle** *express, utter, air, voice, ventilate*

**breeze** *wind, gale, hurricane, zephyr*

**bridle** vb *check, curb, *restrain, inhibit*

**broad** adj *beaming, beaming, broad*

**brief** vb *generate, engender, propagate, reproduce procure, beget, sire, get*

**brief n** *variety, subspecies, race, cultivar, strain, clone, stock*

**breeding** cultivation, *culture, refinement*

**brightness** *luminous, radiant, lustrous, effulgent, refugent, beaming, lambent, lucent, incandescent* are comparable when they mean actually or seemingly emission of rays of light; it suggests, therefore, a power or property possessed by a thing rather than a quality ascribed to it because of its effect on the vision; thus, a celestial body is properly described as radiant only when it emits rays of light; a planet, no matter how bright it appears to the eye, is preferably described as bright or radiant because it shines by reflected light (virtue could see to do what virtue would by her own radiant light, though sun and moon were in the flat sea sunk—Miller) The term, however, is sometimes used of anything that seems to give out light in the manner of the sun or a star (in warlike armor drest, golden, all radiant!—Shelley)

**brilliant** like radiant, suggests emission of light, but, unlike it, implies the sending forth of steady suffused glowing light; it is applicable to anything that shines by reflected light or that glows in the dark because of some special quality (as of physical state or chemical activity); thus, all celestial bodies are luminous, but only self-luminous bodies (stars in the strict astronomical sense) are also radiant (phosphorus is a luminous substance) As applied to color or to colored things the term implies more than bright, for it usually suggests a beauty like quality (the luminous green of the emerald) or iridescence (the blue off Nantucket is not the miracle of luminous, translucent color off Sardinia—Lowes) As applied to ideas or their expression, the term implies crystallike clearness and the absence of all obscurity (a luminous treatment of a subject) (a luminous statement—Brougham)

**lustrous** is applied only to an object whose surface reflects light; it therefore seldom implies pervading light but, rather, a brilliant or iridescent sheen or gloss (the lustrous brass of a burnished lamp) (a lustrous enameled surface) (lustrous satin) Effulgent and refugent indicate resplendent or gleaming brilliance, and the latter implies further that the brilliance is reflected, sometimes from an unseen source (effulgent Loveliness) (a chandelier of effulgent crystal) (in arms they stood of golden panoply, refugent host—Miller)

**beaming** literally implies emission of a beam (see beam under ray) (rising moon, fair beaming, and streaming her silver light the boughs amang—Burns) In its commonest use (as applied to looks or expression) beaming suggests a display of happiness, satisfaction, or benevolence (the beaming eyes of children greeting Santa Claus) (broad beaming smile—George Eliot)

**lambent** is applied to a thing (as a flame or a luminous body) which throws a play of light over an object or surface without rendering it brilliant or lustrous (the lambent flame of genius . . . lights up the universe—Hazlitt) (lambent lightning-fire—Shelley) Often lambent suggests the emission of soft gleams of light (kind, quiet, nearsighed eyes, which his round spectacles magnified into lambent moons—Deland)

**lucent** is a highly poetical or literary adjective that approaches luminous or, less often, lustrous in its meaning; it is usually applied to something transfigured by light (as from the sun or a fire) (the lucent fume of
the city's smoke rising up—Mackenzie> (til every particle glowed . . . and slowly seemed to turn tolucent amber—Gibson> Incandescent suggests intense glowing brightness of or as if of an intensely heated body <pots incandescent in the kiln> (an incandescent lamp> (set thoughts aglowing in incandescent language—Iglesias> Ana> illuminated, illumined, lighted, lightened, enlight-ened (see ILLUINATE): flashing, gleaming, glistening, sparkling (see FLASH vb): glowing, flaming (see BLAZE vb)


Anna> *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: precocious, advanced (see PREMATURE)

Anna dense, dull —Con> *stupid, slow, crass, dumb: *lethargic, sluggish: phlegmatic, stolid, *impassive

brilliant 1 radiant, luminous, *bright, effulgent, lustrous, refugent, beaming, lumbent, luent, incandescent

Anna> flashing, scintillating, sparkling, gleaming, glittering, coruscating (see FLASH vb): blazing flaming, flaring, glowing (see BLAZE vb)

Ant subdued (of light, color) —Con> gloomy, murky, obscure, dim, dusky (see DARK)

2* intelligent, clever, bright, smart, alert, quick-witted, knowing

Anna erudite, *learned, scholarly: sage, sapient, *wise

Anna crass —Con> *stupid, slow, dull, dense, dumb

brim rim, edge, brink, *border, verge, margin

bring, take, fetch are comparable but not interchangeable when used in the sense of to convey from one place to another. Bring implies carrying, leading, or trans- porting from a distance to the point where the speaker or agent is or will be; take, a carrying, leading, or con- ducting to a point away from the one where the speaker or agent is or will be; thus, a mother asks her boy setting out for school to take a note to the teacher and to bring home a reply; a farmer takes his cattle to the market and brings back a supply of sugar, flour, and fresh meat.

Fetch implies going to a place where something is to be found, getting it, and bringing it back to the starting point <please fetch me a chair from the next room> (I shall fetch whatever you need> <he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand—I Kings 17:10-11>

Anna> bear, *carry, convey: obtain, procure, *get

Ant withdraw, remove

brink verge, edge, *border, rim, margin

Anna> *limit, bound, end, confine: *shore, strand, coast

brisk nimble, *agile, spry

Anna fast, quick, rapid, fleet, swift, speedy: ready, prompt, *quick: dynamic, live, *active

Ant sluggish —Con> *lethargic, torpid, comatose: *lazy, indolent, slothful, faineant: *inactive, inert, idle

bristle vb bridle, *strut, swagger

Anna preen, plume *pride, pique: evince, manifest, *show, evidence: flaunt, parade, display, exhibit (see SHOW)

Con conceal, *hide, bury

briatle crisp, *fragile, fragrant, short, friable

Anna> *hardened, indurated

Ant supple —Con> *elastic, resilient, springy, flexible: tough, tenacious, *strong, stout

broach vb voice, utter, *express, vent, air, ventilate

Anna> *reveal, disclose, divulge: *introduce, interject, interpose

broad adj Broad, wide, deep are comparable chiefly when they refer to horizontal extent. Broad and wide apply to surfaces or areas as measured from side to side <a picture two feet wide> and deep (see also DEEP) to those as measured from front to back <a closet that was narrow but deep> Broad and wide always and deep in some in- stances may be used of surfaces that spread away from one: thus, a river may be wide or broad (but not deep, which would here refer only to vertical distance) at a given point, but a flower border may be four feet wide, broad, or, if the far side is not ordinarily accessible, deep. When a plot of ground or similar area is measured, broad or, especially, wide is used of the distance from one side to the other and deep of that from front line to back line (the lot is 70 feet wide and 100 feet deep> Broad and wide are frequently interchangeable when used descriptively to mean having relatively great extent across or from side to side <a broad or wide street, ribbon, margin> But broad commonly applies only to surfaces or areas as such <a broad leaf> <a broad-headed tack> <broad-shouldered> Wide applies also to apertures or to something that opens or spreads. Wide, therefore, is the preferred term when the emphasis is upon the distance between limits rather than on the extent of the intervening surface <a wide gash in his arm> <a wide opening> <a wide view> <the doorway is four feet wide> Deep in similar descriptive use, when it carries an implication only of horizontal extent, is applicable only to something that has great extent backward (as from an opening or from the front) <a deep forest> <a deep cavern> <a deep lot>

Anna extended or extensive (see corresponding verb at EXTEND): *spacious, capacious, commodious, ample; vast, immense (see HUGE): expanded, dilated (see EXPAND)

Ant narrow —Con confined, circumscribed, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb)

broadcast vb 1* strew, straw, scatter, sow

Anna> *spread, circulate, disseminate, propagate

2 promulgate, publish, advertise, announce, *declare, proclaim

broadcasting promulgation, publication, advertisement, announcement, declaration, proclamation (see under DECLARE)

Brobdignagian *huge, vast, immense, enormous, ele- phantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic

Anna liliputian

broil n fracas, melee, row, *brawl, rumpus, scrap

Anna fray, affray, fight, conflict, combat, *contest: al- tercation, wrangle, *quarrel: contention, strife, dissen- sion, conflict (see DISCORD)

bromide cliché, platitude, truism, ^commonplace

brook vb stand, abide, *bear, tolerate, suffer, endure

browbeat bulldoze, bully, *intimidate, cow

Anna terrorize, terrify, *frighten, scare

Con *coax, cajole, wheedle, blandish

bruise vb *crush, mash, smash, smash, macerate

Anna batter, mangle, *maim: *press, squeeze

bruise n *wound, contusion, trauma, traumatism, lesion

brush vb Brush, graze, glance, shave, skin are comparable when they mean to touch lightly in passing. Brush implies a movement like the flick of a brush upon a surface: sometimes it suggests no more than an almost impalpable touching, but sometimes it suggests a light touching or rubbing that disperses something that it touches <ye tinsel Insects! whom a court maintains .... The Muse's

brusht and where they common

the roof—

brusht he...
like birds' wings—F. S. Fitzgerald

Graze implies the swift passage of a bullet or any rapidly moving object so that it touches a person or thing abrading the surface or, in the case of a person, the skin whose solid virtue the shot of accident nor dart of chance could neither graze nor pierce—Shak.

The bullet grazed the young lady's temple—Scott.
The missile grazed the spot where the shrike sat, and cut the ends of his wings—Burroughs.

Glance (see also flash) basically implies a blow (as from a sword, a spear, or an ax) that owing to the hardness or resistance of what is struck turns aside or slips and so fails of its full effect; hence glance in its participial form glancing is often used to describe such a blow either in its course or effect (he struck a glancing blow). The blow glanced off his shoulder without even jarring him.

The blade glanced, I did but shear a feather—Tennyson.

Shave implies a touching as lightly and closely as a razor that passes over the face; although it comes near to glanced (brute beings) why am I not to understand—Spenser.

The English mistrust of the intellectual, the brutish aesthetic apathy and contempt for the creative artist must go—Connolly.

Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish—Prov 12:1.

Bestial likewise applies to men and their acts, their minds, and their manners, but it usually stresses neither inhumanity nor a low-grade mind but a depravity or state of degradation unworthy of man and fit only for beasts and is therefore usually a term of severe reprobation (bestial habits).

Living in bestial filth (inclined to describe any sexual indulgence of which he does not approve as bestial—Krutch).

Beastly may come close to bestial in its suggestion of utter depravity or abominable character (beastly crudity) but more often it is weakened and implies no more than disapprobation of something unpleasant or distasteful to a greater or less degree.

A beastly stench pervaded the house.

A beastly day.

Beastly weather.

Feral, when applied to men, suggests savagery or ferocity (the feral instincts of men). Her wrath, savage and feral, utterly possessed her. She was like a wild animal, cornered and conscious of defeat—S. S. Van Dine.

Ana sensitive, animal, fleshly, *carnal: *coarse, gross, vulgar: stupid, dull, dense, crass: barbarous, savage (see barbarian)

Con humane, humanitarian (see charitable): gentle, mild (see soft): chivalrous, courteous (see civil)

brute adj. *brutal, brutish, bestial, beastly, feral


brutish *brutal, brute, bestial, beastly, feral


Con *intelligent, alert, quick-witted: responsive, sensitive, impressionable (see sentient)

buccaneer *pirate, freebooter, privateer, corsair

buck n. *dude, *top, dandy, beau, coxcomb, exquisite

buckle vb *flex, crook, bow

Ana *break, crack, snap, burst: bend, twist, *curve

bucolic pastoral, *rural, rustic

Ana boorish, loutish, clownish, churlish (see under boor): *natural, simple, naive, ingenuous

Ant urbane

buffet vb *baste, pummel, *beat, pound, belabor, thrash

Ana *strike, smite, hit, slap, slug: batter (see main)

bugbear bête noire, *abomination, anathema

build vb Build, construct, erect, frame, raise, rear are comparable when they mean to form or fashion a structure or something comparable to a structure. Build strictly implies a fitting together of parts and materials to form something which may be large (as a house, a factory, a church, or a bridge) or small (as a bird's nest, a fence, or a child's toy) but of which the forming must involve some measure or degree of complication in the bringing together of parts and materials build a cathedral build a shack (the robins built their nest in the fork of a tree) build a battle-ship.

When used in reference to something immaterial build (often followed by up) may suggest an analogy between the immaterial thing and an edifice especially by implying an adding of part to part or bit to bit in the attainment of an end build up a man's ego build up a fortune bit by bit build a theory on slight evidence.

Construct comes close to build in its implication of the putting together of the material given or at hand to form something. But it is not quite equivalent, for it stresses not the labor, especially the manual labor, involved but the problem involved in the fitting together of parts.

Construct therefore emphasizes the discovering by the mind of how the parts or the materials should be combined in order to gain the desired end. To build is the work of men who use their hands or by analogy their brains to bring something into being.
to construct is the work of men who use their brains, though sometimes their hands in obedience to their brains, to solve the problem of how a thing should be or is built or made or brought into being; hence construct implies composition or design and may take as its object anything brought into material or immaterial existence by one or the other process (construct a plot) (construct a dam) (the mind of the scientist constructs its own world—Inge) (each constructed and consolidated a realm—Belloe) Construct is also often used as the opposite of destroy without a specific reference to these implications (it is proverbially easier to destroy than to construct—T. S. Eliot) (roughly speaking, we construct when we increase the potential energy of the system in which we are interested, and we destroy when we diminish its potential energy—Russell) Erect basically means to set upright. Although the term may carry this as its essential meaning (erect a flagpole) (the cobra erected itself to strike) it was early applied to high structures and has accordingly come to imply constructing in its most usual sense. The word is often used in place of build without any marked implication of putting together parts and materials (many huge factories erected during the war now stand idle) but it always carries some suggestion of the sense of to set up (as by building or establishing) (erect a statue to his memory) (erect a scaffold) (a very much denser obstruction is in the process of being erected now by literary critics—Day Lewis) Frame approaches construct but in respect to physical structures more specifically applies to the bringing together and joining of parts (as sills, plates, and joists) that define the form of the final structure (a cottage framed of pine and sheathed with cedar) In extended use it throws the stress upon a forming or fashioning to suit a design, an intention, a purpose, or the facts and may be applied to anything so constructed (frame an answer) (frame a hypothesis) (picture him excuses framing—going from her far away—Gilbert) (all those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation—John Marshall) (it is in order to overcome these obstacles that the notes and questions in this volume have been framed—Notes and Queries on Anthropology) Raise and rear (see also LIFT) often replace build, especially when the idea of height is emphasized (now after this he built a wall without the city . . . and raised it up a very great height—2 Chron. 33:14) (those arts which were destined to raise our Gothic cathedrals—Coulton) (this tower; it is my own; though it was reared to Beauty—Millay) Ana fabricate, fashion, manufacture (see make): produce, turn out, yield, *bear

build

vb phrase, habit, constitution

Ana form, figure, shape, conformation, configuration: *structure, framework: contour, *outline: style, *fashion

bulge

vb Bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, overhang, beetle mean to extend outward beyond the usual and normal line. Bulge suggests a swelling out in an excessive or abnormal fashion; it may be used when the impression to be given is that there is an imperfection, a defect, or a cause of strain that explains the swelling (the wall bulged in the center) (above her boots . . . the calves bulged suddenly out—Bennett) (good little Fyne's eyes bulged with solemn horror—Conrad) Jut (often with out) and stick out do not imply abnormality as a rule but construction, formation, or position that permits a thing to extend outside or beyond the flat line of a surface (rocks jutting from the water) (the nun took Father Latour to a window that jutted out and looked up the narrow street—Cather) (one building stuck out from the straight line made by the street) Protuberate, which is currently much less used than the corresponding adjective protuberant and the corresponding noun protuberance, implies a swelling or sticking outward (as in a rounded or angular prominence): it does not differ greatly from bulge, but it often carries less implication of something radically wrong (the point of his elbows markedly protuberated) Protude implies a thrusting forth especially in an unexpected place: it applies especially to something that does not seem to belong or that sticks out obviously (whenever a small tuft of heather . . . protruded itself through the grass . . . and entangled her feet—Hardy) (through the leaves . . . a slender dead stem protruded, and from a twig at its summit depended a broken spider's web—Hudson) (the great rollers piled up on the sandy beach where great boulders protruded here and there—Heiser) In literal use project is more often intransitive, though in extended uses it is chiefly transitive. Intransitively it may mean to jut out or to protrude (the eaves usually project far beyond the roof in semitropical and tropical climates) (this great rimrock, which projected out over the erosions like a granite shelf—Cather) In its transitive use, however, it carries implications of throwing or casting forward both in literal use (project a shadow) (project the colors from a prism upon a wall) and especially in extended use when it refers to thoughts, conceptions, or feelings; thus, one projects not only his ideas or thoughts but his powers (as of imagination or comprehension), as if by throwing them out, so that they reach their goal effectively (one couldn't formulate and express one's ideas and project them into that spate of charming, inconsequent talk, that swept on gaily over anything one said—Rose Macaulay) (all the knowledge we possess . . . is of the past, and the further back we can project our vision, the more comprehensive, the more thorough, the more efficient is that knowledge—Grandgent) Often the idea of extending beyond the usual and normal line gives way to other implications derived especially from psychology, mathematics, and magic, and the word then means simply to externalize or to free oneself from (project one's thoughts) (she projected her own guilt into the other person—Overstreet) Both overhang and beetle imply a jutting out over the support or base: overhang sometimes connotes a threatening position, while beetle often suggests precariousness or ominousness (then lend the eye a terrible aspect . . . let the brow o'erwhelm it as fearfully as doth a gallled rock o'erhang
and jutty his confounded base—Shak. (an overhanging roof) <bulling brows> (the dreadful summit of the cliff that beetles o'er his base—Shak) (an isolated hill that beetled over the western edge of the ridge—Cather) *Anapl, antonym; *Distinct; *Expand

bulge n protuberance, *projection, protrusion

Con cavity, hollow, *hole, pocket

bulk n Bulk, mass, volume mean a body of usually material substance that constitutes a thing or unit. Bulk is applied mainly to what is or appears to be inordinately large or heavy (the bulk of ancient minister—Wordsworth) and often more or less shapeless or unshapely (on the living sea rolls an inanimate bulk—Shelley) <a blue night set with stars, the bulk of the solitary mesas cutting into the firmament—Cather> (Dr. Lanskell sank his gouty bulk into the armchair behind his desk—Wharton)

Mass is applied mainly to something, whether material or immaterial, that is or gives the appearance of being built up by the piling or gathering together of things of the same kind so that they cohere and have a real or apparent unity (the towering mass of the Sierras) <pieces of obsolete science, imprisoned ... in the solid mass of a religious creed—Inge> (the mass of people) never comes up to the standard of its best member, but on the contrary degrades itself to a level with the lowest—Thoreau> Volume usually applies to something that flows and is therefore without outline and often continuous in extent (a tremendous volume of water) (a volume of gas poured into the room) <it [the voice] rose through a tremendous volume> <a tremendous volume of water> <a tremendous volume>

Mass is applied mainly to something, whether material or immaterial, that is or gives the appearance of being built up by the piling or gathering together of things of the same kind so that they cohere and have a real or apparent unity (the towering mass of the Sierras) <pieces of obsolete science, imprisoned ... in the solid mass of a religious creed—Inge> (the mass of people) never comes up to the standard of its best member, but on the contrary degrades itself to a level with the lowest—Thoreau> Volume usually applies to something that flows and is therefore without outline and often continuous in extent (a tremendous volume of water) (a volume of gas poured into the room) <it [the voice] rose through a tremendous volume> <a tremendous volume>
bunkin

Victor Emmanuel clashed sharply, and on these occasions it was usually the King who won—*Times Lit. Sup.* 〈when the new demands of our changing economic life clash with the old dogmas—Cohen〉 Collide denotes a more or less direct running together or against with a definite and often destructive force or shock 〈the tanker sank after it collided with the freighter〉 or it may indicate a forceful direct disagreement or opposition 〈an English East India Company was using the Portuguese route around Africa and colliding with the Portuguese in India—Barr〉 Conflict is archaic in senses involving physical contact and is used to convey the notion of variance, incompatibility, or opposition 〈conflicting testimony by two witnesses〉 〈to stand up amid conflicting interests—Wordsworth〉

*An* hit, *strike, smite: impinge, jolt, jar (see corresponding nouns in *Impact*)

**bumpkin** hitch, yokel, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout, *boor, churl*

**bunch** 1 *group, cluster, parcel, lot

*An* see those at *bunch 2*

2 *bundle, bale, parcel, pack, package, packet* 〈bundle, collection, assemblage, gathering (see under *gather*); quantity, number, aggregate (see *sum*)

**bundle** 〈bundle, bunch, bale, parcel, pack, package, packet denote things done up for storage, sale, or carriage. A bundle is a collection of articles bound or rolled together 〈a bundle of papers〉 〈a bunch for the laundry〉 〈a bundle of old clothes〉 A bunch is a collection of things, usually of the same sort, fastened closely together in an orderly fashion 〈a bunch of violets〉 〈a bunch of radishes〉 A bale is a large bundle of goods bound up for storage or transportation and especially one composed of materials (as rags, hay, straw, cotton, or wool) which are closely pressed together so as to form a mass, usually rectangular, tightly bound with stout cord or wire, and often wrapped in paper or burlap. Because there is in various localities a uniform size for a bale of a certain commodity, the word often also implies an average or approximate weight 〈a United States bale of cotton weighs approximately 500 pounds〉 〈Parcel (see also *part*) implies a state of being wrapped and tied and a small or moderate size, and it carries no suggestion of the number or kind of things so wrapped and tied 〈a shopping bag for parcels〉 〈loaded down with parcels〉 〈send parcels through the mail〉 〈Pack implies more careful and more compact arrangement than *bundle*; specifically it denotes a conveniently packed bundle of goods or supplies that is carried on the back (as by a peddler, a soldier on the march, or a mule). A package is specifically something packed (as in a box or receptacle of moderate size or in a compact bundle) especially for convenience in sale or transportation 〈an express package〉 〈a package of envelopes〉 〈candy in the original package〉 〈pack goods〉 It may also be applied to a group of intangibles (as contracted services or performances) forming, offered, or dealt with as a unit 〈sell them a . . . complete package (lot, house, equipment and financing in a single transaction)—Guthrie〉 〈a series of treaties and agreements forming a single package—Fay〉 〈A packet is a small package or parcel (a packet of letters or dispatches) 〈An* collection, assemblage, gathering (see under *gather*)〉

**bungle** 〈vb *botch, fumble, muff, cobble* 〈An* confuse, muddle, addle, befuddle: confuse, confound, confine, *mustache: *disorder, disarrange, disorganize, de- range: *entangle, enmesh 〈bunk** 〈n *nonsense, twaddle, drivel, balderdash,-poppycock, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull

**buoyant volatile, expansive, resilient, effervescent, *elastic**


*Ant* depressed, dejected —*Con* doleful, lugubrious, *melancholy: *sullen, morose, glum, dour: *despondent, despairing, hopeless, forlorn

**burden** 〈n *load, cargo, freight, lading**

**burden** vb *Burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, load, lade, tax, charge, saddle are comparable when they mean to lay a heavy load upon or to lie like a heavy load upon a person or thing. Burden implies the imposition or the carrying of a load that makes one conscious of its weight and that is therefore regarded as grievous, trying, or oppressive. The term often suggests something that is or seems to be too much to be borne by the mind or spirit (burdened with too many responsibilities) 〈exorbitant taxes that burden the workingman〉 〈but this murder—was it to dog him all his life? Was he always to be burdened by his past?—Wilde〉 〈when the aesthetic sense deviates from its proper ends to burden itself with moral intentions . . . it ceases to realize morality—Ellis〉 Encumber specifically suggests the presence of something that impedes, obstructs, hampers, or embarrasses. Even when the term connotes too great a weight, it stresses the fact that the weight is an annoyance or a clog to one’s progress 〈he must be encumbered by mountains of luggage〉 Consequently it is oftener used of things than of persons (the father had left his inheritance encumbered—Bello) 〈the vast quantity of mere survivals (customs and beliefs) which encumber modern life—Inge〉 〈awaiting release from the . . . encumbering bulk of gross matter—Montague〉 Cumber is close to *encumber* but it is less likely to stress motion and more likely to stress what perplexes, worries, discommodes, or inconveniences (he cumbmers himself never about consequences, about interests: he gives an independent, genuine verdict—Emerson) 〈such an enterprise might well have seemed to him beyond the power of Rome, cumbred already with so many duties—Buchan〉 Weight suggests a load of something (as sorrow, fears, or anxiety) that lies upon the heart, the spirit, or the mind so that it oppresses or depresses it 〈canst thou not . . . with some sweet oblivious antidote cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart—Shak.〉 〈mortality weighs heavily on me like unwilling sleep—Keats〉 Weight differs from *weigh in suggesting not a load that oppresses or depresses the heart, mind, or spirit but one that serves as a handicap in a struggle or a disadvantage to be met: the term may be so used that the handicap or disadvantage either may be thought of as residing in the person or thing considered or in the person or thing set against it 〈weighted as he was with faults . . . he fought his battle bravely—Froude〉 〈it wants to have a House of Commons which is not weighted with nominees of the landed class—George Eliot〉 Load and lade carry an implication of overloading but may imply an overabundance that is agreeable as well as one that entails a burden or impresses one as a superfluity (a store loaded with merchandise of every sort) 〈load human life with frustration and grief—Cort〉 〈load one with reproaches〉 (the butler entered with a laden tea tray—Wilde) 〈come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden—*Matt* 11:28> Tax in its relevant sense means to place an exacting burden or demand upon: it suggests something that strains one to the uttermost 〈it may tax the highest wisdom of the race to preserve civilization at all—F. N. Robinson〉 〈the war severely taxed the resources of the country〉 Charge basically means to load a thing up to its
burden

*substance, purport, gist, core, pith

*oppressive, *onerous, exacting

thief, robber (see under THEFT)

burglar

vb

Burn, scorch, char, sear, singe mean to injure by

husky, *muscular, brawny, athletic, sinewy

burlesque

n

burglary

*rob, plunder, rifle, loot

burglarize

vb

oppress, *depress, weigh: *crush, mash

Con

lighten, alleviate, mitigate, *relieve: *moderate, temper

burden

n

*substance, purport, gist, core, pith

*subject, matter, subject matter, theme, text, topic

burdensome

oppressive, *onerous, exacting

*heavy, ponderous, cumbersome, cumbrous, weighty: *irksome, wearisome: fatiguing, exhausting, flagging, tiring (see TIRE): arduous, *hard, difficult

Ant

light —Con

*easy, facile, simple, smooth, effortless

burglar

thief, robber (see under THEFT)

stealer, pilferer, filcher, purloiner (see corresponding Ana

Ana

—Con

Ant

analogous words

Con

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page
toral and labor are involved. The term may be used generally to include all activities covered by this definition (automation is rapidly revolutionizing industry) It may also be used more narrowly of any branch of industry as determined by the thing produced (the sugar industry comprises all business organizations engaged in the processing and refining of sugar) (the steel industry) (the automobile industry) Traffic (see also INTERCOURSE) applies to the activities of those who are engaged in the operation of public carriers (as ships, railroads, bus lines, and systems of trucking) and who are therefore primarily responsible for the transportation not only of commodities and articles of manufacture but also of persons from one part of a country or of the world to another (the traffic interests were also represented at the conference).

**bust vb** break, crack, burst, snap, shatter, shiver

Ana see those at BURST

**bustle n** flurry, *stir, ado, fuss, pother

bustle *busy, industrious, diligent, assiduous, sedulous

flurry, *stir, ado, fuss, pother

bustle

break, crack, burst, snap, shatter, shiver

bust

**buy, purchase** mean to acquire something for money or an equivalent. Buy is at once the more general and the homelier word; consequently, while it may be freely used of any such transaction, it is distinctly the word of choice in respect to small, casual, or day-to-day exchanges of money for goods. Purchase, on the other hand, frequently implies a transaction of some dignity or importance and negotiations or other efforts to obtain it. Thus, one buys (rather than purchases) a dozen eggs, a glass of beer, or a new hat, but one purchases (or buys) a yacht or a country estate (peace, how oft, how dearly bought—Pope) (thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money—Acts 8:20) Whereas buy may almost always be substituted for purchase without disadvantage, the use of purchase instead of buy often weakens the effect or strikes a jarring note.

Ana obtain, acquire, procure, *get: *pay, compensate, remunerate

by, through, with are comparable as prepositions followed by a word or phrase naming the agent, means, or instrument. By is followed commonly by the agent or causative agency (a wall built by the Romans) (a novel by Scott) (destroyed by fire) (devoured by wolves) (blessed by a priest) (inflamed by the jibes of officers) (impressed by the evidence) Through implies intermediacy; it is followed by the name of the person or thing that serves as the medium or the means by which an end is gained or an effect produced (speak through an interpreter) (procure a rare book through a friend) (express ideas through words) (acquire a position through influence) (an opportunity lost through indecision) With, on the other hand, is often followed by the name of the instrument which accompanies the action (write with a pen) (eat with a fork) (defend oneself with a stick) It may, however, take for its object something not consciously used as an instrument but serving as the instrumentality by which an effect is produced (he amused the crowd with his anecdotes) (do not kill us with kindness)

**bystander** onlooker, looker-on, witness, eyewitness,

*spectator, observer, beholder

**byword** *catchword, shibboleth, slogan

Ana proverb, *saying, saw, motto: *abuse, invective: legend, caption (see INSCRIPTION)
cad, bounder, rotter mean one who shows himself to be no gentleman. Usually they are somewhat vague terms of contempt for bad behavior or manners. Cad is applied especially to a man who violates in some way or another the code of morals or of manners by which he has been brought up and is supposed to be guided. (Napoleon III—in whom the cad, the coward, the idealist, and the sensualist were exposed, exhibit, display, *show: unearth, *discover

con expose, exhibit, display, *show: unearth, *discover

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secrete, bury, *hide, conceal, ensconce, screen

vb *harden, solidify, indurate, petrify

cajole wheedle, blandish, *coax

calamity

calamitous

calculate, compute, estimate, reckon mean to determine something (as cost, speed, or quantity) by mathematical and especially arithmetical processes. Calculate is usually preferred when highly advanced, intricate, or elaborate processes are followed with precision and care and when the result arrived at is not readily proven by a physical confirmation (as by measuring or enumerating) <calculate the distance between the sun and the earth> (calculate the number of atoms in a cubic centimeter of hydrogen) Compute is preferred where the data are given or the actual figures involved are known and at hand and not arrived at indirectly; it therefore commonly implies the use of simple though often lengthy arithmetical processes (compute the interest due) (compute the cost of running a business during a given year) Estimate carries so strong an implication from its more common sense (see ESTIMATE) of an evaluation based on one's experience and good judgment that even when it implies careful calculation or computation it still connotes a result that is not necessarily exact but approximates the exact result; for he who estimates deals with data or figures that are to some extent unsatisfactory. Hence estimate is preferred to calculate and compute when the cost of a piece of work to be done is computed at present prices (a contractor's bid on a projected building is based on its estimated cost to him) (a printer estimates a printing job when he names the price he will probably ask for doing it) Reckon is used in place of compute and usually connotes simpler mathematical processes especially such as can be carried on in one's head or aided by the use of counters (reckon the cost of a trip to the city) (reckon the number of eggs laid by the hens during the month) Ana weigh, study, *consider: ponder, ruminate: determine, ascertain, *discover

Con guess, *conjecture, surmise

calculating circumspect, *cautious, wary, chary

Ana *deliberate, designed, considered, studied, premeditated: designing, scheming, plotting (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n): wily, guileful, crafty, artful, cunning, *sly

Ant reckless, rash —Con foolhardy, daring, venturesome, *adventurous: imprudent, imprudent, indiscreet (see affirmative adjectives at PRUDENT)

calculation circumspection, caution, wariness, cauterity (see under CAUTIOUS)

Ana *prudence, forethought, foresight, providence, discretion: care, concern, solicitude: astuteness, perspicacity, sagacity, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWD)

Ant recklessness, rashness

caliber *quality, stature

Ana capability, capacity, *ability: force, *power

call vb *summon, summons, cite, convocate, convene, muster

Ana assemble, *gather, collect: *invite, bid

call n *visit, visitation

caller *visitor, visitant, guest

calling occupation, pursuit, business, *work, employment

Ana profession, *trade, craft, art, handicraft

callous *hardened, indurated

Ana tough, tenacious, stout, strong: *firm, solid, hard: *inflexible, adamant, obdurate, inexorable: insensitive, impassible, *insensible, anesthetic

Ant tender —Con *soft, lenient, gentle, smooth: yielding, submitting, relenting (see YIELD): compassionate,
responsive, sympathetic (see TENDER): sensitive, susceptible, open, exposed, subject, *liable
callow green, crude, raw, *rude, rough, uncouth

_An_ puerile, boyish, juvenile, *youthful: naïve, ingenuous, simple, unsophisticated, artless, *natural: adolescent, pubescent (see corresponding nouns at YOUTH)

**Ant** full-fledged, grown-up — _Con_ *mature, adult, matured

calm _adj_ Calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful, halcyon

_mean quiet and free from all that disturbs or excites. Calm is primarily applied to sea or weather, usually conveys an implicit contrast with its opposite, stormy, and suggests freedom, real or assumed, from agitation of whatever sort (as men for ever temp’rate, calm, and wise — Pope) Tranquil implies a more settled composure, a more inherent quiet, than calm with less suggestion of previous agitation overcome (farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content! — Shaks) (a tranquil beauty of Greek sculpture — Fitzgerald) (a tranquil trust in God amid tortures and death too horrible to be related — Motley) Serene suggests a lofty and unclouded tranquillity (regions of mild calm and serene air, above the smoke and stir of this dim spot which men call Earth — Milton) (the serene monotony that so often wears the aspect of happiness — Glasgow)

_Placid_ connotes lack of excitement and suggests an unruffled and equable aspect or temper or even sometimes, in derogatory use, a hint of stupidity (to confirm by placid silences the fact that the wine had been good — Henry James) (the placid common sense of Franklin — J. R. Lowell) (she is as placid as a cow)

_Peaceful_ (see also PACIFIC) implies repose or the attainment of undisturbed tranquility (I am grown peaceful as old age tonight — Browning) (they harried his hitherto peaceful domains — Irving) Halcyon implies an almost magic or golden calmness especially of weather or of spirit (soft blue stone, the color of robins’ eggs, or of the sea on halcyon days of summer — Cather) (the long uproar over the passage of the Reform Bill compared to which the stormiest days of the New Deal were halcyon — Dwight Macdonald)

_An_ *still, quiet, stillly, noiseless: *pacific, peaceful: *impassive, stoic: unruffled, composed, collected, imper turbable, unflappable, *cool

_Ant_ stormy: agitated — _Con_ shaken, rocked, convulsed (see SHAKE): disturbed, perturbed, discomposed, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

calm _vb_ Calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, lull, soothe, settle, tranquilize are comparable when they relate to persons and their feelings and moods and mean essentially to bring to an end or relieve from whatever distresses, agitates, or disturbs. Calm implies a previous disordered state and denotes a returning to inner quietude especially as aided by judgment, fortitude, or faith (Christian faith calmed in his soul the fear of change and death — Wordsworth) (her also I with gentle dreams have calmed — Milton) Compose, often reflexive, retains its basic notion of arranging in order, specifically in an order that results in repose; it may heighten suggestions of conscious effort, resolution, and fortitude (my child, if ever you were brave and serviceable in your life . . . you will compose yourself now — Dickens) (a most composed invincible man; in difficulty and distress, knowing no discouragement — Carlyle) Quiet and quieten may connote a temporary external calmness in speech or demeanor rather than lasting inner calm (the most unreasonable of Franklin’s impulses has now been quieted by this most reasonable of marriages — Van Doren) These terms are likely to be used in indicating the effect of actions of persons in authority on others (threats to the physical well-being of the unborn baby can quieten a noisy and uncooperative patient in labor — Lancet) Still is somewhat literary or poetic and stresses the fact of cessation of agitation (flattened, silenced, stilled — Woolf) (a voice stilled by death) It may suggest more peremptory action than the other terms compared and often connotes a return to quietude induced by power, authority, or awe (the debate was stilled by the crash of guns) (it was Mary who stilled the hideous bawling of Peter — H. G. Wells) Lull suggests the somnolence of lullaby, to which it is related (Aiken has lulled the reader with a seductive music and has transported him into the dreamworld of Freudian fantasy — Matthiessen) It may, on the one hand, apply to the gentle easing of an infant into sleep (as by song or rocking) or, on the other hand, imply a sleepy relaxation into repose, com placence, unawareness, or apathy when one should be vigilant (we must not let a year or two of prosperity lull us into a false feeling of security — Truman) Soothe suggests bland, gentle mitigation, assuagement, or solace (cooled their fevered sleep, and soothed them into slum bers full and deep — Keats) (when they [babies] wake screaming and find none to soothe them — Lamb) Settle (see also DECIDE) stresses the subsiding of swirling agitation and implies a stabilizing and easing of a mind or body previously upset (as by emotional excitement, illness, or intoxication) (settled her stomach with peppermint tea) (I’ll read a bit before supper to settle my mind — Turnbul) (I can’t settle my brains, your next news of me will be that I am locked up — Montagu) Tranquillize in general usage stresses the serenity and depth of peace achieved (when contemplation . . . sends deep into the soul its tranquillizing power — Wordsworth) but in recent years it has acquired a more specific though closely related medical application in which it implies a relieving of mental tension and agitation by means of medication (tranquilizers will calm nervous cows for milking . . .) The most hopeful prospect in tranquillizing the animal world lies in the possibility it may change the attitude of some dogs toward postmen — Sacramento Bee

_Ana_ allay, assuage, mitigate, alleviate, *relieve: mollify, placate, appease, *pacify
_Ant_ agitate, arouse — _Con_ upset, perturb, disturb, dis quiet, *discompose
calumniate defame, slander, asperse, traduce, *malign, vilify, libel

_An_ revile, vituperate (see SCOLD): *decry, derogate, defame, slander. Asperse — _Con_ extol, laud, *praise, acclaim: defend, justify (see MAINTAIN)
calumnny slander, *detraction, backbiting, scandal

_An_ aspersion, reflection, *animadversion, stricture: defaming or defamation, maligning, traducing, vilifying or vilification, libeling or libel (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)

_ANT_ eulogize: vindicate — _Con_ extol, laud, *praise, acclaim: defend, justify (see MAINTAIN)
camouflage *disguise, cloak, mask, disguise

can _vb_ Can, may are often confused in use. In its commonest sense can expresses ability, whether physical or mental (he can climb this pole) (he is only four, but he can read) (he will do it if he possibly can) (when Duty whispers low, thou must, the youth replies, I can — Emerson) But can may imply ability that is granted (as by the will of the people or one in authority) (the law does all that is needed when it does all that it can — Justice Holmes) May fundamentally expresses not ability but possibility (he may go if the day is pleasant) (you may be right): When the possibility depends for its fulfillment on the permission or sanction of another, may is the usual term (I shall call tomorrow if I may) (you may go, if you
wish> (may we take your coach to town?—Thackeray> The use of can for may in asking or granting permission is widespread.

canal *channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct
cancel efface, obliterate, expunge, delete, *erase, blot out
Ana invalidate, annul, *nullify: void, *annul, abrogate: *deface, disfigure: *neutralize, counteract, negative
Con confirm, *ratify: *enforce, implement
cancer *tumor, neoplasm, malignancy
candid open, *frank, plain
Ana truthful, veracious (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH): *fair, dispassionate, impartial, unbiased, just: *sincere: honest, scrupulous, *upright
Ant evasive —Con *dishonest, deceitful, lying, mendacious, untruthful
candidate, aspirant, nominee, applicant denote one who seeks an office, honor, position, or award. Candidate is applied not only to a seeker but to one who is put forward by others or is considered as a possibility by those whose function it is to make a choice. It implies therefore an examination of qualifications and is applicable wherever selection is dependent upon others’ judgment of one’s fitness (the Republican candidate for governor) (candidates for the degree of doctor of philosophy) (candidates for life orders) Since the word often implies previous training or grooming for a position or honor, it is sometimes used more widely of a person whose career is such that he seems headed for a certain place or end (a grafter is a candidate for prison) Aspirant definitely implies that one seeks an office, honor, post, or promotion because of one’s own desire or decision; it therefore often connotes ambition or laudable efforts to improve one’s state or condition (the preliminary physical examination was so rigid that twelve aspirants were promptly ruled out—Heiser) (in consequence of the resignations . . . the way to greatness was left clear to a new set of aspirants—Macaulay) Nominee is applied to a candidate for office who has been chosen to represent a party or a faction in a coming election or who has been proposed as the appropriate person to fill a particular office (the president’s nominee to the post was approved by the Senate) Applicant is applied to one who definitely or formally submits himself as a possibility for a post or position. It is often used interchangeably with candidate when personal solicitation is implied in the latter, but unlike candidate, it conveys no suggestion of consideration by those who make the selection (weed out applicants without experience) (there are plenty of unemployed seamstresses and laborers starving for a job, each of them trying to induce you to give it to her or him rather than to the next applicant—Shaw)
canon *law, precept, regulation, rule, statute, ordinance
Ana *principle, fundamental, axiom: criterion, *standard, yardstick, touchstone, gauge
cant n 1 jargon, argot, *dialect, lingo, vernacular, slang, patois
Ana phraseology, vocabulary, diction, *language: idiom, speech (see LANGUAGE) 2 *hypocrisy, sanctimony, pharisiasm
canting hypocritical, sanctimonious, pharisaical (see under HYPOCRISY)
capability *ability, capacity
Ana competence, qualification or qualifications (see corresponding adjectives at ABLE): proficiency, adeptness, expertise, skillfulness (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT): *art, skill, cunning
Ant incapability, incompetence —Con *inability, disability
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
dealing perfect justice to his son he was doing all that was possible—Meredith> Vagary suggests still more strongly the erratic, extravagant, or irresponsible character of the notion or fancy <straight they changed their minds, flew off, and into strange vagaries fell—Milton> <a great force of critical opinion controlling a learned man's vagaries, and keeping him straight—Arnold> Crotchet implies even more perversity of temper or more indifferently to right reason than vagary; it often is applied to a capriciously heretical opinion on some frequently unimportant or trivial point <the impracticable crotchets you are fond of airing are not recognized in England as sane political convictions—Shaw> <this political view may now seem to have been the crotchet of a particular set of historical scholars—Dewey>

Ana humor, *mood, temper, vein: notion, *idea: impulse (see MOTIVE): irrationality, unreasonableableness (see corresponding adjectives at IRRATIONAL): perverseness, contrariness (see corresponding adjectives at CONTRARY)

Con intent, purpose, *intention, design: project, scheme, *plan: deciding or decision, determining or determination, resolving or resolution (see corresponding verbs at DECIDE)

capricious mercurial, unstable, *inconstant, fickle

Ana *changeable, changeful, protean, variable: moody, humorose (see corresponding nouns at MOOD): volatilé, effervescent (see ELASTIC)

Ant steadfast —Con constant, resolute, staunch, loyal, *faithful: *steady, constant

capsize vb upset, *overturn, overthrow, subvert
caption *inscription, legend
captious caviling, carping, *critical, hypercritical, faultfinding, censorious

Ana *contrary, perverse: exacting, demanding (see CONTRARY) —Con reasonable: judicious, *wise, sensible

captivate fascinate, bewitch, enchant, charm, allure, *attract

Ana delight, *please, gratify: win, gain (see GET)

Ant repulse

captivating fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, charming, alluring, attractive (see under ATTRACT)

Ana pleasing, *pleasant, agreeable, grateful: *delightful, delectable: lovely, bonny, fair, *beautiful

Ant repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, obnoxious: *offensive, loathsome, revolting

captive n *prisoner

capture vb *catch, trap, snare, entrap, ensnare, bag

Ana seize, *take, grasp, clutch, snatch: *arrest, apprehend

Con release, *free, liberate: surrender, yield, *relinquish

carbonate vb *aerate, ventilate, oxygenate

Ant decarbonate

carbon copy copy, duplicate, transcript, *reproduction, facsimile, replica

carbuncle *abscess, boil, furuncle, pimple, pustule
carcass corpse, cadaver, *body
cardinal adj vital, *essential, fundamental

Ana requisite, necessary, indispensant, *needful: radical, *fundamental: basic: capital, principal, *chief, main, leading: important, significant, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE)

Ant negligible

care n Care, concern, solicitude, anxiety, worry are comparable when meaning either a state of mind in which one is engrossed and troubled by something pertinent to oneself or another, or the pertinent thing that engrosses and troubles one. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in their corresponding adjectives (careful, concerned, solicitous, anxious, worried) when they mean engrossed and troubled by a particular matter. Care and careful (which is archaic in this sense; see also CAREFUL 2) imply preoccupation and oppression of mind because of heavy responsibilities or disquieting fears or apprehensions <the king . . . most sovereign slave of care—Thoreau> <her face was worn with care> <she was free . . . to go where she liked and do what she liked. She had no responsibilities, no cares—Bennett> <be careful for nothing; but in every thing . . . let your requests be made known unto God—Phil 4:6> Concern and concerned stress absence of indifference, but they also imply a degree of care because of one's interest, affection, respect, or responsibility <his child's future was his greatest concern> <an adult who falls on the street is the object of concern and commiseration—Repplier> <it was quite characteristic of the state of mind of England in the summer of 1914 that Mr. Britting should be mightily concerned about the conflict in Ireland, and almost deliberately negligent of the possibility of a war with Germany—H. G. Wells> Solicitude and solicitous imply profound concern; sometimes they connote extreme apprehensiveness, but more often they suggest thoughtfulness for another's welfare, well-being, or success and sometimes an almost heroic fortitude in another's misfortune (they . . . tended the wounded man with the gentlest solicitude—Dickens> <with motherly solicitude, he insisted that Tom get to his feet—Anderson> <they . . . were as solicitous to see it through for me as though I had been an only child among a lot of maiden aunts—Mary Austin> The last two pairs of words in this group imply far more agitation and depression than the first three. Anxiety and anxious stress the anguish of fear coupled with uncertainty or the anticipation of impending failure, misfortune, or disaster <poor Miss Maria! she was anxious, no doubt . . . over money matters. Ladies ought not to have such anxieties—Delaun> <the child's inner life is often a turmoil of terrors and anxieties of which his parents know almost nothing—Inge> Worry and worried usually suggest more mental activity, often futile, than anxiety and anxious or more fretting or stewing over problems or situations or persons that are a cause of solicitude or anxiety <because the list of her worries is too long, it is difficult to feel as sorry for her as one ought—Moorehead> <the high command . . . had begun to wrinkle their brows. They were perplexed, vexed and worried—Pyle> <worried . . . by the need for keeping up their social positions—Shaw>

Ana trouble, pains, *effort, exertion: disquieting or disquiet, perturbing or perturbation, discomposing or discompose (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): vigilance, watchfulness, alertness (see corresponding adjectives at WATCHFUL)

careful 1 solicitous, anxious, worried, concerned (see under CARE n)

Ana disquieted, perturbed, discomposed, disturbed, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): troubled, distressed (see TROUBLE vb): *watchful, vigilant, alert

2 Careful, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, punctual are comparable in their basic sense of showing or revealing close close attention to details or care in execution or performance. Careful implies great concern for the persons or things in one's charge or for the way in which one's duties or tasks are performed. With regard to the former, the term implies solicitude or watchfulness (a careful mother) (a careful nurse) (a careful spender of money) and with regard to the latter, it usually implies painstaking efforts, thoroughness, cautiousness in avoiding errors, and
a careless examination by the doctor) (a careful mapping out of the plan of battle) All of the other words mean exceedingly careful, but they vary in their implications of the motives which inspire such carefulness and, to a less extent, in regard to the objects of attention. Meticulous usually suggests timorousness lest one make the slightest error or fall short of a high standard; in addition, it implies extreme fussiness or fastidiousness in attention to details (Mr. Prufrock . . . like most converts, meticulous over points of ritual—Day Lewis) (the meticulous care with which the operation in Sicily was planned has paid dividends. For our casualties . . . have been low—Roosevelt) (there were men who ploughed clumsily . . . leaving banks of land untouched . . . but Hendrik was not one of these, his work was meticulous—Cloete) Scrupulous (see also upright) implies the promptings of conscience, not only of one’s moral conscience but of one’s sense of what is right and wrong (as in fact, in logic, or in aesthetics); it therefore also implies strict or painstaking adherence to what one knows to be true, correct, or exact (scrupulous fairness of statement) (scrupulous observance of details—Bradley, like Aristotle, is distinguished by his scrupulous respect for words, that their meaning should be neither vague nor exaggerated—T. S. Eliot) Punctilious, on the other hand, implies knowledge of the fine points (as of law, etiquette, ceremony, or morality) and usually connotes excessive or obvious attention to the details or minutiae of these (I am sorry . . . to see you so punctilious as to stand upon answers, and never to come near me till I have regularly left my name at your door—Gray) (the punctilious gods who judged them according to the principles laid down in some celestial Book of Etiquette—Krutch) Punctual may occasionally come close to punctilious in its stress on attention to the fine points of a law or code, but in such use the term carries a much stronger implication than punctilious of emphasis on their observance and a weaker implication of concentration upon the minutiae (we are not altogether so punctual as the French, in observing the laws of comedy—Dryden) (his punctual discharge of his duties—Froude) More usually the term implies near perfection in one’s adherence to appointed times for engagements or in following a schedule and then means punctuarily prompt (I made Mr. Middleditch punctual before he died, though when he married me he was known far and wide . . . to see, observe, take note of, or remark rather than laziness or negligence; the term often also connotes light-mindedness, frivolousness, or flightiness (heaps of flies . . . fell dead . . . their decease made no impression on the other flies out promenading. . . . Curious to consider how heedless flies are!—Dickens) (discreetly heedless, thanks to her long association with nobleness in art, to the leaps and bounds of fashion—Henry James) Thoughtless may emphasize lack of reflection or of forethought (thoughtless of tomorrow and God—Guthrie) More frequently it suggests lack of thoughtfulness or consideration for others (now and then, however, he is horribly thoughtless, and seems to take a real delight in giving me pain—Wilde) Inada1dent usually implies heedlessness; the term is rarely applied to persons or their minds but is used in qualifying their acts and especially such of their withakes, errors, or blunders as ensue from heedlessness or inadvertence resulting from concentration on other things rather than from ignorance or intention (an inadvertent wakening of a person who is asleep) (an inadvertent error in spelling or in pronunciation) (they are in a bad fix . . . and sometimes with an inadvertent child or two to support—Rand) Ana *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss: casual, desultory, haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky) Ant careful—Con meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, punctual (see careful) Accurate, precise, exact, nice (see correct) Caress vb Caress, fondle, pet, cosset, cuddle, dandle mean to show affection or love by touching or handling. Caress implies an expression of tender interest (as by soft stroking or patting) or of affection ordinarily without undue familiarity (soothing with a touch the wild thing’s fright . . . caressed it into peace with light, kind palms—Arnold) (the little Isaac . . . leans . . . against his father’s knee . . . while Abraham’s left hand quiets him and caresses the boy’s face—Henry Adams) Fondle implies doting fondness and frequently lack of dignity; it usually suggests attentions (as hugging or kissing) more obvious and less gentle than caressing (fondle a baby) (all that he was good for, she said, was to fondle and fumble and kiss—Graves) (dwarf trees that had to be fondled and humored—Brooks) Pet, sometimes, and cosset imply special attentions and indulgences including more or less fondling (the petted child of the family) (died . . . in the newest and largest of hospitals petted by all her nurses—Jarrell) (soothed and cosseted by his aunt—Cather) In recent use pet more often stresses flirtatious or amorous fondling and sometimes suggests undue familiarity (a petting party) Cuddle chiefly suggests the action of a mother or nurse in drawing a child close to her breast to keep it warm, happy, and quiet (little boys . . . who have kind mammals to cuddle them—Kingsley) The term may be extended to other attentions which imply a desire to protect and keep warm and comforted (The Temple seems . . . to have been coaxed, and warmed, and cuddled by the people round about him—Thackeray) We might cuddle up to the world in a comfortable attitude—Langer) Dandle suggests playful handling of a child (as by moving him up and down lightly on one’s knee) (the mother cuddles, but the father dandles, their little boy) In its extended use dandle usually implies torying with especially in a playful but pampering manner (editors, scholars, mer-
caricature, even the noble lords and ladies freted and dandled him—Eastman

**Ana** *trifle, toy, daily, flirty, coquet: cherish, *nurse
careworn, *haggard, pinched, wasted, cadaverous

**Ana** troubled, distressed (see **TROUBLE** vb): *lean, gaunt, 
scrawny, skinny: exhausted, fagged, jaded, tuckered

(see **TIRE** vb)

**Ant** carefree
cargo burden, *load, freight, lading

caricature * Caricature, burlesque, parody, travesty are comparable as nouns meaning a grotesque or bizarre imitation of something and as verbs meaning to make such an imitation. **Caricature** implies ludicrous exaggeration or distortion (often pictorial) of characteristic or peculiar features (as of a person, a group, or a people) for the sake of satire or ridicule *cartoonists who **caricature** prominent politicians

* that propensity to **caricature** which tempts clever writers . . . to transform into objects of derision the venerated Great—L. P. Smith

* his portrait of Addisson, for example . . . depends upon . . . the apparent determination not to exaggerate. The genius of Pope is not for **caricature**—T. S. Eliot

**Burlesque** implies mimicry (especially of words or actions in the theater) that arouses laughter. The term usually also suggests distortion (as by treating a trilling subject in mock-heroic vein or by giving to a serious subject a frivolous (or laughable turn) for the sake of the comic effect *in Don Quixote Cer-vantes burlesques the old romances of chivalry

**Burlesque** is . . . of two kinds: the first represents mean persons in the accouterments of heroes; the other describes great persons acting and speaking like the basest among the people—**Spectator**

**Parody** basically denotes a writing in which the language and style of an author or work are closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule

**Parody** may be regarded as an unique combination of both creative and cognitive criticism. At its best, it is creative because it is genuine self-expression through imitation of another’s self-expression. It debunks aesthetic illusion by means of a mock-aesthetic illusion of its own—J. L. Davis

**Parody**, like **caricature**, may involve exaggeration or, like **burlesque**, distortion but ordinarily is more subtle and sustained than the first and quieter and less boisterous than the second *burlesque or **parody** may be aimed at the most august object, but surely it must imply an understanding of that object—Bentley

**Bentley** (one of the richest sources of their humor lies in their ability to **parody** the most solemn efforts of radio and television as these media attempt the dramatic slush known as soap operas—G. S. Perry

In extended use **parody** may apply, often with more than a hint of bitterness or disgust, to a feeble or inappropriate imitation *his art had become **parody**, his body a gutted edifice—there was nothing left but to drink in the company of friends and to hope to die with dignity—Conway

**Wogow** or to a poor inadequate substitute *subsidized football results in some quite **parodies** of education—Eaton

* the mechanically produced **parodies** of period designs hitherto offered by the furniture trade—Gloag

**Travesty** is usually a harsher word than others of this group; it implies a palpably extravagant and often debased or grotesque imitation and more often and more intensely than **parody** suggests repulsion *it should never be the object of a satirist to make a **travesty** of a genuine work of art—Kitchell

* facetious explanations of the fall of Rome are a **travesty** of the facts—Benedit

* later examples of the Greek revival **travestied** the classic style rather than copied it—Amer. Guide Series: Mass.

**Ana** satire, humor, sarcasm (see **WIT**): grotesqueness, fantastically, bizarrezza (see corresponding adjectives at **FANTASTIC**): lampoon, *libel, skit, squib, pasquinade

**Caricature** * burlesque, parody, travesty (see under **CARICATURE** n)

**Ana** mimic, mock, ape, imitate, *copy: distort, *deform: simulate, counterfeit (see **ASSUME**): *ridicule, deride

carnage * slaughter, butchery, *massacre, pogrom

carnal, fleshly, sensual, animal are comparable when they are used in reference to human beings, their acts, works, desires, and interests and mean having or showing a physical rather than an intellectual or spiritual character or origin. Both **carnal** and **fleshly** imply a connection with the body or flesh especially when thought of as distinct from the spirit. **Carnal** need not in itself imply condemnation *armed against ghostly as well as carnal attack—Stoker

Often it is a purely descriptive or classificatory term *a . . . flier with a lyrical gift for conveying the **carnal** élan of men fighting, was the first writer ever to treat air combat in epic style—Flannery but through its frequent opposition to the spiritual it has come to suggest not merely man’s bodily but his lower nature and appetites *the superiority of the spiritual and eternal over the **carnal** and temporal had to be vindicated—H. O. Taylor

**Medieval Christianity tended to restore the conviction that sex, being **carnal** and not spiritual, is low, lascivious, and wicked—Garvin and ultimately to be applied more or less specifically and usually derogatorily to the sexual and the lustful as the most bodily of appetites and the most antithetical to the spiritual nature *to make herself a **carnal** object, the prey of another, is in contradiction to her self-worship: it seems to her that embraces blight and sully her body or degrade her soul—Parshley

* he has also three partner antagonists: his wife Lucy and his two mistresses, one a carnal affair, the other "idealistic"—Bentley

* who more **carnal** than a recent virgin—Steinbeck

* had an instant succès du scandale. It titilated the prurient with the frankness of its **carnal** detail—S. H. Adams

**Fleshly**, though it implies a connection with the flesh thought of as man’s lower nature, is often less suggestive of condemnation than **carnal** *turn to Bernard’s love of God, and rise with him from the carnal and temporal had to be vindicated—Parshley

**Sensual** implies a connection with sensations, but it further implies an indulgence in bodily sensation for its own sake rather than for an aesthetic end *his feet and hands were always cold and there was for him an almost **sensual** satisfaction to be had from just lying perfectly still . . . and letting the hot sun beat down on him—Anderson

* Very often the word carries implications of grossness marked by concentration on bodily satisfaction and the absence of intellectual or spiritual qualities *a sloping meaty jaw, and large discolored buckteeth which showed unpleasantly in a mouth . . . always half open . . . that gave his face its
decency on bodily satisfaction and the absence of intellectual or spiritual qualities *a sloping meaty jaw, and large discolored buckteeth which showed unpleasantly in a mouth . . . always half open . . . that gave his face its

**Ant** spiritual: intellectual —Con *moral, ethical, virtuous, noble, righteous: ethereal, aerial (see **AIRY**): pure, *chaste, modest, decent

carol * sing, troll, descant, warble, trill, hymn, chant,
intone
carping adj cavity, faultfinding, captious, *critical, hypercritical, censorious
Ana blaming, reprehending, reproaching, criticizing (see CRITICIZE): upbraiding, jawing, railing (see SCOLD): depreciating or deprecatory, disparaging, decrying (see corresponding verbs at DECRY)
Ant fulsome —Con commending or commendatory, applauding, complimenting (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND): praising, lauding, extolling (see PRAISE vb): approving, endorsing (see APPROVE)
carry vb Carry, bear, convey, transport, transmit are comparable when they mean to be or to serve as the agent or the means whereby something or someone is moved from one place to another. Carry often implies the use of a cart or carriage or more recently of a train, ship, automobile, or airplane, but it may imply a personal agent or a beast of burden or some natural or artificial passage (as an artery or a pipe) or ship carries heavy cargo) <airplanes carry mail) <a bus built to carry sixty passengers> <carry news) <please carry the basket to the house) <the arteries carry the blood from the heart to the various parts of the body> Bear stresses the support of the weight of whatever is being moved; in its extended senses, even though actual weight may not be implied, bear is preferred to carry when effort is suggested or the importance or the significance of what is carried is to be connote) <let four captains bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage—Shak.) > over his head was borne a rich canopy—Johnson> then came the envoy's bearing rich gifts) > some bearing good news) Convey is more often used than carry of things that move continuously or in the mass or that pass through natural or artificial channels or mediums an endless belt for conveying dirt from an excavation to the trucks removing it) <freight cars for conveying coal from the mines to the various cities and towns) <pipelines to convey natural gas from one section to another) <language conveys thought) Transport is used in place of carry or convey when the stress is on the movement of persons or goods especially in numbers or bulk and typically over a considerable distance and by a professional carrier (as a railway or steamship line) fast liners were used to transport troops to France) <trucks transporting farm produce to market) <most modern well-to-do Englishmen and Americans, if they were transported by magic into the Age of Elizabeth, would wish themselves back in the modern world—Russell) Transmit emphasizes the causative power in an agent or instrument: it implies either an actual sending by some means of conveyance or transportation (the telegraph company transmit messages to all parts of the world) > the steamship company will transmit your baggage whenever it receives the word) or the power or the property of permitting passage through or from one place to another (glass transmits light) <metals transmit electricity)
Ana take, *bring, fetch: > move, remove, shift, transfer: drive, *ride
cartel 1 compact, pact, convention, *contract, bargain, concordat, treaty, entente
2 pool, syndicate, corner, *monopoly, trust
Ana combine, *combination: *consolidation, merger, amalgamation

carve 1 *cut, slit, hew, chop, slash
Ana shape, fashion, form (see MAKE): > separate, divide, part
2 Carve, incise, engrave, etch, chisel, sculpture, sculpt, sculp are comparable when they denote to cut an outline or a shape out of or into some substance (as stone, wood, or metal). They are, however, not close synonyms, for few of the terms keep within the limits of this meaning. Carve (see also CUT) suggests working with an instrument (as a knife or a chisel) in order to adorn a surface or to fashion a solid figure; the term may connote an artistic purpose (as representation or decoration) and a method of working involving the cutting of a pattern into a surface (intaglio carving) or the cutting away of parts of the original surface so as to leave a raised design or raised figures upon a new ground (relief carving) or the fashioning of a whole or partial figure by cutting or chipping away excess material (carve an inscription on a tombstone) <the legs of chairs and table were carved with oak leaves) > a figure carved in stone is fine carving when one feels that not the figure, but the stone . . . has come to life—Sweeney) Incise implies cutting into with an instrument (as a knife) that leaves traces; more specifically it implies a cutting into some hard or resistant material so that figures, letters, or devices are marked upon its surface incise an epitaph upon a monument) <the gem had been incised with his coat of arms and was used as his seal) Engrave often implies a cutting into and may be used as an equivalent of incise: in general use, however, it more often implies a cutting (as upon wood, stone, or metal) with a graving tool in order to form an inscription or a pictorial representation that can be printed either from the incised lines, spaces, or points (as in copperplate engraving) or from parts of the surface left in relief (as in wood engraving). The noun engraving denotes a picture printed from a plate or block thus made, but the verb usually emphasizes the work of the one who actually cut the plate or block was asked to engrave a portrait of Daniel Webster) <prints made from an engraved copper plate) Engrave also may be used to connote an indelible impression upon the heart, mind, or memory no stone stands over where he lies. It is on our hearts that his life is engraved—Galsworthy) Etch differs from engrave only in implying that the lines and dots which form a picture are incised not upon the metal but through a hard, acid-resisting surface (as of varnish) covering the metal of a plate and are then eaten into the plate by coating this surface with acid. Chisel, though used widely by workers in stone and wood to suggest the various processes (as of cutting or shaping) that are executed with a chisel, is in general use more often employed to suggest either literally or figuratively the process of carving an image from resistant material; the emphasis in such use is upon the skill of the maker and the artistic quality of the product it was a great artist who chiseled the vital figure of the Winged Victory out of stone) > finely chiseled features) Sculpture and the related sculpt and sculp imply the formation of primarily three-dimensional figures especially in stone or metal. Basically sculpture suggests carving or chiseling out of some hard substance, but all three terms stress the end result over the technique and may be extended to include the making of three-dimensional art forms by such diverse methods as modeling and molding, welding, or construction as well as by the traditional carving and chiseling, and all three, but especially sculpture, may be further extended to processes and results suggesting the work of a sculptor a sculptured bronze head) <because it was God Who had sculptured the mountains . . . while it was men who had bricked the cities and that was why they were sometimes so ugly—Bruce Marshall) > does not so much sing Mozart's phrases as sculpt them, with the sure instincts of a master craftsman—Gelatt) > Brancusi . . . sculps what Plato had in mind by the idea of form—Time)
Ana shape, fashion, form (see MAKE): produce, turn out

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
catalog vb *dismiss, discharge, drop, fire, sack, bounce

Ara *ejert, expel, oust: eliminate, disbar, *exclude, suspend

Con engage (see PROMISE): elect, appoint, *designate, name

cast vb 1 *throw, fling, hurl, pitch, toss, sling

Ara *direct, aim, point, level, train, lay; *scatter, disperse

2 *discard, shed, molt, slough, scrap, junk

Ara *relinquish, abandon, yield, surrender, leave: repudiate, reject (see DECLINE): *dismiss, drop

3 figure, foot, *add, sum, total, tot

Ara compute, *calculate, reckon

castaway n derelict, *outcast, reprobate, pariah, untouchable

castigate vb chastise, *punish, chasten, discipline, correct

Ara *beat, baste, thrash, pillumel, belabor: berate, tongue-lash, rate, upbraid, wig, rail (see SCOLD): *penalize, fine, amerce, mulct

castrate 1 *sterilize, spay, emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, cauponize

casual 1 *accidental, incidental, adventitious, contingent, fortuitous

Ara unpremeditated (see EXTemporaneous): *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious: *negligent, slack, lax, remiss: inadvertent, *careless, heedless

Con intentional, *voluntary: premeditated, *deliberate, studied, considered, advised, designed: *careful, meticulous, punctilious, scrupulous

2 desultory, *random, haphazard, chancy, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

Ara offhand, impromptu, improvised, *extemporaneous, extempore: *spontaneous, impulsive: unmethodical, un­ systematic (see affirmative adjectives at ORDERLY)

Ant deliberate —Con formal, conventional, ceremonial (see CEREMONIAL)

casualty 1 *accident, mishap

Ara *disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm: *misfortune, mischance, mishap

casualistic sophistical, fallacious (see UNDER FALLACY)

Ara *plausible, specious: tortuous (see WINDING): oblique, devious, *crooked: *misleading, delusive, deceptive, delusory

Con sound, cogent, convincing, *valid

casuistry sophistry, sophism, *fallacy

cataclysm catastrophe, *disaster, calamity

Ara convulsing or convulsion, rocking, shaking, agitation (see corresponding verbs at SHAKE): revolution (see REBELLION): *misfortune, mischance, mishap

catalog n *list, inventory, table, schedule, register, roll, roster

catalog vb *record, register, list, enroll

Ara enumerate, number, *count: *enter, admit

catastrophe 1 *disaster, calamity, cataclysm

Ara *trial, tribulation, visitation: defeating or defeat, overthrowing or overthrow, routing or rout (see corresponding verbs at CONQUER)

Con *victory, triumph

catch vb 1 Catch, capture, trap, snare, entrap, ensnare, bag are comparable when meaning to get into one’s possession or under one’s control either by taking or seizing

or by means of skill, craft, or trickery. Catch, the ordinary and general term of this group, distinctively implies that the thing laid hold of has been in flight, in concealment, or in constant movement and that possession has been gained by pursuit, force, strategy, or surprise or by means of a device or accident which brings it within one’s reach physically, visually, or mentally (after several days’ search the detectives caught the murderer) (not able to catch the man who snatched her purse) (catch fish) (catch a ball) (catch a pupil cheating in an examination) (his eyes caught the skirt of her dress—Dickens) (Yancey Cravat caught the word beneath his teeth and spat it back—Ferber) (he smiled back like a child caught in a lie—Steinbeck) Sometimes the power of laying hold of is ascribed not to a person, his vision or other sense, or his mind, heart, or imagination but to the thing which draws to itself his attention, his eye, or his fancy (the fact caught her interest, just as sometimes a point in a wide dull landscape catches the eye—Deland) (two recent imports... offer striking new surprises which may catch unaware even the veteran reader—Anthony Boucher) Catch implies heavier odds (as greater opposition or difficulty or more competition) than does catch and suggests a taking possession that amounts to an overcoming or a victory (catch a stronghold of the enemy) (catch a company of retreating soldiers) (he was making plans... to catch the banking of the country—Bello) (no artist can set out to capture charm; he will toil all the night and take nothing—Benson) Trap, snare, entrap, and ensnare imply catching by a device which holds the one caught in a position that is fraught with danger or difficulty or from which escape is difficult or impossible. Trap and snare imply the use of a trap or snare (see LURE n), but entrap and ensnare suggest trickery in capture more often than the use of an actual trap or snare: all four terms impute craft to the catcher and unwarranted or lack of caution to the one that is caught. Distinctively, trap and entrap suggest a being held in a position where one is at the mercy of the captor and his designs, and snare and ensnare a being held so that the more one struggles the more desperate becomes one’s situation (trap an animal) (snare a bird) (trap a detachment of soldiers with an ambush) (themselves in bloody toils were snared—Scott) (as if he would clear away some entanglement which had ensnared—Steinbeck) Sometimes the power of laying hold of suggests a being physiologically, visually, or mentally (after several days’ imprisonment). Sometimes the power of laying hold of suggests a being physically, visually, or mentally (after several days’ imprisonment)
categorize

its philosophy and basic tenets (<"the new deal" became the catchword of supporters and critics of Franklin Roose-
velt as "the square deal" was that of the friends and the
enemies of Theodore Roosevelt> <a man is a creature who
lives not upon bread alone, but principally by catchwords
—Stevenson> <these catchwords which you repeat when
people ask you for intelligence—Masefield> Byword
sometimes denotes a significant phrase that is repeated
far and wide until it has become a proverb (the old byword
of necessity being the mother of invention—Kroebel)
The more usual sense is a person or thing that has become
proverbial as the type of certain evil, ludicrous, or shame-
ful characteristics and whose name, therefore, has become
the object of concentrated scorn or contempt <I had dis-
graced that name eternally. I had made it a low byword
among low people—Wilde> <even those public depart-
ments that were bywords for incompetence and red tape
were far more efficient than the commercial adventurers
who derided them—Shaw> <Emerson . . . was still an
impossible puzzle in the popular mind, even a national
joke, a byword of the country paragraphers—Brooks>
She was the word which, in Judges 12, the Ephra-
imites fleeing from the Gileadites could not correctly
pronounce when tested, thus giving away their identity
to Jephthah as his enemies; it typically applies to a fixed
usage (as a word, phrase, or speech sound) whose employ-
ment identifies a person as belonging to a particular party,
class, profession, ethnic group, or time. The term basically
stresses help in placing a person (a child who . . . has not
yet learned sufficiently well the phonemic shibboleths,
the arbitrary sound-gamuts, which his society insists upon
—La Barre> <our listeners type us—stereotype us—
according to the impression they gain from our verbal
habits . . . every word we speak is a shibboleth—G. A.
Miller> but may also imply the emptiness and triteness
of such usage and then approach platitude in meaning
<some truth in the shibboleth that crime does not pay—
Rogow> Slogan, originally a cry used in battle, has come
to mean a phrase that is a shibboleth of the party or group
using it <that was in fact the position that the Dadaists
took up. "Art is a private matter: the artist does it for
himself" was one of their slogans—Day Lewis> It may
be a phrase deliberately invented for the sake of attracting
attention to a party or group (a slogan . . . is a short mes-
gage designed to be repeated over and over again, word for
word—Kleppner> <traditional schoolbook platitudes and
campaign slogans—Frankfurter> it may be an eye-
catching or ear-catching bit used as an advertising device
(the Heinz "57 Varieties" label . . . provided the company
with both a trademark and an advertising slogan—Current
Biog.>

Ana caption, legend (see inscription): *phrase, expres-
sion, idiom: *commonplace, platitude, truism, bromide, cliché

catechize interrogate, quiz, examine, question, *ask, query, inquire

categorical 1 *ultimate, absolute

Con hypothetical, conjectural, supposititious (see sup-
posed): conditional, contingent, relative, *dependent
2 express, define, *explicit, specific

Ana positive, certain, *sure: *forthright, downright

Con ambiguous, equivocal, vague, cryptic, enigmatic,
*obscure: dubious, *doubtful, questionable, problematic
category *class, genus, species, denomination, genre

Ana division, section, *part: classification (see corre-
sponding verb at assort)
cater vb Cater, purvey, panderv are comparable when they
mean to furnish with what satisfies the appetite or desires.
Cater basically implies the provision of what is needed in

the way of food and drink (he that doth the ravens feed,
yea, providently caters for the sparrow—Shak.) The
term essentially implies provision of food and drink ready
for the table (a firm that caters for dinners, weddings,
and receptions) In extended use catering often implies
the provision of something that appeals to a specific appetite
<catering to the national taste and vanity—Thackeray>
Often, especially when followed by to, the term implies
a certain subserviency (as to popular standards or uncul-
tivated tastes) <too many movies, novels, and comic
books do cater to an appetite for violence—Sisk> <cater
to the public demand for the sensational> Purvey
usually suggests the provision of food but sometimes of such other
material necessities as lodgings and clothes. In contrast
with cater, however, it suggests service as a source of
supply, either as an agent through whom what is wanted
may be found or as a merchant who sells the needed
articles (merchants who purveyed to the troops during
the Seven Years' War) In extended use, especially when
followed by for, purvey implies the provision of whatever
is needed to satisfy, delight, or indulge (the function of
the eye is not merely ministerial; it merely purveys for
true ears—Lanier) Purveyor, which basically means to act
as a procurer or as a go-between in an illicit amour, in
its frequent extended use may imply a purveying of some-
thing which will gratify desires and passions that are
degrading or base (<pander to depraved appetites) <pander
for morbid tendencies> or may connote mere servile
trucking (<denounced legislative pandering to special
interests—Time> <institutions which pandered to the
factory workers . . . —a movie house, a quick-lunch wagon
—F. S. Fitzgerald> or even no more than a deferring to
or a reasonable indulgence of tastes (<choose a plan to
suit your type of land and to pandering to your own particu-
lar tastes—Sydney Bulletin>) <such things, as being tra-
ditional, may pander to your sense of the great past.
Histrionically, too, they are good—Beerbohm>

Ana *furnish, equip, appoint, accouter: pamper, *indulge,
humor: *satisfy, content

catholic adj *universal, cosmic, ecumenical, cosmopolitan

Ana *whole, entire, total: all-around, many-sided, *versa-
tile: prevalent, *prevailing, current
Parochial: provincial —Con bigoted, fanatic, enthu-
siastic (see corresponding nouns at enthuasiast)
catnap nap, snooze, *sleep, slumber, drowse, doze

cause n 1 Cause, determinant, antecedent, reason, occasion
are comparable when denoting what in whole or in part
produces an effect or result. Cause is applicable to an
agent (as a circumstance, condition, event, or force) that
contributes to the production of an effect or to any combi-
nation (as of circumstances, conditions, or events) that
inevitably or necessarily brings about a result (<one of the
causes of the French Revolution was the bankruptcy of
the government) <every effect must have an adequate
cause) <what was the cause of this outbreak?> <water
and soil pollution are the root causes of mortality in the
tropics—Heiser> Cause is sometimes used of a personal
agent whose activities are instrumental in bearing conse-
quences (he is the cause of all our troubles) or of the
motive which prompts one to action (he claimed to have
just cause for his attack) A determinant is a circumstance,
factor, element, quality, or motive that by itself or in com-
bination with other factors conditions or fixes the nature
of a result and especially of a product or outcome <envi-
ronment is an important determinant of character> <the
ideals and the character of citizens are the final determi-
nants of their form of government> (<imponderables,>
which in philosophy as in politics are the most important
factors of experience and determinants of action—Inge>
caustic, mordant, acrid, scathing are comparable when meaning prudently attentive to the dangers one may encounter or the risks one may face, or revealing such attentiveness. The same differences in implications and connotations are apparent in the nouns caution, circumspection, wariness, chariness, calculation when they denote the quality of the character or the mental processes of one who is so attentive.

Cautious and caution usually imply both the prompting of fear, especially of failure or of harm to oneself or others, and the exercise of forethought in planning or of prudence in proceeding so that the dangers of failure or the risks of disaster may be avoided or minimized (the troops advanced with great caution) (a cautious investor). For the most part, he generalizes with a sobriety and a caution worthy of the highest praise—Huxley (the old man, cautious in all his movements, always acting as if surrounded by invisible spies, delayed setting out until an hour after dark—Hudson) Circumspect and circumspection frequently imply less fear than cautious and caution; commonly, however, they suggest the exercise of great prudence and discretion, especially in making decisions or in acting, and the surveying of all possible consequences, lest moral, social, business, or political harm may inadvertently occur (in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect—Exod 23:13: they do not live very happy lives, for they even more than the others are restricted in their movements, and they must live the most circumspect of lives—Steinbeck) (the . . . circumspection with which it approaches the consideration of such questions—John Marshall) Wary and wariness usually carry a far stronger suggestion of suspiciousness than cautious and caution and sometimes, as a result, connote less well-grounded fear. Often, also, the terms imply alertness in watching out for difficulties or dangers or cunning in escaping them (they . . . had a wary eye for all gregarious assemblages of people, and turned out of their road to avoid any very excited group of talkers—Dickens) (we must always be wary of those who with sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal preach the "ism" of appeasement—Roosevelt) (our domestic dogs are descended from wolves . . . they do not live very happy lives, and may have lost in wariness—Darwin) Chary and chariness imply the cautiousness of those who are careful of what they have or what they can give, say, or do and proceed with great reserve or discretion (I am chary of admitting native differences between the sexes, but I think that girls are more prone than boys to punish oddity by serious physical cruelty—Russell) (my business experience has taught me to be chary of committing anything of a confidential nature to any more concrete medium than speech—Faulkner) (there was no fastidious overrefined chariness in the use of that name—F. W. Robertson) Calculating and calculation imply the caution of one who carefully and deliberately plans the way to attain his own and often selfish end taking into account every possible danger and the way in which it can be met (some day the American boy's outlook upon the future may be as clear and calculating as that of his European brother—Grandgent)
cease
* stop, quit, discontinue, desist

cede
surrender, abandon, waive, resign, yield, * relinquish, * truce, armistice, peace
* cease-fire

cease-fire
* truce, armistice, peace

cavalcade
* procession, parade, cortège, motorcade

cca LA
* succession, progression, chain, train: array, * display, bow

cave
succeed, submit, * yield, capitulate, relent, defer, play

caviling
adj captious, faultfinding, censorious, carping, * critical, hypercritical

ca
exacting, demanding (see DEMAND): * contrary, perverse: obj ecting, protesting, expostulating, kicking (see OBJECT)

con
accommodating, obliging, favoring (see OBIGE): complaisant, * amiable, good-natured: conciliating, pacifying, mollifying, appeasing (see PACIFY)

cavity
hollow, * hole, pocket, void, vacuum

C On
bulge, protuberance, protrusion, * projection

cease
* stop, quit, discontinue, desist

end, terminate, * close, conclude, finish: stay, suspend, intermit (see DEFER)

spring, arise, rise, originate: * begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate: * extend, prolong, protract: * continue, persist

cease-fire
truce, armistice, peace

cede
surrender, abandon, waive, resign, yield, * relinquish, leave

grant, concede, award, accord, vouchsafe

withhold, hold, hold back, keep back, retain (see KEEP)

celebrate
commemorate, solemnize, observe, * keep

celebrated
renowned, * famous, famed, eminent, illustrious

prominent, conspicuous, outstanding, signal (see NOTICEABLE)

celebrity
* fame, renown, glory, honor, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety

prominence, conspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at NOTICEABLE)

clarity, ac larity, leg erity are comparable when they are used in reference to human beings and denote quickness in movement or action. Celerity stresses speed in moving or especially in accomplishing work (she could, when she chose, work with astonishing celerity—Bennett) (the human brain, we are reminded, acts at times with extraordinary celerity—Cardozo) Alacrity emphasizes promptness in response more than swiftness in movement, though the latter is usually implied (you must wait till she sends for you— and she wined a little at the alacrity of his acceptance—Wharton) Very often, also, it connotes eagerness or cheerful readiness (working away at his subject with the alacrity... of a man... fulfilling the very office... for which nature had designed him—L. P. Smith) Legerity, a less common word than the others, refers more to the quality than to the rate of speed and implies nimbleness and ease (cover the ground with the legerity of a trained runner) (when the mind is quickened... the organs... newly move, with... fresh legerity—Shak) (the legerity of the French mind made the Gallic visitor quick to comprehend his desire for solitude—Wylie) Ana expedition, dispatch, speed, hurry, haste: quickness, rapidity, swiftness, fleetness (see corresponding adjectives at FAST): velocity, * speed: agility, briskness, nimbleness (see corresponding adjectives at AGILE)

Ant leisureliness — Con slowness, deliberateness or deliberation, dilatoriness (see corresponding adjectives at SLOW): * lethargy, languor

celestial adj Celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal mean of, relating to, or fit for heaven or the heavens. Celestial (opposed to terrestrial) may refer either to the visible heavens (the region surrounding the earth and seemingly enclosed by the sky) or to the religious conception of heaven or the heavens (in Christian use, the abode of God, the angels, and the blessed dead); thus, a celestial globe is one on whose surface the stars, planets, comets, and nebulae are depicted; a celestial body is a star, planet, or other aggregation of matter that forms a unit for astronomical study; a celestial visitant is an angel or other spirit from the spiritual heaven; celestial bliss is the happiness enjoyed by the residents of heaven (angels by Raphael... whose serene intelligence embraces both earthly and celestial things—Hawthorne) Heavenly, although it is applicable, especially in nontechnical use, to the visible heavens (heavenly bodies—Bacon) or to pagan conceptions of Olympus or other abodes of the gods (the immortal sun, who, borne by heavenly steeds his race doth run—Shelley) is far more often applied to heaven as conceived by Jews and Christians and is apt, therefore, to suggest spiritual qualities (your heavenly Father—Mt 6:14) (they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly—Heb 11:16) (i thought that liberty and heaven to heavenly souls had been all one—Milton) Empyrean and empyreal suggest association with the empyrean, either as thought of in ancient and medieval cosmology as the highest celestial sphere, a region of light or fire (from the courts of the empyrean dome came forth... a fiery car—Prad) or, more often, as conceived by various theologians and poets as the highest of the spiritual heavens, where God is and reigns in spiritual light the fire (into the Heaven of Heavens I have presumed... and drawn empyreal air—Milton) The words are often weakened in idiomatic use to mean little more than outstanding of its kind (well-meaning ineptitude, that rises to empyreal absurdity—Dworkin) (empyrean aplomb—Basso)

Ana ethereal, aerial, * airy: divine, spiritual, * holy

Ant terrestrial — Con earthly, mundane, earthly, worldly, sublunary: * infernal, hellish, chthonian

celebrate
commemorate, solemnize, observe, * keep

celebrated
renowned, * famous, famed, eminent, illustrious

prominent, conspicuous, outstanding, signal (see NOTICEABLE)

celebrity
* fame, renown, glory, honor, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety

prominence, conspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at NOTICEABLE)

ana
analogous words
ana
antonyms
ana
contrasted words
ana
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
**center 134**

**center**

- **reprimand, rebuke, reproach, *reprove: upbraid, berate, tongue-lash (see scold)**
- **command — *Con: applaud, compliment, recommend (see commend): eulogize, laud, *praise**

**center n**

**Center, middle, midst, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart**

- Are comparable when meaning the point, spot, or portion of a thing which is comparable to a point around which a circle is described. **Center** approximates more or less closely its strict geometrical sense as the point within a circle or sphere that is equidistant from every other point on the circumference or is the average distance from the exterior points of a body or figure. *(the center of a table)* *(the center of the earth)*

  **Center may be extended to a thing or a part of a thing which suggests a geometrical center especially in being the point around which the rest rotates or revolve.** *(each airy thought revolved round a substantial center—Wordsworth)* *(the old school was the center of our lives, somehow: dances, socials, Sunday services—McCourt)* or at which all lines *(as of activity)* converge *(draw to one point, and to one center)* *(bring beast, man, or angel, servant, lord, or king—Pope)* *(cause, or branch radiates—railroad center)* *(a power center)* *(of which lies midway between extremes (in Europe a party of moderate views, neither conservative nor radical, is often called the center)*

  **Middle is less precise than center and suggests a space rather than a point; it is the part of an object which includes and surrounds the center; thus, the middle of a room is the central portion of it *(they have what they call a central depot here, because it's the middle of England—Bennett)* *(Middle, unlike center, also applies to what has duration (the middle of the night) and to merely linear extension (the middle of the road)* *(Middle may be applied freely to something which lies between the beginning and end (as of a process, a course, or a piece of work) *(in this, as in most questions of state, there is a middle—Burke)* *(he was stopped in the middle of his speech)* *(a play should have a beginning, middle, and end)*

  **Midst is often used in place of middle for a point or spot well within a group or number of enveloping persons or objects or of things *(as duties, affairs, and burdens)* which surround or beset one; however it seldom occurs except in a prepositional phrase introduced by in, into, from, out of *(he stood in the midst of a crowd)* *(he penetrated into the midst of the forest)* *(why it was he should feel in the midst of all these people so utterly detached and so lonely—Bromfield)* *(sense of right, uppermost in the midst of fiercest strife—Wordsworth)*

  **Core basically denotes the central portion of certain fruits *(as the apple)* which is made up of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion *(of a coal or of a lump of lime)* or in forming a firm central core *(of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion of certain fruits (as the apple) which is made up of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion of certain fruits (as the apple) which is made up of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion of certain fruits (as the apple) which is made up of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion of certain fruits (as the apple) which is made up of papery or leathery envelopes containing seeds and is often extended to something that similarly lies at the center of a thing and that resembles an apple core in being the unburnt portion of certain fruits)*

**Heart applies especially to a vital and usually small and stable center about which matter is gathered or concentrated or to which accretions are made *(the nucleus of a cell)* *(the nucleus of an atom)* *(a small but good collection of books as a nucleus for his library)* *(unable to re-create a satisfactory social group from the nucleus of his own individuality—Day Lewis)*

- **Heart to a place or thing that lies well within something (as a region or system) and which determines the essential character of the whole or serves as a vital, positive, or motivating part *(the economic heart of the nation has gradually shifted to the west)* *(exploits done in the name of France—Shak)* *(Rome was the heart and pulse of the empire—Buchan)* *(the discernment and understanding with which he penetrates to the heart and essence of the problem—Cardozo)*

  **Con *circumference, periphery, perimeter, compass: bounds, confines, limits (see singular nouns at limit)**

  **center vb** *(Center, focus, centralize, concentrate are comparable (though not closely synonymous) because all mean to draw to or fix upon a center. Center strongly implies a point upon which things turn or depend; typically the term is followed by a prepositional phrase (as with in, on, or upon) that names the thing *(or sometimes the person)* upon which all responsibility or all attention is placed or around which anything or everything of a specified kind *(as hopes, fears, or joys)* turns *(the authority was centered in one person)* *(the incident upon which the plot centers)* *(a common belief about art is that it centers around emotion—Alexander)* *(the man whose hopes and fears are all centered upon himself can hardly view death with equanimity, since it extinguishes his whole emotional universe—Russell)*

  **Focus implies a point at which a number and usually the total number of things of the same sort *(as rays of light, waves of sound, attentions, or interests)* converge and become one *(the attention of the audience was focused upon the speaker)* *(the essential characteristic of poetry is its power of focusing the whole range of our sensibilities—Binyon)* *(how to get the sense of equity or fair play which prevails in many other spheres of action to focus upon these . . . disturbing economic questions is thus distinctively a moral issue—Hobson)*

  **Centralize is used of things *(as government, authority, or administrative procedure)* that may be either gathered about a center or divided, distributed, or diffused; it especially implies the placing of power and authority under one head or in one central organization or the bringing together of similar things at one point *(authority is said to be centralized wherever a manager tends toward delegating authority to his subordinates—Koontz & O'Donnell)* *(the amalgamation of trade organizations reorganized as the associated type of administrative organization has worked well with the national government, with the better-governed cities, and with American business—Dimond & Pfieger)* *(by centralizing . . . the reserves of the member banks within a district, the Federal Reserve System builds up a large sum of money and credit upon which any member bank may call—Goodman & Moore)*

  **Concentrate differs from the other words not only in being more widely applicable but also in its greater emphasis upon human affairs—Reid)*
skill and human methods, discipline, or effort in effecting its purpose; the word may be used not only with reference to what may be centralized or focused and to much that may be centered but is applicable also to material substances that can be reduced in volume (as by dehydration or evaporation), thereby gaining in strength or intensity (see also compact) <here Hannibal ... concentrated the forces which had been gathered from such distant countries—R. B. Smith> (but neither of the men paid much attention to these things, their eyes being concentrated upon the little flat stone—Hardy> (I think that it is a test which we may apply to all figure-painters . . . if we ask whether the figures are really occupied by what they are doing, if the movements of the body are concentrated on the particular business of the moment—Binyon>

**central, focal, pivotal** are more closely comparable when mental, intellectual, psychic, intelligent center, focus, concentrate centralize adj ceremonial and ceremonial imply strict attention to and regard for what is prescribed by the etiquette or tradition of a court or of polite society, by the ritual of a church, or by the formalities of the law for a ceremony or a proceeding. They are sometimes interchangeable <Duncan dropped back, whether from reverence or ridicule his father had never discovered, into the ceremonial usages of the past—Glasgow> (an age in which no lady was too frail to attend a play alone . . . seemed to her, on the whole, better worth living in than the ceremonial era that had witnessed her fall—Glasgow> (its worship is not highly ceremonial—Shepherd) but more often ceremonial distinctively suggests the existence of and conformance to an elaborate, prescribed, and usually ritualistic code of procedures, while ceremonial stresses elaborate, often punctilious and dignified procedures or, in reference to persons, a tendency to formality and ceremony; thus, a wedding is a ceremonial occasion but not one at which the participants need be excessively ceremonial <grave ceremonial occasions, like birth and death and the assumption of manhood—Buchan> (the president is . . . the ceremonial head of the American government . . . He greets distinguished visitors, lays wreaths on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, bestows the Medal of Honor on flustered pilots—Rossiter> (the Zuñi are a ceremonial people, a people who value sobriety and inoffensiveness above all other virtues. Their interest is centered upon their rich and complex ceremonial life—Benedict>

**certain** adj 1 positive, *sure, cocksure

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**central** adj Ceremonial, ceremonial, formal, conventional, solemn are comparable when they mean characterized or marked by attention to the forms, procedures, and details prescribed as right, proper, or requisite. Both ceremonial and ceremonial imply strict attention to and regard for what is prescribed by the etiquette or tradition of a court or of polite society, by the ritual of a church, or by the formalities of the law for a ceremony or a proceeding. They are sometimes interchangeable <Duncan dropped back, whether from reverence or ridicule his father had never discovered, into the ceremonial usages of the past—Glasgow> (an age in which no lady was too frail to attend a play alone . . . seemed to her, on the whole, better worth living in than the ceremonial era that had witnessed her fall—Glasgow> (its worship is not highly ceremonial—Shepherd) but more often ceremonial distinctively suggests the existence of and conformance to an elaborate, prescribed, and usually ritualistic code of procedures, while ceremonial stresses elaborate, often punctilious and dignified procedures or, in reference to persons, a tendency to formality and ceremony; thus, a wedding is a ceremonial occasion but not one at which the participants need be excessively ceremonial <grave ceremonial occasions, like birth and death and the assumption of manhood—Buchan> (the president is . . . the ceremonial head of the American government . . . He greets distinguished visitors, lays wreaths on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, bestows the Medal of Honor on flustered pilots—Rossiter> (the Zuñi are a ceremonial people, a people who value sobriety and inoffensiveness above all other virtues. Their interest is centered upon their rich and complex ceremonial life—Benedict>

**ceremonial** n ceremony, ritual, rite, liturgy, *form

**ceremonious** *ceremonial, formal, solemn, conventional

**ceremony** ceremonial, ritual, liturgy, rite, *form, formality

**certain** adj 1 positive, *sure, cocksure

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certainty, certitude, assurance, conviction are comparable when they mean to testify to the truth or genuineness of something.

Certitude usually implies a statement in writing, especially one that carries one’s signature or seal or both or one that is legally executed; thus, a certified check carries the guarantee of a bank that the signature is genuine and that there are sufficient funds on deposit to meet it (they said their chemists... could certify on their honor that their extract contained no salicylic acid—Heiser).

Certify 1 Certify, attest, witness, vouch are comparable when they mean to testify to the truth or genuineness of something. Certify usually implies a statement in writing, especially one that carries one’s signature or seal or both or one that is legally executed; thus, a certified check carries the guarantee of a bank that the signature is genuine and that there are sufficient funds on deposit to meet it (they said their chemists... could certify on their honor that their extract contained no salicylic acid—Heiser).

Certify (see also INDICATE) implies oral or written testimony from a person in a position to know the facts, usually but not invariably given under oath or on one’s word of honor; thus, when one says that something is well attested, he implies that there is sufficient documentary or oral testimony from competent persons to warrant its acceptance (the pleader... had witness ready to attest... that every article was true—Swift) (Washington’s strong natural love of children, nowhere attested better than in his expense accounts—Fitzpatrick). In technical legal use attest is used chiefly in reference to the official authentication of a document (as a will, a deed, or a record) or to the guaranteeing of the genuineness of a signature or a statement or an oath by a qualified public agent (as a notary public or a commissioner of deeds) (an attested copy of the marriage record—Cather). Witness implies attestation, not necessarily official or notarial, of a signature (as of a statement, a will, or a bond) by one who has seen that signature actually made and who subscribes his own name to the document as evidence of its genuineness (the called in two of his servants to witness the signature to his will—Vouch (usually with for) rarely implies official or legal proof, which the other words in this group usually do imply, but it suggests that the one who testifies is a competent authority or a reliable person who will stand behind his affirmation and support it further if necessary (for the exactness of this story [of a purported miracle] in all its details, Bishop James of Voragio could not have vouched, nor did it greatly matter. What he could vouch for was the relation of intimacy and confidence between his people and the Queen of Heaven—Henry Adams).

Certify (see also CONFIDENCE) stresses sureness and confidence rather than certainty; the grounds of such sureness need not be objective proofs or the evidence of one’s senses, for something of which one has assurance is typically something that is demonstrable or is yet to happen; the word usually suggests implicit reliance on oneself or on one’s powers, one’s intuitions, or one’s methods or complete trust in another (as a source of information, a supporter, a sovereign, or God) (I’ll make assurance double sure, and take a bond of fate—Shak.) (faith is the assurance of things hoped for—Heb 11:1 (RV)) (rather, it might be said that he went beyond hope to the assurance of present happiness—More). Conviction usually implies previous doubt or uncertainty. It involves the idea of certitude but is not its equivalent, for certitude may or may not imply a rational basis for one’s freedom from doubt, and conviction (see also OPINION) usually does. It differs from certainty in stressing one’s subjective reaction to evidence rather than the objective validity of the evidence itself. Conviction is therefore commonly applied to the state of mind of one who has been or is in the process of being convinced (have lost the old American conviction that most people are good and that evil is merely an accident—Malcolm Cowley) (she does not wish me to go unless with a full conviction that she is right—Conrad).

Con reject, repudiate, refuse (see DECLINE)

Certitude *certainty, assurance, conviction

Certitude *certainty, assurance, conviction

Certainty, certitude, assurance, conviction are comparable when denoting a state of mind in which one is free from doubt. Certainty and certitude both imply the absence of all doubt as to the truth of something; they are not always distinguishable in use, although philosophers and psychologists have often tried to distinguish the states of mind which they designate. The psychological differentiation of certainty as the state of mind induced by something of which there is objectively as well as subjectively not the slightest question, from certitude as the state of mind of one whose faith or belief is so strong that it resists all attack, has indubitably affected the meanings and the use of these terms in general use (some philosophies tend to destroy man’s certainty of his own existence) (one has certainty of nothing in the future, even that the sun will rise tomorrow, but that does not weaken one’s certitude that the world will go on indefinitely) (certitude is not the test of certainty. We have been cocksure of many things that were not so—Justice Holmes). Certitude is usually more personal and less objective than certainty and suggests deeper roots for one’s freedom from doubt and less likelihood of a change of belief (one thing, however, we feel with irresistible certitude, that Mark Twain’s fate was once for all decided there—Justice Holmes) (his plays are the necessary expression of his mind and character, not the necessary conditions of his existence—Inge).

Ant uncertain —Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable

Ant probability —Con possible, likely (see CONTEST)

Ant doubt —Con *uncertainty, skepticism, mistrust.
1 Chance, accident, fortune, luck, hap, hazard

2 champion

3 bite, gnaw, gnash

4 vb

5 chagrined mortified, * ashamed

6 challenge

7 *face, brave, dare, defy, beard

8 vb

9 chafe *abrade, excoriate, fret, gall

chance 1 Chance, accident, fortune, luck, hap, hazard denote something that happens without an apparent or determinable cause or as a result of unpredictable forces. Chance serves often as a general term for the incalculable and fortuitous element in human existence and in nature and is usually opposed to law (see PRINCIPLE). It is incorrect to say that any phenomenon is produced by chance; but we may say that two or more phenomena are conjoined by chance... meaning that they are in no way related by causation—J. S. Mill

change

<1 wish you luck> <he had luck in all his adventures>

with luck and the help of atomic research our children may be safe from this grim disease—A. E. Stevenson

Hap is rather neutral and commonly denotes what falls or, more often, has already fallen to one’s lot (lives that had known both good and evil hap) (by some bad tide or hap... the ill-made catamaran was overset—Melville)

Hazard, which basically denotes a game of dice in which the chances are complicated by arbitrary rules, is often used in place of accident, especially when there is the traceable but not predictable influence of existing conditions or of concomitant circumstances (men and women danced together, women danced together, men danced together, as hazard had brought them together—Dickens) (the choice [of examples] has been determined more by the hazards of my recent reading than by anything else—Huxley)

Ana contingency, emergency, pass, * juncture, exigency

Ant law (see PRINCIPLE) — Con inevitability or inevitability, necessariness or necessity, certainty (see corresponding adjectives at certain)

2 *opportunity, occasion, break, time

Ana possibility, likelihood, probability (see corresponding adjectives at probable): * prospect, outlook, foretaste, anticipation

chance vb 1 * happen, befall, betide, occur, transpire

2 * venture, hazard, risk, jeopardize, endanger, imperil

Ana dare, beard, * face: * meet, encounter, confront

chance adj * random, haphazard, chancy, casual, desultory, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

cancy haphazard, chance, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky, * random, casual, desultory

change vb Change, alter, vary, modify (and their corresponding nouns change, alteration, variation, modification) are comparable when denoting to make or become different (or when denoting a difference effected). Change and alter are sometimes interchangeable: thus, conditions may change (or alter) for the better. Change, however, usually implies either an essential difference, even a loss of identity, or the substitution of one thing for another (can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?—Jer 13:23) (and Earth be changed to Heaven, and Heaven to Earth—Milton) (this chamber changed for one more holy—Poe) while alter stresses difference in some particular respect (as in form or detail) without implying loss of identity (one may alter a coat without changing its style) (the whole existing order must be, if ever so slightly, altered—T. S. Eliot) (external circumstances may change catastrophically, as during a war; or gradually, as when means of production are altered—Huxley)

Vary frequently implies a difference or a series of differences due to change (as by shifting, diversification, or growth) (the temperature varies greatly during the day) (any intelligent effort to vary or improve the effect—Henry Adams) Sometimes it implies a deviation from the normal, the conventional, or the usual (the prospectus tendered by the Communists to the peasants varies with the type of discontent in the particular area—W. O. Douglas) (this is not a proceeding which may be varied... but is a precise course... to be strictly pursued—John Marshall)

 Modify suggests a difference that limits or restricts; thus, an adjective is said to modify a noun because it definitely reduces the range of application of that noun (as old in “old men” and red in “a red rose”). Often the word implies moderation (as of severity) or to a degree (as of height). Modify modifies the temperature—Amer. Guide Series: R. I. (Sophia was at first set down as overbearing. But in a few days this view was modified—Bennett)

Modify may
sometimes suggest minor changes or absence of radical changes: history shows you men whose master-touch not so much modifies as makes anew —Browning

\(<\) the atmosphere —as it was called for many years before the word was modified to airplane—Harlow\(>\)

Ana • transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify: *exchange, interchange: fluctuate, oscillate (see SWING \(vb\))

Con settle, *set, establish, fix: endure, abide, *continue, persist

\(<\) change \(n\) 1 alteration, variation, modification (see under change \(vb\))

Ana • variety: diversity: divergence, *deviation, aberration

Ant uniformity: monotony

2 Change, mutation, permutation, vicissitude, alternation are comparable especially in their concrete senses. Change, the inclusive term, denotes not only any variation, alteration, or modification in a thing (as in its form, substance, or aspect) but also any substitution of one thing for another: he could detect no change in her when they met again: the body undergoes changes during puberty: a change of season: a change of clothes often makes a change in one's appearance: poor faithful dogs, lovers of novelty and change of scene—Reynolds: Mutation and permutation are applied to a change within a thing or in a combination of things regarded or functioning as a unit. Mutation stresses lack of permanence or stability; it has been applied to variations or alterations that are expected only because they are inherent in the nature of things but are otherwise fortuitous or unaccountable: O world! But that thy strange mutations make us hate thee, life would not yield to age—Shak.: More typically the term connotes suddenness and unpredictability but seldom implies impossibility of explanation; often also it implies orderly change: so far as reality means experienceable reality, both it and the truths men gain about it are everlasting in process of mutation—mutation towards a definite goal, it may be—James: Permutation implies transposition within a group or combination of things without change in the constituent elements or parts of that group or combination. It is now used largely in reference to a change in position within a group of differentiable items (as digits, letters, colors, or sounds): the 26 letters of the alphabet are capable of endless combinations and permutations: It may imply a rearrangement of constituent elements that affects a change in relations, emphasis, or significance and so gives a new form to what is substantially the same material: conventions beget conventions, to be sure, and their ramifications and permutations are endless—Lowes: (by whatever permutations and combinations may be necessary, we may gradually move somewhat nearer to that reign of law—Davis: Vicissitude (see also DIFFICULTY) implies a change so great as to seem a substitution for, or a reversal of, what has been. Sometimes it is applied to such changes as occur in natural succession or from one extreme to another: Nature indeed vouchsafes for our delight the sweet vicissitudes of day and night—Cowper: like walking in a wood where there is . . . a constant vicissitude of light and shade—J. R. Lowell: More often it is applied to a sweeping and unpredictable change that overturns what has been and so has the character of a revolution or an upheaval: the place and the object gave ample scope for moralizing on the vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave—Gibbon: This implication of reversal is now so strong that the original implication of succession in turn is disappearing. Alternation, though logically used only of the succession of two things in turn, is also used, as vicesitute once was, of two or more things: the alternation of the seasons: Ana metamorphosis, transformation, conversion, transmutation, transmogrification (see under TRANSFORM): substitute, surrogate, shift (see RESOURCE)

\(<\) changeable, changeful, variable, mutable, protean are comparable when meaning having or showing a marked capacity for changes or a marked tendency to alter itself or be altered under slight provocation. Changeable, the ordinary and most comprehensive term of this group, usually suggests this as a characteristic or property that is the result of such reactions as inconstancy, fickleness, an unsettled state, a ready responsiveness to certain influences, or a roving habit: changeable weather: she was a fresh, cool, dewy thing . . . fitful and changeable with the whim of the moment—Hawthorne: A changeable silk is one that seems to change its color with each change of position or point of view: Changeful is a more poetic term than changeable; it throws greater stress on the fact of changing frequently than on the underlying characteristic or property which manifests itself in such changes: the changeful April day—Southey: he felt that life was changeful, fluid, active, and that to allow it to be stereotyped into any form was death—Wilde: call your charms more changeful than the tide—Milton: Variable carries an implication of subjection to frequent and often deeper changes than either of the preceding words; it stresses shifting or fluctuation as a characteristic or property and therefore usually connotes uncertainty or unpredictability: a region of variable winds: man himself was a variable, mixed and transitory creature: he could not escape the law of his own being—L. P. Smith: the methods of statistics are so variable and uncertain . . . that it is never possible to be sure that one is operating with figures of equal weight—Ellis: Mutable also implies subjection to change, but it suggests an opposition to unchanging, fixed, or permanent and therefore is less often applied to something fluctuating and variable than to something living, growing, or developing that shows changes due to progression or retrogression or to external influences or conditions over which the thing affected has no control: my lord, you know what Virgil sings, woman is various and most mutable—Tennyson: our view of any of these concepts, say justice, is mutable, changing from century to century, from place to place—G. W. Johnson: our valuation of poetry . . . depends upon several considerations, upon the permanent and upon the mutable and transitory—T. S. Eliot: Protean suggests a capacity for assuming many different forms or shapes without loss of identity; the term therefore implies changeability with respect to outer manifestations rather than inner character or nature: an amoeba is a protean animalcule: the protean genius of Shakespeare: for poetry is protean in its moods and dispositions, and its diction changes with its bents and its occasions—Lowes: but an idea is a misty, vague object that takes on protean shapes, never the same for any two people—Dwight Macdonald: Ana unstable, *inconstant, mercurial, capricious, fickle: mobile, *movable

\(<\) Ant stable: unchangeable —Con set, fixed, settled, established (see SET \(vb\)): unceasing, *everlasting; enduring, abiding, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at CHANGE)

\(<\) changeful • changeable, variable, protean

Ana fluid (see LIQUID \(adj\)): *active, dynamic, live: progressing, advancing (see ADVANCE \(vb\)): declining, deteriorating, degenerating (see corresponding nouns

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
characteristic adj Characteristic, individual, peculiar, distinctive are comparable when they mean indicating or revealing the special quality or qualities of a particular person or thing or of a particular group of persons or things. Characteristic stresses the indication or revelation not only of what is essential or typical, but of what distinguishes and serves to identify the person, the thing, or the group; the word, however, fixes the attention on the thing considered more as it is in itself than as it seems in contrast or relation to other things (he answered with characteristic courtesy). It was characteristic of the relationship between these two that, in all the pleadings and protests of the poor deferred lover, Sally never made the offer of convention and custom to release him—Deland. A fertile oasis possesses a characteristic color scheme of its own—Huxley.

Individual (see also)

analogueous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
usually retains in some degree the implications of fraternal love or of compassion as the animating spirit behind the gift or the judgment (generous and charitable, prompt to serve—Wordsworth) (Mrs. Hawthorne had been rude ... to a friend of his, but that friend, so much more charitable and really good than she was, had made excuses for her—Archibald Marshall) (it is more charitable to suspend judgment—Glashow) Benevolent also stresses some inner compulsion (as native kindness, a desire to do good, or an interest in others' happiness and well-being). In contrast with charitable, however, it more often suggests an innate disposition than an inculcated virtue (his intentions are benevolent) (old Dimple with his benevolent smile—H. G. Wells) (my mother ... always employed in benevolent actions while she uttered uncharitable words—Wharton) (the administrator of the future must be the servant of free citizens, not the benevolent ruler of admiring subjects—Russell) Humane implies tenderness and compassion, sometimes as qualities of one's temperament, but sometimes as required qualifications of enlightened and sensitive human beings; it is referable chiefly, but not exclusively, to methods and policies affecting the welfare of others (humane treatment of prisoners or of animals) (with reasonable measures of humane mercy I will plead; but to tyrants I will give no quarter, nor waste arguments where they will certainly be lost—Garrison) Humanitarian suggests an interest in the welfare or well-being of mankind or of a particular class or group of men more than of the individual; it is applied especially to acts, outlooks, and policies (as of institutions, rulers, or governments) (as a nation we have been sharing our abundance with the world's hungry people ... primarily from a humanitarian standpoint—Hope) (such humanitarian issues as the repeal of the brutal debtor laws—Parrington) (a part of the nation became humanitarian, and with a tender conscience turned ... toward the perfectibility of man—Canby) (to use the A-bomb ... was ... wrong ... on humanitarian grounds—Zacharias) Philanthropic and eleemosynary also suggest interest in humanity rather than in the individual, but they commonly imply (as humanitarian does not) the giving of money on a large scale to organized charities, to institutions for human advancement or social service, or to humanitarian causes (philanthropic foundations) (found time to devote to church, civic, and philanthropic affairs—Silveus) (eleemosynary institutions) (contractors, rarely known for wearing eleemosynary halos, cheerfully pocketed a loss ... while they waited for the self-help workers ... to catch up—Olivier) (an institution of higher education is not a commercial enterprise ...) (its character is eleemosynary, strictly eleemosynary—Himstead) Altruistic presupposes the guidance of an ethical principle: that the interests of others should be placed above those of self; it usually implies the absence of selfishness and often indifference to one's own welfare or interests (if it is assumed that the objectives of American policy are wholly altruistic, it follows that non-Americans who participate ... must be wholly virtuous—Muggeridge) (altruistic motives) (an altruistic physician). 

**Ana** generous, *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent: merciful, *forbearing, lenient, clement, tolerant: *tender, compassion, warmhearted, sympathetic

**Ant** uncharitable—Con merciless, relentless, implacable (see GRIIM): *stingy, close, closefisted, parsimonious, niggardly, cheeseparing

**charity** 1 mercy, clemency, grace, lenity

**Ana** love, affection, *attachment: benevolence, humane-

**chart** 141

chart, philanthropy are comparable in several of their meanings. Both words denote basically a love for one's fellowmen and a disposition to help those who are in need. But charity in this sense tends to suggest a Christian virtue and the will to help, as well as the deed, whenever the occasion arises (as for the rarity of Christian charity under the sun!—Hood) (melt not in an acid sect the Christian pearl of charity—Whittier) Philanthropy in this sense is much vaguer because it usually implies a love of mankind and a disposition to help the community or one's fellowmen rather than the individual (this philanthropy ... is everywhere manifest in our author—Dryden) Consequently there is a tendency to think of charity as benevolence manifested especially in public or private provision for the relief of the poor, and of philanthropy as benevolence manifested in efforts to promote the welfare or well-being of one's fellowmen; thus, out of charity one provides for the support of a destitute orphan; out of philanthropy one sends a large gift of money to an educational institution (in benevolence, they excel in charity, which alleviates individual suffering, rather than in philanthropy, which deals with large masses and is more frequently employed in preventing than in allaying calamity—Lecky) The terms also may be applied to what is done or given out of charity or philanthropy or to an institution or cause which is the object of such benefaction (the cold philanthropies, the ostentatious public charities ... he exposed with utter and relentless scorn—Wilde) (many charities and many philanthropies were aided by him during his lifetime)

**charlatan** mountebank, quack, *impostor, faker

**charm** vb fascinate, allure, captivate, enchant, bewitch, *attract

**Ant** delight, rejoice, *please, gratify

**Ant** forbidding

**chart** n Chart, map, graph are comparable as nouns meaning a graphic and explanatory representation by means of lines, dots, colors, and symbols of something incapable of verbal or pictorial representation (because too large, too detailed, or too abstract) and as verbs meaning to make such a representation of something. Chart is the most inclusive of these terms; it implies the aim of making clear to the mind through the eye by graphic projection of data something (as solutions of an equation, points on the face of the earth, or values of a variable at specified times and places) that cannot be viewed directly (a chart of coastal rainfall) (a nomographic conversion chart for an equation relating two variable quantities consists of two scales and a pivot point—French & Vierck) (a star chart) (charting the shifting channel of a river) (at 30,000 feet, in clear skies above the boiling cloud cap of a hurricane, an Air Force plane charts the size

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
of the disturbance—N. Y. Times> Chart often specifically denotes a map designed as an aid to air or water navigation by stressing features and hazards of the area depicted. The modern nautical chart is the end product of all the field operations. Into its construction enter the results of the geodetic, topographic, hydrographic, tidal, and magnetic work of the Survey—Shalowitz. <an uncharted rock> Map usually implies a representation of the earth’s surface or of a part of it that shows directly according to some given scale or projection the relative position and size of cultural features (as streets, buildings, cities, towns, villages, counties, states, provinces, or countries) as well as the shape and proportionate extent of natural features (as bodies of water, mountain ranges, and coasts) <a map of Europe> <map a newly explored country> It may also be used in reference to a representation of the celestial sphere or of a particular heavenly body <mapping the surface of the moon> <a map of the northern heavens> Graph applies specifically to a chart or diagram in which two variable factors (for example, the prices of a commodity and the times at which these varying prices were asked) are so represented as to indicate their interrelationship. The usual method of preparing a graph is to locate by means of coordinates a series of points and often to join them with a curve or a series of straight lines <a graph of a patient’s fever> <graph the course of business since 1962> <Ana> *plan, plot, scheme, design, project chart vb map, graph (see under CHART n) <Ana> see those at CHART n charter vb *hire, let, lease, rent chary *cautious, circumspect, wary, calculating <Ana> prudent, discreet, provident (see under PRUDENCE): *sparing, economical, frugal, thrifty: reluctant, hesitant, loath, *disinclined chase vb *follow, pursue, trail, tag, tail Con *plan, plot, scheme, design, project *prove *beat, thrash, pummel, baste, belabor chastise *punish, discipline, correct, castigate, chasten <Ana> *beat, thrash, pummel, baste, belabor chat vb Chat, gab, chatter, pratter, prate, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber denote to emit a loose and ready flow of inconsequential talk or as nouns the talk so emitted. That is to talk in light, easy, and pleasant fashion; in an easy mirth we chatted o’er the trifles of the day before—William Whitehead. <passed an hour in idle chat> To gab is to talk trivially gibbly and long, often tiresomely <came in to tea and sat there gabbling till ten o’clock—J. W. Carlyle> <uncheon gab among women—Port> To chatter is to talk aimlessly, incessantly, and (often) with great rapidity <it was she who chattered, chattered, on their walks, while . . . he dropped a gentle word now and then—Conrad> <my chatter was as gay and sprightly as birdsong—Warren> To patter is to speak or repeat rapidly and mechanically <pattering prayers half inaudibly> or glibly and volubly often without much regard to sense <they’re college-reared and can patter languages—Buchan> <the patter of an auctioneer> To prate is to talk idly and boastfully <a prating fool shall fall—Prov 10:8> The word is often specifically used in reproach implying platitudeous or fulsome boasting or a readiness to talk at length about things of which the speaker is really ignorant or has only superficial knowledge <we may prate of democracy, but actually a poor child in England has little more hope than had the son of an Athenian slave to be emancipated into that intellectual freedom of which great writings are born—Quiller-Couch> To prattle is to talk like a child (as in artlessness and freedom or sometimes in lack of substance and sense) <prattled on . . . in this vein, spewing up the squalid confusion of his thoughts—Anthony West> <we are . . . charmed with the pretty prattle of children—Sidney> Babble, gable, jabber, and gibber basically imply making sounds suggestive of speech but lacking the meaning content, intelligibility, and articulateness of normal adult human speech <a brook babbled among the stones> <the noisy gable of geese> <monkeys jabbering in the trees> <an idiot mewing and gibbering> As applied to human speaking <speech all four terms are somewhat derogatory and especially suggest lack of clarity in both articulation and content, the babble of four or more voices going on at once—G. A. Miller> <saying nothing comprehensible, just babbling and gabbling, half unconsciously—Bennett> <subjected to gabble about fifteen-century politics—McCarten> <must we fall into the jabber and babble of discord—Sir Winston Churchill> <listened to gibber about . . . our present form or methods of government—The Nation> <the sheeted dead did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets—Shak> <Ana> <converse, talk, *speak: *gossip A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
cheat vb cheat, gab, patter, prate, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber

Ana see those at chat

cheap beggarly, shabby, pitiful, sorry, *contemptible, despicable, scurvy

Ana *mean, ignoble, sordid, object: paltry, *petty, mealy, trifling: meretricious, tawdry (see GAUDY): low, *base, vile; poor, *bad, wrong

Ant noble

cheat n fraud, fake, deceit, deception, *imposture, counterfei- feit, sham, humbug

Ana hoaxing or hoax, bamboozling or bamboozlement (see corresponding verbs at DUPE): *deception, trickery, chicanery, chican; charlatan, quack, mountebank, faker, *impostor: swindler, defrauder, cozener (see corresponding verbs at cheat)

cheat vb Cheat, cozen, defraud, swindle, overreach are comparable when meaning to obtain something and especially money or valuables from or an advantage over another by dishonesty and trickery. Cheat suggests deceit and, usually, tricks that escape or are intended to escape the observation of others (cheat at cards) (cheat in a written examination) (she and her husband had cheated every one with whom they had dealings—Anderson) (he is not cheated who knows he is being cheated—Coke) Cozen implies more artfulness or craft and often more allusions than cheat; it usually suggests the victim's loss of something of value to him whether of real worth or not (soldiers cozened of their pay by clever girls) (cousins, indeed; and by their uncle cozen'd of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life—Shak.) (the Popular Front—that famous opportunity for men of good-will to be cozened by the Communists—Poore) Defraud implies depriving another of something that is his by right whether by taking it from him or by withholding it; the word, however, implies misleading statements or deliberate perversion of the truth more often than it implies craft, artfulness, or wiles (defraud a widow of a piece of property) (the stockholders held that they had been defrauded by those who reorganized the company) (thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him—Lev 19:13) (freedom of speech and press does not include . . . the right to deceive or defraud—Neil) Swindle implies either gross cheating or defrauding especially by imposture or by gaining the victim's confidence; it usually implies the obtaining of money or something quickly or easily convertible into money by false pretenses (the forger swindled the merchants of the city out of large sums of money) (the despised Chinese, who were cuffed and maltreated and swindled by the Californians—Brooks) Overreach implies getting the better of a person with whom one is dealing or negotiating or bargaining by unfair or dishonest means; often it implies cheating or defrauding or swindling (he never made any bargain without overreaching (or, in the vulgar phrase, cheating) the person with whom he dealt—Fielding)

Ana *dupe, gull, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle, trick, befoul; *deceive, delude, beguile, double-cross, misunderstand

check n *corrective, control, antidote

Ana *oversight, supervision, surveillance

check vb 1 *arrest, interrupt

Ana stay, suspend (see DEFER): *stop, cease, discontinue, desist: repress, *suppress: *frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent

2 bridle, curb, *restrain, inhibit

Ana *hinder, impede, obstruct, block: *prevent, preclude, obviate: baffle, balk (see FRUSTRATE): control, manage (see CONDUCT vb)

Ant accelerate (of speed): advance (of movements, plans, hopes): release (of feelings, energies)

checked, checkered *variegated, parti-colored, motley, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked

cheek nerve, effrontery, hardihood, gall, *temerity, audacity

Ana boldness, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): impudence,-brazerness, shamelessness, brashness (see corresponding adjectives at SHAMELESS)

Ant diffidence —Con shyness, modesty, bashfulness (see corresponding adjectives at SHY): timorousness, timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID): reservedness or reserve, reticence (see corresponding adjectives at SILENT)

cheep vb *chirp, chirrup, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter

cheep n chirp, chirrup, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter (see under chirp vb)

cheer vb 1 *encourage, inspire, hearten, embolden, nerve, steel

Ana *comfort, console, solace: gladden, gratify (see PLEASE): stimulate, excite, quicken, *provoke

Ant deject: dismay —Con *discourage, dishearten, dispirit

2 root, *applaud

Ana acclaim, laud, *praise

Con deride, mock, *ridicule, taunt

cheerful light-hearted, joyful, joyous, *glad, happy

Ana jolly, jovial, *merry, blithe, jocund: mirthful, glee- ful (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH): gay, vivacious, *lively, animated

Ant glum, gloomy —Con *sullen, saturnine, dour, morose: dejected, depressed, melancholy, sad (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS): doleful, lugubrious, rueful (see MELANCHOLY)

cheerless * dismal, dreary, dispiriting, bleak, desolate

Ana discouraging, disheartening, dejecting (see DIS- COURAGE)

Ant cheerful

cheeseparing * stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tight- fisted, niggardly, penny-pinching, parsimonious, penurious, miserly

Chemist *drugist, apothecary, pharmacist

cherish 1 prize, treasure, value, *appreciate

Ana love, enjoy, *like: esteem, respect, regard (see under REGARD n): *revere, venerate, reverence: protect, *defend, shield, safeguard, guard

Ant neglect —Con ignore, overlook, slight, disregard, forget (see NEGLECT): desert, forsake (see ABANDON) 2 foster, *nurse, nurture, cultivate

Ana preserve, conserve, *save: *harbor, shelter, entertain

Ant abandon —Con repudiate, scorn, reject (see DECLINE vb): contemn, *despise, disdain

chew out * scold, upbraid, rate, berate, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, wig, rail, revile, vituperate

chic adj smart, fashionable, modish, *stylish, dashing

Chicane, canicary trickery, double-dealing, *deception, fraud

Ana artifice, stratagem, maneuver, ruse, feint, *trick, vile, gambit, ploy: intrigue, machination, *plot: under- handedness, furtiveness, surreptitiousness (see corresponding adjectives at SECRET)

Con straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corresponding adjectives at STRAIGHTFORWARD): *honesty, integrity, probity, honor

Chide reproach, *reprove, rebuke, reprimand, admonish

Ana *criticize, reprehend, censure, blame, condemn, *denounce: *scold, upbraid, rate, berate

Ant commend —Con applaud, compliment (see com- MEND): *praise, laud, extol

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
chief

Chief, chieftain, head, headman, leader, master are comparable when they mean the person in whom resides authority or ruling power but they differ in their applications and associations. Chief is the most comprehensive of these terms, being applicable as a general term to anyone from an absolute monarch to one's immediate superior (the chief of a court of inquiry was called the grand inquisitor) (the chargé d'affaires reports daily to his chief). Usually, however, the term is applied specifically to one who is supreme in power or authority over a tribe or clan (an Indian chief) or to the superior officer in a civil department (fire chief) (chief of police) or to one who is vested with authority and power to act by the organization over which he presides (the chairmen of the national committees of the leading political parties are virtually party chiefs). The phrase in chief is often added to a title, held by two or more, to indicate the one who is first in authority (commander in chief) (editor in chief). Chieftain has never obtained the generality of chief, and still usually carries implications derived from its early and still leading application to the chief of a tribe, a clan, or of a primitive, savage, or barbaric group (the chieftain's plaid) (a robber chieftain). Head, though seemingly as comprehensive as chief, is applied most frequently to the person of a group who serves as its chief executive or on whose shoulders the responsibility finally rests (the head of the family) (the head of a school) (the head of government) (the head of a department). Headman comes close to chieftain in that it usually applies to the person who serves as the chief of his tribe or village; the term, even more than chieftain, implies a condition of savagery or barbarism. Leader implies headship, sometimes of a nation or people but more often of an organized body (as a political party, a society, or a band of musicians) or of an informal assembly (as of persons or animals) (a rangy red steer was the leader of the stampede). The term usually implies a capacity for guidance, direction, or for the assumption of full control and of winning the support of those under one (the leader of an orchestra) (the leader of the opposition in the British parliament). Master, on the other hand, applies to a head who has another or others under him subject to his direction or control and necessarily obedient to his will: the term stresses his authority rather than his capacity for guidance (a man cannot serve two masters). In general use the term is applied as a designation to an employer of servants and to the head of a school or of a class. It is also applied generally to anyone who exerts great and controlling influence over others or who is regarded as one to be followed or obeyed. The chief specific use of master is as the title of the person qualified to command a merchant vessel; in this use it is commonly superseded by captain as a courtesy title. Ana governor, ruler (see corresponding verbs at GOVERN) Con *follower, disciple, henchman, adherent, satellite chief adj Chief, principal, main, leading, foremost, capital mean first in importance or in standing. Chief is applicable to a person that serves as the head of his class or group or to a thing that stands out as above all the rest of its class or kind in rank, importance, dignity, or worth; the term therefore usually implies the subordination of all others (chief justice of the supreme court) (president of a republic is its chief magistrate) (the cathedral is the chief church of a diocese) (the chief topic of conversation) (duty, not pleasure, is the chief aim of living—Glasgow). Principal is applicable to whatever is the first in order of power or importance, and so is applied chiefly to a person to whom is given direction, control, or government of others or to a thing (or person thought of as a thing) that, because of its size, its position, or its intrinsic importance precedes all others of its class or kind (the principal dancer in a ballet) (the principal keeper in a prison) (the principal gate to the grounds of an institution) (the principal streets of a city) (the principal witness against the accused) (a chicken stew of which the principal ingredient was not chicken but sea cucumber—Steinbeck). Main is applicable to something (often a part, unit, or division of a large or extensive thing) that excels all the others of its class or kind in size, potency, or importance (the main line of a railroad) (the main street of a small city) (the mainland). Words have been used so long as the main channel for communication—Day Lewis) (the literary critic . . . will yet find, like the historian, his main subject matter in the past—L. P. Smith) Leading, like principal, implies precedence, but it often distinctively implies, in addition, a capacity or fitness for drawing others, for guiding them, or for giving a particular quality or character to a movement (the leading men of the city) (he had been the leading counsel for the seven Bishops—Macaulay) (the leading automobile in a procession) (another leading object in education for efficiency is the cultivation of the critical discernment of beauty and excellence in things and in words and thoughts, in nature and in human nature—Elliot) Foremost differs from leading, which is otherwise closely resembles, in its stronger implication of being first in an advance or progressive movement; it is preferable for that reason whenever there is a suggestion of the person's or thing's having forged ahead to that position (one of us, that struck the foremost man of all this world—Shak.) *handedness, of course, is the foremost prime characteristic—La Barre Capital is applicable to a thing that stands at the head of its class or kind because of its importance, its significance, its excellence, or its seriousness (a capital plan) (his capital offense was that he had omitted to mention her at all) (the seven capital sins are the most important sins theologically not because they are the worst sins but because they lead to other sins and are fatal to spiritual progress) (with a little managing . . . she would have gained every point as easily as she had gained the capital one of taking the foundling baby under her wing—Wharton) Ana *dominant, paramount, sovereign, predominant, preponderant, preponderating: *primary, prime: *supreme, preeminent Ant subordinate — Con secondary, dependent, subject (see subordinate): subservient, ancillary, subsidiary, *auxiliary chiefly *largely, greatly, mostly, mainly, principally, generally chieftain *chief, head, leader, master childish *childlike Ana puerile, boyish, *youthful: *simple, foolish, silly, fatuous, asinine Ant mature, grown-up — Con adult, matured (see mature): manly, manful, virile, manlike (see male): womanly, womanlike (see female) childish, childish agree in meaning having or showing the manner, spirit, or disposition of a child. Both are applicable to adolescents and to adults as well as to children. Childlike, however, usually suggests such qualities of childhood as innocence, simplicity, or straightforwardness which are worthy of admiration or emulation; childish suggests such less pleasing and less admirable characteristics as helplessness, peevishness, or undeveloped mentality (her arias have the childish quality Puccini wanted—Hume) (the same thought which clothed

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter
crack, cleft, fissure, crevasse, crevice, cranny
crake
chine
backbone, back, spine, vertebrae
chilly
Ana naive, unsophisticated, ingenuous, artless (see natural)
docile, obedient, tractable, biddable
chilly cool, cold, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic
Ant balmy
chimerical fantastic, fanciful, visionary, imaginary, quixotic
Ana utopian, ambitious, pretentious; illusory, apparent; delusive, delusory, misleading, deceptive; fabulous, mythical; (see fictitious); preposterous, absurd (see foolish)
Ant feasible — Con = possible, practicable: reasonable; rational; sensible, sane, wise, prudent
chine backbone, back, spine, vertebrae
chink = crack, cleft, fissure, crevasse, crevice, cranny
Ana = break, gap, interruption: split, rift, break
chirp = Chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter
can all mean as verbs to make the little sounds characteristic of small animals and as nouns the little sounds so made, and all can be extended to sounds and the making of sounds (as by human beings) that suggest such small animal sounds. Chirp implies the short, sharp, and thin sound that is made by practically all small birds and some insects; it regularly connotes cheerfulness but often also busyness and immaturity (there was no sound save the chirping of birds) (the linnet ... chirps her vernal song of love—Southey) (one of these birds ... began to ascend, by short hops and flights, through the branches, uttering a sharp, preliminary chirp—Burroughs) (someone turned on the water down the hall and all the second-floor faucets chirped at once, like so many crickets—Algren) (wait until the boldest chirps: “It was tonight, dear, wasn’t it?”—MacLeish) Chirrup implies a more sustained effect than chirp, as though a bird is singing or is learning to sing; it also often heightens the connotations of cheerfulness or liveliness (untucked his head from under his wing and chirruped drowsily—Sinclair) (the shrill persistent chirrup of a fledging sparrow) (there is a new chirrup in their talk, feeling that they shall feel livelier in a livelier land—O’Casey) (made her little chirruping sound of welcome—Woolf) (the bullet chirruped by her in the soft buzzing sound of insects on the wing—Mailer) Chirrup implies cheerfulness and liveliness (untucked his head from under his wing) Chirrup implies the right or the privilege to choose freely from a number (as of persons, things, or courses) (take your choice of rooms) (he had no choice in the determination of his profession) (everyone admires his choice, for she is a very attractive young woman) Option stresses a specifically given right or power to choose one from among two or more mutually exclusive actions or courses of action (the state constitution gives local option to cities and towns in the matter of granting or withholding licenses for the sale of intoxicants) (the court sentenced the convicted speeder to one month’s imprisonment with the option of a fine) (the students have no option in the matter of vacations) In business transactions, an option is usually purchased and enables one to demand during an agreed length of time fulfillment of a contract to sell (as a specified quantity of a commodity) or buy (as a particular parcel of real estate) at a price and on terms agreed upon when drawing the option (acquire an option on a tract of land) (buying and selling options on the stock exchange) Alternative typically stresses restriction of choice between two mutually exclusive things (as propositions, theories, courses, or
choices

146 choose

to describe things which give delight to the fastidious taste, especially to the eye, and often also the palate (her house is elegant and her table dainty—Johnson)

More often, however, the term implies smallness and exquisiteness (those dainty limbs, which Nature lent for gentle usage and soft delicacy—Milton) (the spirit of romance, gross and tawdry in vulgar minds, dainty and refined in the more cultivated—Parrington) Dali-
cate, like dainty, implies exquisiteness and an appeal to a fastidious taste, but it ascribes fineness, subtlety, and often fragility to the thing rather than smallness, and it implies an appeal not only to the eye or palate, but to any of the senses or to the mind or spirit (the more delicate perfume of the pink-flowering thorn—Wilde) (not, however, an effervescing wine, although its delicate piquancy produced a somewhat similar effect—How-thorne) (I have, alas! only the words we all use to paint commoner, coarser things, and no means to represent all the exquisite details, all the delicate lights, and shades—Hudson) (an irony so quiet, so delicate, that many readers never notice it is there . . . or mistake it for naive—Pierce)

Ana preeminent, surpassing, peerless, incomparable, *supreme, superlative: picked, selected, culled, chosen (see choose)

Ant indifferent (see medium) —Con mediocre, second-rate, middling, fair, average, *medium: *common, ordinary

choke *suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, strangle, throttle

choleric spleenetic, testy, *irascible, touchy, cranky, cross

Ana *irritable, fractious, huffy, querulous, petulant, peevish: *angry, acrimonious, wrathful, wroth, indignant, mad, irate: fiery, peppery, spunky (see spirited): captious, carping, faultfinding (see critical)

Ant placid: imperturbable —Con *calm, tranquil, serene: *cool, composed, nonchalance

choose, select, elect, opt, pick, cull, prefer, single are comparable when they mean to fix upon one of a number of things as the one to be taken, accepted, or adopted or to make such a determination. Choose commonly implies both an act of judgment and the actual taking or adoption of what is fixed upon (that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good—Isa 7:15) (between them . . . we can see little to choose—Henry Adams) (the disinterested search for truth is certainly one of the highest and noblest careers that a man can choose—Inge) Select usually implies a wide range of choice and discrimination or discernment of values in making one's choice (one particular nation to select from all the rest—Milton) (the difficult task of selecting a presidential candidate—H. D. Jordan) (his temperament was selecting the instances he should narrate, his mind selecting the words to employ—F. M. Ford) Eject often implies a deliberate choice, especially between alternatives, or a careful selection of some out of many possibilities: ordinarily, it carries a stronger implication of the rejection of that not chosen than either of the preceding words (eject a president) (according to the doctrine of predestination, God elects those who are to be saved) (will it not look a little odd . . . when you have so many devoted children, that you should elect to live alone—Sackville-West) (having elected deliberately . . . that stern land and weather—Faulkner) Opt (often with for) implies an election between alternatives (give the people an opportunity to opt for statehood—Rupert Emerson) often specifically, in the case of inhabitants of territory transferred by treaty, between retaining one's former citizenship or acquiring citizenship in the new state opt

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circumstance 148
circumstantial, minute, particular, particularized, detailed, itemized are comparable when they mean dealing with a matter point by point. Circumstantial applies especially to accounts of events or to narratives, but it is applicable also to the persons who recount or narrate or to their memories. The term implies full and precise reference to the incidents or circumstances attending an event (a circumstantial account of the battle has not yet been written) (generally speaking, a historical novel . . . must be documented with the news of what once happened, and full of circumstantial life—Garriques) (my memory is exact and circumstantial—Dickens) Minute, in addition, applies to investigations, researches, inspections, and descriptions; it stresses interest in or inclusion of every detail, no matter how trivial or insignificant. It therefore usually connotes exhaustiveness or meticulous exactness (he prolonged the flower-picking process by minute and critical choice—Deland) (Plato . . . in the Laws . . . provides for the state a perfect jungle of minute regulations—Buchan) (she was interested in the little details and writes with minute care about the change of fashion—Bradford) Particular differs little from circumstantial except in being applicable also to descriptions and lists; it may therefore imply attention to every feature or item rather than to every incident or circumstance (a particular description of every musical instrument in the orchestra) (it is as particular as the four-sheet maps from which it is taken—Jefferson) (I think myself obliged to be very particular in this relation, lest my veracity should be suspected—Swift) Particularized often replaces particular as applied to narratives, descriptions, and lists; it is not used of those who so narrate, describe, or list, but it may be applied to the circumstances, features, and items that they present (Scott’s particularized descriptions of his characters) (a most concrete, particularized, earthy series of small diurnal recognitions—Powy) Detailed applies to a circumstantial or minute account, description, study, or representation; it implies, however, abundance of rather than exhaustiveness in detail (Perera in the sixteenth century . . . presents a detailed picture of Chinese life—Ellis) (the detailed study of history should be supplemented by brilliant outlines—Russell) Itemized implies complete enumeration of details, especially of those that indicate the separate purchases or separate credits in a mercantile account, or of those that indicate the articles or groups of articles in the possession of a person or business (as in an inventory) (an itemized bill) (itemized list of his expenditures) The term is also applicable to descriptions, narratives, or accounts which in addition to being particularized have something of the formality of an inventory (an itemized description of a room) Ana precise, nice, exact, accurate (see correct): *full, complete, replete Ant *abridged: summary —Con succinct, terse, laconic, *concise, pithy, compendious: shortened, abbreviated, curtained (see shorten)
citadel stronghold, fortress, *fort, fastness
citation *encomium, eulogy, tribute, panegyric
Anu commendation, recommendation, compliment or compliment (see corresponding verbs at commend): award, guerdon, reward (see premium)
cite vb 1 *summon, summons, call, convolve, convene, must
*bid, *invite: *arrest, detain, apprehend: *praise, extol, eulogize, laud, acclaim: award, accord (see grant)
2 *quote, repeat
3 *adduce, advance, allege
Ana enumerate, tell, *count, number: recount, recite, narrate, rehearse (see relate)
citizen 1 inhabitant, resident, denizen
Con *stranger, outsider
2 Citizen, subject, national are comparable when denoting a person who is regarded as a member of a sovereign state, entitled to its protection, and subject to its laws. Citizen implies alien as its opposite. It is applicable to a native or naturalized person, regardless of sex or age, who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to its protection of his life, liberty, and property at home or abroad. Ordinarily (as in the United States) citizenship does not imply possession of all political rights (as the right to vote). Citizen often implies allegiance to a government in which the sovereign power (theoretically or absolutely) is retained by the people; it is usually the preferred term in designating those persons in a republic whose status is not that of aliens (American citizens living in Mexico) (all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside—U. S. Constitution) Subject is applicable to a person, no matter where he resides, who by right of birth or naturalization owes allegiance to a personal sovereign (as a king or emperor) whether this sovereign rules directly or is a figurehead in whose name an often representative government is conducted; thus, subject is the preferred term in the British Commonwealth of Nations largely for historical reasons in spite of the limitations on the power of the sovereign and in spite of the representative form of government in Great Britain and in its dominions (British subjects living in the United States) (the millions of subjects of Queen Elizabeth) The term is also applicable to any person residing in territory governed by another state that has gained power over it by force of arms or by conquest, whether the sovereign power in that state is vested in a person or in the people (the line of distinction between the citizen and the subject, the free and the subjugated races—Talley) National belongs with this group of terms in spite of its shifting significance and more or less conflicting implications. It is applicable chiefly to any of a body of persons of the same nation or people living in a country other than the one in which they have or have had the status of citizen or subject. In diplomatic use the term is often applied to one’s fellow countrymen (the consul in each of the large cities is responsible for protecting the rights of his own nationals) Still other denotations, not so common, have come into use. Chief among these is the definition of a national as anyone who has been born in the territory of a given government, even though he now resides in another country, either as an alien or, by naturalization, as a citizen or subject of that country (some European governments claim authority over their nationals in North and South America) There is also a tendency to prefers national to subject or citizen in some countries where the sovereign power is not clearly vested in a monarch or ruler or in the people or where theories of racism
civic, civil, civilian are not close synonyms but rather words whose meanings lend themselves to confusion. In a sense they have a common meaning: of, relating to, or characteristic of a citizen—but in each case the word citizen has a specific or particular meaning. Civic implies some relation to a city and its citizens; city, however, is used loosely so as to cover any community having closely related interests (as a town, a village, or a city proper) or any municipality or corporation having powers of local self-government: in this sense civic is used in distinction from state, federal, and national. Civic interests gave way to national interests; organizations for civic betterment often the word comes close in meaning to public when used to modify acts, functions, obligations, or qualities, the chief distinction consisting in its closer application to the life of the community. Civic liberty was no less outstanding than his civic virtues. For the theme of her life is that the social purpose as well as private beings and that civilization depends on the spread of civic virtue—Bunle.

Civil, in general, has reference to a citizen as a member of the state, or to citizens as members of the state. In this sense state denotes usually a larger organized unit than that denoted by city and comes close in meaning to country, nation, and people. The term civil implies reference to this organization; thus, civil liberty is the liberty permitted to a citizen by the laws of the state or exemption from arbitrary government interference; a civil war (as opposed to a foreign war) is a conflict between citizens of the same state. More specifically, there is often a definitely implied contrast in the use of civil; the civil authorities are those that prevail in all affairs except where ecclesiastical authorities or military authorities have the final say; civil service denotes service of the state in any capacity that does not distinctively belong to the military organization; thus, civil architecture applies to architecture which is neither ecclesiastical nor military; in law, civil actions are distinguished from criminal actions as relating to proceedings in connection with the private or individual rights of citizens; also, in law, a civil death implies not a natural (that is, actual) death, but the loss or renunciation of all legal rights or status. Civic, while sometimes suggesting a merely perfunctory attitude, is more positive than civil; it commonly implies thoughtfulness for the feelings of others, united with polish of manners and address. Civic men were supposed to resemble the Athenian lecture rooms by Justinian—Inge.

Civilization, culture are comparable when meaning the particular state or stage of advancement in which a race, a people, a nation, a specific class, or an integrated group of these finds itself at a given period. Civilization always implies a definite advance from a state of barbarism; often it suggests the absence of all signs of barbarism or a divorce from all the ways of living, all the beliefs, all the conditions that distinguish a primitive from a civilized society. Civilization depends on the spread of civic virtue—Austen. The qualities of...survival and chivalry and gallantry attentiveness to women. But gallant suggests spirited and dashing or ornate and florid expressions of courtesy. Gallant and chivalrous imply courteous attentiveness to women. Civil, polite, courteous, courtly, gallant, chivalrous are comparable as applied to persons or their words and acts when in intercourse with others with the meaning observant of the forms required by good breeding. Civil commonly suggests the bare fulfillment of the ordinary requirements of social intercourse; it frequently implies little more than forbearance from rudeness. Civil, on the other hand, suggests rather the complex of attentions, beliefs, customs, and traditions which forms the background of a particular people or group, which distinguishes them from all other peoples or groups, and which gives their particular civilization, no matter how little or how far advanced, its peculiar quality or character. Greece for our purposes means not a race, but a culture, a language and literature, and still more an attitude towards life, which for us begins with Homer, and persists, with many changes but no breaks, till the closing of the Athenian lecture rooms by Justinian—Inge. It would no doubt have been more satisfactory to select a people like the Fijians rather than the Lithuanians, for they represented a more robust and accomplished form of a rather similar culture, but their culture has receded into the past—Ellis.

Civilization, culture, breeding, refinement

Barbarism—Con barbarity (see BARBARISM).
barbarousness, savagery (see corresponding adjectives at BARBARIAN)

claim **vb** *demand, exact, require

**Ana** *maintain, assert, defend, vindicate, justify: allege, *adduce, advance

Ant *disclaim: renounce — Con *disavow, disown, dis—

(reject, repudiate, refuse (see **DECLINE**): concede, allow, *grant: waive, cede, *relinquish: *forgo, abnegate

**claim** **n** Claim, title, pretension, pretense are comparable when they denote an actual or alleged right to demand something as one’s possession, quality, power, or prerogative. Claim carries the strongest implication of any of these terms of a demand for recognition; only the context can indicate whether that demand is regarded as justifiable or not or whether the right is actually asserted by the person involved (though the house was legally the daughter's, the father, as the one who had paid for it and had taken care of all taxes and insurance, had a moral claim to live there the rest of his life) (intelligent persons cannot accept the claims made for many patent medicines) (the advanced no claim to scholarly knowledge) (searching for truth as against all the claims and all the counterclaims of all the partisans—Lippmann) (liberty itself became ... a principle of anarchy rather than a body of claims to be read in the context of the social process—Laski) Claim also occurs in a more concrete sense as denoting the property or possession for which one sets up a claim (stake out a claim in an oil field) (title (see also **NAME**), on the other hand, distinctively imputes validity or justice to the claim, or its substantiation in law or in reason (his distinguished success as the governor of a great state gives him a title to our support of his candidacy for president) (many of the people who masquerade under the name of "men of science" have no sort of title to that name—Ellis) (they were discussed by men each of whom, in his own way, had some title to speak on them—Sat. Review) (pretension (see also **PRETENSE, AMBITION**)) is sometimes used in place of claim (gifts and exceliances to which Wordsworth can make no pretension—Arnold) and less often, in place of title (the courtier, the trader, and the scholar, should all have an equal pretension to the denomination of a gentleman—Steele) Very often, however, pretension connotes a lack of warrant or a weakness in the claim and may attribute to a measure of hypocrisy or deceit (this court disclaims all pretensions to such power—John Marshall) (his pretension, deftly circulated by press agents, was that he was a man of brilliant and polished mind—Mencken) (pretense has become rare in the sense of claim (see **PRETENSE**). Usually the term applies to an asserted claim (Marlborough calmly and politely showed that the pretense was unreasonable—Macaulay) but it may apply to a claim that is tacitly made in that one is assumed by another to be something that one is not or to have a right that one does not actually possess (she knew that she was in the house under false pretenses, for her host and hostess had warmly welcomed her as a daughter of old friends of the same name)

**Ana** assertion, affirmation, protestation, declaration (see corresponding verbs at **ASSERT**): *right, prerogative, birthright, privilege

clamor **n** *din, uproar, pandemonium, hubbub, babble, racket

clamor **vb** *roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, vociferate, howl, ululate

**Ana** *shout, yell, scream, shriek, screech, holler: agitate, dispute, debate (see **DISCUSS**): *demand, claim

clamorous **vb** *vociferous, blatant, strident, boisterous, obstreperous

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classify vb 

**Classify** is a verb that means to place or arrange into categories or classes. It involves the act of dividing or organizing things into groups based on shared characteristics or attributes. The term is particularly useful in fields such as biology, economics, and data analysis, where it is applied to organize complex data into more manageable forms. For example, in a biological context, scientists classify organisms into species, genera, and other categories based on their similarities and differences. Similarly, in a business context, financial analysts may classify companies into industries or sectors based on their operational characteristics.

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**clean vb** — clean, cleanse

Clean vb is a verb that means to remove dirt or impurities from a surface or object. It involves the act of washing or cleaning something to make it free from dirt, germs, or other contaminants. The term is applied in various contexts, from personal hygiene (cleaning hands with soap and water) to industrial processes (cleaning machinery to prevent malfunctions). For example, in a domestic setting, people often clean their dishes with soap and water to remove food residue, while in a medical setting, doctors may clean surgical instruments with harsh chemicals to prevent infection.

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Con desert, forsake, *abandon: *relinquish, leave, resign, yield
clinkers cinders, *ash, embers
clip vb *shear, poll, trim, prune, lop, snip, crop
Ana *cut, chop, slash: slit: curtail (see shorten): sever, *separate
clique *set, circle, coterie
Ana party, faction, bloc, ring, combine, *combination
cloak vb mask, *disguise, disguise, camouflage
Ana conceal, *hide, screen
Ant uncloak —Con *reveal, disclose, discover, betray
clodhopper bumpkin, yokel, rube, *boor, lout, *clown, churl
clog vb fetter, hog-tie, shackle, manacle, *hamper, tramml
Ana impede, obstruct, *hinder, block: balk, baffle, *frustrate: check, curb (see restrain)
Ant expedite, facilitate —Con *free, liberate, release: forward, further, *advance, promote
cloister n 1 Cloister, convent, monastery, nunnery, abbey, priory. Cloister and convent are general terms denoting a place of retirement from the world for members of a religious community; they may apply to houses for recleses of either sex. In such use cloister stresses the idea of seclusion from the world; convent, of community of living. Basically a monastery is a cloister for monks: in actual use it is often applied to a convent for men or occasionally for women who combine the cloistered life with teaching, preaching, or other work. Nunnery, which specifically denotes a cloister for nuns, is often displaced by convent with the same specific meaning. A monastery or nunnery governed by an abbot or an abbess is called an abbey: by a prior or prioress, a priory. A priory is subordinate in rank to, but often independent of, an abbey.
2 arcade, *passage, passageway, ambulatory, gallery, corridor, aisle, hall, hallway
crone *variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, strain, stock
close vb 1 Close, shut are very close synonyms in the sense of to stop or fill in an opening by means of a closure (as a door, a gate, a lid, or a cover) and are often used interchangeably. However, they may have distinctive nuances of meaning and quite different implications in idiomatic use. Close is the more general term, usually implying both the act of stopping an opening and the result produced by such an act but stressing exclusion of those who would enter or pass through. Shut stresses the act or process and the means employed in this process; it not only carries a more emphatic implication or a more vivid suggestion of drawing a door, gate, lid, or window into a position which closes the opening, but it often also evokes an image of fastening securely (as by drawing a bar or a bolt or locking); hence, in closing a door or gate one merely draws it into a position which bars entrance or egress until it is again opened but in shutting a door or gate one pushes or pulls it into the position where it is closed. Idiomatically, one closes (not shuts) an opening or a gap or one closes (not shuts) a park or a church to the public, because in neither case is the use of a door, gate, or other means of exclusion clearly or definitely implied. On the other hand, in idiomatic use shut, especially when followed by up, out, or against, carries a stronger and often a more direct and emphatic suggestion than close of the interposition of a barrier or obstacle (often an immaterial, one) that effectually prevents ingress or egress (he found every road to the accomplishment of his desires shut against him) (he shut his eyes to everything he did not wish to see) (closed his eyes in death) (he was warned to shut his mouth) Ana *exclude, debar: block, bar, dam (see hinder)
Ant open
2 Close, end, conclude, finish, complete, terminate are comparable as transitive verbs meaning to bring something to a stopping point or to its limit, or, with the exception of complete, as intransitive verbs meaning to come to that point. Close usually has latent in it the idea of action upon something which may be regarded as in some sense open as well as unfinished (see close vb i) (close an account, a debate, or a subscription list) (recall those nights that closed thy toilsome days—Pope) (the Peace of Westphalia . . . which closed the Thirty Years’ War—Barr) End conveys a stronger sense of finality; it frequently has implicit reference to a progress or development which is thought of as having been carried through (the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved—Jer 8:20) (ended his life) (ended his labors upon a book) Conclude is a more formal term and applies particularly to transactions, proceedings, or writings that have a formal or special close (concluded his speech with a peroration) (conclude a meeting with a benediction) (I shall conclude this essay upon laughter with observing that the metaphor of laughing . . . runs through all languages—Spectator) Finish implies that what one set out to do is done: often, therefore, it connotes the completion of the final act in a process of elaboration (as polishing or perfecting) (give the festive table a finishing touch) (I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do—John 17:4) (it wants but seventeen lines of having an end, I don’t say of being finished—Gray) (I shall finish with a Chopin nocturne—Hellman) Complete implies the removal of all deficiencies or a finishing of all that has been attempted (when Blondel paused about the middle, the king began the remainder, and completed it—Warton) Complete their education in Europe (art partly completes what nature is herself sometimes unable to bring to perfection—Ellis) (he may well have thought that his days would be few on earth, and that it would be foolish to put his hand to a task which he could not complete—Buchan) Terminate implies the setting of a limit in time or space (Ben Lomond terminates the view—Dorothy Wordsworth) (the age at which the youth of each nation terminates full-time education—Conant) (he had never seen the instrument that was to terminate his life—Dickens) (hostilities terminate at sundown)
Ana *stop, cease, quit, desist
Con *begin, commence, start, inaugurate, initiate
close adj 1 Close, near, nigh, nearby are comparable both as adjectives and as adverbs when they mean not far (as in place, time, or relationship) from the point, position, or relation that is indicated or understood. Close (see also close adj 2) commonly implies so slight a difference that the two things (sometimes persons) under consideration may be said to be almost in contact if the difference is in distance or almost coincident if the difference is in time, to be of the immediate family if the difference is in relationship, or to be very like the original if the difference is in a copy (the houses on this street are close together) (close relatives) (close friends) (hold one close) (the more accurately we use words the closer definition we shall give to our thoughts—Quiller-Couch) (a close shave) (give close attention to a problem) (a close translation of a passage) Near may often be used in place of close (events that come near to each other) (near relatives) but it carries a much less explicit suggestion of contiguousness or adjacency and may be used of persons or things that, though not far off (as in place, time, or relationship) are not almost in contact, almost coincident, or of the
closefisted

immediate family <come near where I can see you> <a near concern of all of us> Near also is applied to things reproduced (as by copying, imitating, or translating) that more or less closely resemble but are far from replicas of the original; in this sense the term is often used in depreciation <near beer> <a near translation> <near silk> <near-leather upholstery> Nigh is somewhat outmoded or poetic in the sense of near. As an adverb it, even more often than near, is followed by to, unto, about, on, upon <he was sick nigh unto death—Phil 2:27> <now the day is over, night is drawing nigh—Baring-Gould> As an adjective it differs little from near except in sometimes being given preference in the comparative and superlative degrees to nearer and nearest <friend, brother, nearest neighbor—Whitman> Nearby indicates a position near in distance or close at hand <nearby towns> <the nearby houses> <there is no hotel nearby> Ana adjoining, *adjacent, contiguous, abutting: *related, kindred

Ant remote or remotely —Con *distant, removed, far, faraway, far-off

2 Close, dense, compact, thick are comparable when they mean having constituent parts (as filaments, particles, cells, or atoms) that are massed tightly together. Close may apply to the texture or weave of something <between the close moss violet-inwoven—Shelley> <a paper of fine, close texture> <a cloth of close weave> More often, however, the term applies to something that is made up of a number of single things pressed or seemingly pressed together <he writes a close hand> <the troops fought in close formation> Especially as applied to literary expression, close implies a compression of what is to be said into the fewest and most telling words possible <it is a relief to turn back to the austere, close language of Everyday—T.S. Eliot> Dense applies to something in which the arrangement of parts or units is exceedingly close <dense clouds> <a densely populated district> <a dense star> <a dense flower spike> The term commonly implies impenetrability <a dense thicket> and in extended use may lose the basic notion of close packing of parts <a dense mind> <dense stupidity> <dense silence> <Proust's book is a gigantic dense mesh of complicated relations—Edmund Wilson> Compact suggests close and firm union or consolidation of parts, especially within a small compact; it often also implies neat or effective arrangement <he was all compact and under his swart, tattooed skin the muscles worked like steel rods—Melville> <small, compact, homogeneous communities such as the Greek city state or Elizabethan England—Day Lewis> Thick (see also STICKY) usually applies to something which is condensed or is made up of abundant and concentrated parts <make the grael thick and slab—Shak> <a thick swarm of bees> <a thick grove> <a thick head of hair>

Ana compressed, condensed, constricted (see CONTRACT vb): concentrated, compacted (see COMPACT vb)

Ant open —Con scattered, dispersed (see SCATTER): expanded (see EXPAND)

3 close-lipped, closemouthed, tight-lipped, secretive, reserved, taciturn, reticent, uncommunicative, *silent

Ant open (see FRANK) —Con *frank, candid, plain: garrulous, loquacious, *talkative, voluble, glib

4 intimate, confidential, chummy, thick, *familiar

Ant aloof

5 closefisted, tight, tightfisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, *stingy, cheesepearing, penny-pinching

Ana *sparing, economical, frugal, thrifty

Ant liberal —Con generous, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded (see LIBERAL): lavish, prodigal (see PROFUSE)

closefisted —stingy, close, tight, tightfisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheesepearing, penny-pinching

Ana, Ant, & Con see those at close adj

close-lipped close, closemouthed, uncommunicative, taciturn, reserved, reticent, secretive, *silent, tight-lipped

Ant & Con see those at close adj

closemouthed close, close-lipped, tight-lipped, reticent, reserved, uncommunicative, *silent, taciturn, secretive

Ant & Con see those at close adj

cloot vb congeal, curdle, *coagulate, set, jelly, jell

clothe, attire, dress, apparel, array, robe. Cloth, the least specific of these terms, means to cover or to provide what will cover (one’s body or whatever is bare) with or as if with garments <clothe the child warmly> <clothe your thoughts in words> <rugged clothes and softened with snow> The other words convey the same meaning but each one adds to it distinctive implications and connotations. Attire suggests a more careful process and more formality than cloth and therefore is avoided except when the context requires that note <he said it was for the honor of the Service that he arrayed himself so elaborately> but those who knew him best said that it was just personal vanity—Kipling> Dress is far less formal than attire and much richer in its connotations than cloth. It often suggests care in the choice and arrangement of clothes and sometimes, especially in dress up, preening and prinking or selection of one’s best or choicest clothes <children warmly but simply dressed for school> <every afternoon she dresses up and goes out> <dressed up in his Sunday clothes> Dress up sometimes distinctively implies an assuming of the dress of or a dress suitable to another <dress up as Cleopatra> while dress, especially in its intransitive or reflexive forms, often implies a change of clothes to those that are appropriate for a special occasion; thus, to dress for dinner implies a change into dinner or evening clothes <I shall not have time to dress> The idea of decking or adorning is frequently associated with dress especially in its extended senses <dress the hair with flowers> <dress the table for an elaborate dinner> <yet shall thy grave with rising flow'rs be dressed—Pope>

Apparel and array are chiefly literary words used when there is the intent to connote splendor, elegance, or gorgeousness in what a person or thing is clothed with <she had a garment of divers colors upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters> appareled—2 Sam 13:18 <a time when meadow, grave, and stream ... to me did seem appareled in celestial light—Wordsworth> <consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these—Mt 6:28, 29> <I rode with him to court, and there the Queen arrayed me like the sun—Tennyson> 

Robe implies a dressing with or as if with a robe and has the same wide range of use as the noun especially in its intransitive or reflexive forms, often accompanied with dress especially in its extended senses <dress the hair with flowers> <dress the table for an elaborate dinner> <yet shall thy grave with rising flow'rs be dressed—Pope>

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clothing 155

**Dress** is used with reference only to a wearer's outer clothing; it is not only far less inclusive than *clothes* and *clothing* but less concrete in its suggestions except when qualified (both men and women are expected to wear full dress) (the actors will be costumed in the period) (a man of sense carefully avoids any particular character in his dress—Chesterfield) (in pilgrimage dress on his way to Mecca—Dotty) *Attire* usually stresses the appearance or the total impression produced by one's clothes; it is therefore rarely used with reference to one's own clothes except in affectation or humorously; when applied to another person's, it is as a rule qualified (our speech, our color, and our strange attire—Pope) (his unfashionable attire and clumsy manners—Cole) *Apparel* (often specifically *wearing apparel*) carries a weaker suggestion of the effect produced and a stronger implication of a collection or assemblage of clothes than *attire*, which otherwise it closely resembles in meaning; therefore one says an article of *apparel* (rather than *attire*) and the richness of her *attire* (rather than *apparel*) (a blue serge suit, a grey shirt, a blue and red necktie, a gray homburg, and black shoes and gloves comprised his apparel) (the apparel oft proclaims the man—Shak.) (his daily apparel was rough and shabby—Cather) *Raiment* is a more or less literary term that is nearly as comprehensive as *clothes*, for it includes everything that is worn for decency, comfort, and adornment and therefore suggests reference to undergarments as well as to outer garments (brought a change of raiment with him) When the quality or the texture of the clothing is to be indicated, *raiment* is the appropriate word (fine raiment) (the coarse raiment of a penitent pilgrim) (but what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses—Mt 11:8) (if these strangers were of important air and costly raiment—O’Nolan)

clothing *clothes, dress, attire, apparel, raiment*
cloak vb *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate*

**Ana** *confuse, muddle, addle, befuddle: *puzzle, perplex, —Con dexterous, adroit: facile —Con deft (see Dexterous): graceful, dignified, elegant (see corresponding nouns at ELEGANCE): *elastic, resilient, flexible, supple, springy; *easy, effortless, smooth

cluster n *group, bunch, parcel, lot*

**Ana** collection, assemblage (see under GATHER): aggregate, number, quantity (see SUM)

clutch vb *grab, grab, *take, seize, snatch*

**Ana** capture, *catch: hold; *have, possess, own

clutch n *hold, grip, grasp*

**Ana** seizing, grabbing, taking (see TAKE)

coarse

clother n *confusion, disorder, disarray, jumble, chaos, muddle, snarl

coadjutor *assistant, helper, aid, aide, aide-de-camp

coagulate, congeal, set, curdle, clot, jelly, jel are comparable when meaning to form or cause to form a stiff mass that is solid or at least cohesive. *Coagulate* implies a thickening or solidification of a liquid and usually the making insoluble (as by chemical reaction) of something that was soluble (fresh blood exposed to air rapidly coagulates) (heat coagulates the white of egg) (waterborne impurities which coagulate when aluminum sulfate is added can be removed by filtration) *Congeal* specifically implies a thickening or solidification by means of cold; the mass thus affected may dissolve or become liquid when the temperature rises again (freezing temperatures have congealed the surface waters of the river) (there no hungry winter congeals our blood—Longfellow) *Set* (see also *SET*) carries no implication of how the stiffening, or making solid or viscid, occurs but only of the nature of the effect (rennet may be used in setting milk for cheese) (give the jelly time to set before adding a paraffin cover) *Curdle* basically implies the coagulation of milk (as through souring or the addition of rennet) into a soft but solid part (the curd) from which cheese is made, and the separation of this part from the watery part (the whey): in more general use the term connotes a thickening and sometimes a souring (Mark Twain was expressing his true opinions, the opinions of the cynic he had become owing to ... the constant curdling as it were of the poet in him—Brooks) (envy soon curdles into hate—Froude) *Clot* implies the coagulation or congealing of a liquid into lumps or masses or, less often, the gathering of something light and diffuse into hard accumulations or lumps (the blood not yet had clotted on his wound—Southey) (clotted cream) (the bed becomes uneasy by the feathers clotting together into hard knobs—Tucker) *Jelly* specifically implies the setting during cooling of a cooked liquid (as broth or juice of meats) containing gelatin from animal tissue or one (as fruit juice and sugar) containing the pectin of acid fruits (the jellied juice of the veal roast) (jellies and marmalades jelly readily if pectin is added to the boiling juice) *Jell* is basically identical to jelly (the jelly won't jell—Alcott) but unlike the latter it is often used especially in negative constructions to imply the state when nonmaterial things (as ideas or plans) attain fixity or cohesiveness (public opinion has not yet jelled on this question) (his ideas for the story would not jell, no matter how much he kept turning them over in his mind)


coalesce merge, fuse, blend, mingle, commingle, *mix, amalgamate

**Ana** compact, consolidate, concentrate, unify: *contract, condense, compress: cohere, adhere, *stick, cleave, cling: mass (see HEAP)

**Con** disintegrate, crumble, decompose (see DECAY): *separate, part, divide: deliquesce (see LIQUEFY): dissipate, disperse (see SCATTER)

coalition fusion, confederacy, confederation, federation, *alliance, league

coarse, vulgar, gross, obscene, ribald are comparable when applied to persons, their language, or behavior and mean offensive to a person of good taste or moral principles. *Coarse* is opposed to *fine* not only with reference to material things (as fiber, texture, or structure) but also with reference to quality of mind, spirit, manners, or words; it implies roughness, rudeness, crudeness, or insensitivity (whose laughs are hearty, though his jests are

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasts words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
coarse—Pope 〈simple parables of the coarse businessman and the sensitive intellectual—De Voe〉 〈some of the royal family were as coarse as the king was delicate in manners—Henry Adams〉 Vulgar 〈see COMMON 3〉 suggests something that is offensive to good taste or decency, frequently with the added implication of boorishness or ill breeding 〈Caliban is coarse enough, but surely he is not vulgar—Hazlitt〉 〈Burns is often coarse, but never vulgar—Byron〉 〈it was, in fact, the mouth that gave his face its sensual, sly, and ugly look, for a loose and vulgar smile seemed constantly to hover about its thick coarse edges—Wolfe〉 Gross 〈see FLAGRANT〉 is opposed to fine in the sense of delicate, subtle, ethereal; it implies either a material, as contrasted to a spiritual, quality or a bestiality unworthy of man 〈the grosser forms of pleasure—Wharton〉 〈gross habits of eating—Caliban . . . is all earth, all condensed and gross in feelings and images—Coleridge〉 〈my anger and disgust at his gross earthy egoism had vanished—Hudson〉

Obscene stresses more strongly the idea of loathsome indecency or utter obnoxiousness 〈the war to him was a hateful thing . . . waged for the extension of the obscene system—Negro slavery—Parrington〉 〈an obscene allusion—The jest unclean of linkboys vile, and watermen obscene—Pope〉 〈the raffle of Comus . . . reeling in obscene dances—Macaulay〉 〈it was, of course, easy to pick out a line here and there . . . which was frank to indecency, yet certainly not obscene—Canby〉 Ribald suggests vulgarity and often such impurity or indecency as provokes the laughter of people who are not too fastidious 〈a ribald folksong about fleas in straw—Lowers〉 〈their backs . . . shaking with the loose laughter which punctuates a ribald description—Mary Austin〉 〈we stare, as in the presence of some great dignity from behind whom, by a ribald hand, a chair is withdrawn when he is in the act of sitting down—Beerbohm〉

An faint: refined —Con delicate, dainty, exquisite, *choice: cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE)

coast vb toboggan, *slide, glide, slip, skid, glissade, slither cox, cajole, wheel, blandish mean to use ingratiating art in persuasively or attempting to persuade. Coax implies gentle, persistent efforts to induce another or to draw what is desired out of another 〈in a coaxing voice, suited to a nurse soothing a baby—Burney〉 It most often suggests artful pleading or teasing in an attempt to gain one's ends 〈little by little, he coaxed some of the men whom the measure concerned most intimately to give in their views—Kipling〉 〈one . . . who can linger over and taste the attributes of the variable human mind to divine objects—T. S. Eliot〉 but it may be extended to other situations in which persevering yet careful efforts are used to attain an end 〈coax embers into a blaze〉 Cajoled may stress deceit (as by flattering or making specious promises) 〈they . . . should be treated as they themselves treat fools, this is, be cajoled with praises—Pope〉 It more often implies enticing or alluring and suggests beguilement rather than duplicity 〈I think a vein of sentiment . . . induced me to take the journey, and to cajole a reluctant friend into accompanying me—Rephiller〉

Wheelde suggests more strongly than cajole the use of soft words, artful flattery, or seductive appeal 〈she could wheelde the soul out of a saint—Hewlett〉 〈he had wheelde the Abeyta woman out of her geraniums, and left her pleased with herself for surrendering them—Mary Austin〉 〈no hucksters to wheelde you into buying souvenirs—Nebel〉

Blandin implies less artfulness than wheelde and more open flattery and a more apparent desire to win over by charming or alluring 〈would the blandishing enhancer still weave his spells around me—Dickens〉 〈found herself being blandished by millionaires—Rogow〉

Ana *induce, persuade, prevail, get: tease, pester (see WORRY); inveigle, entice, tempt, *lure

cobble vb *botch, bungle, fumble, muddle
cock vb stack, shock, pile, *heap, mass, bank

Ana *gather, collect, assemble
Con *scatter, disperse

cock n stack, shock, pile, heap, mass, bank (see under HEAP vb)

cocksure positive, certain, *sure

Ana *confident, assured, sanguine, presumptuous: pretentious (see SHOWY): *decided, decisive

Ant dubious, doubtful —Con modest, diffident (see SHY)

coerce compel, *force, constrain, oblige

Ana *intimidate, bulldoze, bully, browbeat, cow: *threaten, menace: drive, impel (see MOVE): terrorize (see FRIGHTEN)

Con *induce, persuade, prevail, get: *coax, cajole, wheelde, blandish: *lure, entice, tempt, seduce, inveigle
corruption compulsion, *force, violence, duress, constraint, restraint

Ana *power, might, puissance, strength: intimidation, bulldozing, bullying, browbeating (see corresponding verbs at ATTEMPT): threatening or threat, menacing or menace (see corresponding verbs at THREATEN)

coevasive coeval, contemporaneous, *contemporary, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent

coeval coevasive, synchronous, concurrent, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, *contemporary, contemporaneous
cogent convincing, compelling, telling, *valid, sound

Ana forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful, puissant: compelling, constraining (see FORCE vb): inducing, persuading or persuasive (see corresponding verbs at INDUCT): proving, demonstrating (see PROVE): *effective, effectual
cogitate *think, reflect, deliberate, reason, speculate

Ana ponder, ruminate, meditate, muse: *consider, excogitate, weigh, contemplate, study: *think, conceive, imagine, envisage, envision
cognate *related, allied, kindred, affiliated

Ana akin, alike, identical, similar (see LIKE): common, generic, general, *universal

Con diverse, *different, divergent, disparate, various
cognizant *aware, conscious, sensible, alive, awake

Ana *conversant, versed: informed, acquainted, apprised (see INFORM)

Ant ignorant —Con *insensible, insensitive, impossible, anesthetic: ignoring, overlooking, slighting, neglecting (see NEGLECT): oblivious, unmindful, *forgetful
cohere *stick, adhere, cleave, cling

Ana coalesce, fuse, merge, blend (see MIX): *fasten, attach, affix: *join, combine, unite, connect, associate

Con *detach, disengage: disentangle, untangle, diembarrass (see EXTRICATE)
cohesion mean the quality or character of a whole all of whose parts cohere or stick together. Coherence usually implies a unity of such immaterial or intangible things as the points of an argument, the details of a picture, or the incidents, characters, and setting of a story, or of material or objective things that are bound into unity by a spiritual, intellectual, or aesthetic relationship (as through their clear sequence or their harmony with each other); it commonly connotes an integrity which makes the whole and the relationship of its parts clear and manifest (to treat the subject with the clearness and coherence of which it is susceptible—Wordsworth) (is there or is there not a spiritual coherence in Christianity, or is it only a gathering of laws and precepts, with no inherent connected spiritual philosophy?—Galsworthy) (scientific work . . . may indeed possess the appearance of beauty, because of the inner coherence which it shares with fine art—Alexander) (no more coherence than the scattered jangle of bells in the town below—Quiller-Couch) Coherence more often implies a unity of material things held together by such a physical substance as cement, mortar, or glue or by some physical force (as attraction or affinity) (a house stands and holds together by the natural properties, the weight and cohesion of the materials which compose it—T. H. Huxley) (what am I? Life? A thing of watery salt held in cohesion by unresting cells which work they know not why, which never halt—Masefield) Coherence may also be used of either material or immaterial things when the emphasis is on the process by which things cohere rather than on the resulting unity (a state composed of discordant races incapable of cohesion) Ana *unity, integrity, solidarity, union: clearness, perspicuousness, lucidity (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR) Ant incoherence cohesion *coherence Ana unification, consolidation, concentration, compacting (see corresponding verbs at COMPACT): coalescence, fusing or fusion, blending or blend, merging (see corresponding verbs at MIX) Con disintegration, decomposition, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY): deliquescence (see corresponding verb at LIQUEFY) coil vb *wind, curl, twist, twine, wreath, entwine Ana *turn, revolve, rotate, circle coin n coinage, currency, specie, legal tender, cash, *money coinage coin, currency, cash, specie, legal tender, *money coincide concur, *agree Ana accord, correspond, jibe, harmonize, tally (see AGREE): *match, equal Ant differ—Con diverge (see SWERVE) coincident synchronous, simultaneous, concurrent, concomitant, coeval, coextensive, contemporaneous, *contemporary cold, cool, chilly, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic mean having a temperature below that which is normal or comfortable. Cold is the general term, often implying nothing more than a lack of warmth (a cold day) (a cold hand) (cold meat) It may also connote discomfort (shivering in her cold room) (battered by a cold wind) Cool suggests moderate and often refreshing coldness (a cool breeze) (a cool hand on a fevered brow) (a cool drink) but when hotness or warmth is desirable it, too, connotes something disagreeable (cool soup) (a cool radiation). Chilly implies coldness that makes one shiver (a chilly morning) (a chilly room) Frigid, freezing, and frosty imply temperatures below 32° Fahrenheit. Frigid stresses the intensity of the cold (a frigid climate) (frigid weather) and freezing its congealing effect (as on man, vegetation, and water) (a freezing wind) (freezing temperature) while frosty applies rather specifically to times or conditions in which fine ice crystals are deposited from atmospheric moisture onto a cold surface (frosty nights are usually clear and cold with little wind) Gelid is equivalent to freezing, but it somewhat more often stresses the resultant discomfort (so the leaden hours passed in the gelid darkness—Sitwell) (while sea-born gales their gelid wings expand—Goldsmith) Icy, when used to indicate a kind of coldness, implies frigidity so great as to be painful and cutting; it is applicable chiefly to winds, storms, and water (an icy rain) (an icy northeast wind) Basically glacial is very close to icy (the air in the cave was glacial, penetrated to the very bones—Cather) but its later association with glacier has given it an ambiguous cast in many locutions; thus, a glacial lake might be, according to context, either a painfully cold lake or one formed by the action of a glacier. Arctic is the strongest of these words in its suggestion of intense coldness. It connotes the frigidity of the polar regions and is usually a hyperbolic rather than an exact term (a winter notable for its arctic temperatures) When applied to persons, their temperaments, their acts and words, and their responses to stimuli, these words are also marked by differences in implications. Cold suggests absence of feeling or emotion, or less than normal love, sympathy, friendliness, sensitiveness, or responsiveness (his plea left us cold) (cold words) (he treated us with cold justice) (their cold intelligence, their stereotyped, unremitting industry repel me—L. P. Smith) (Okio, in spite of his unerring eye and his incomparable cunning of hand, was of too cold a temperament to infuse a powerful current of life into the old tradition—Binyon) Cool (see also COOL 2) stresses control over one's feelings or emotions, and therefore absence of excitement or agitation (this wonder, that when near her he should be cool and composed, and when away from her wrapped in a tempest of desires—Meredith) (both looked at life with a cool realism which was not allowed to become cynical—Buchan) Chilly, frosty, and freezing usually stress the effect of another's coldness; chilly connotes a depressing or repressive influence (a chilly greeting) (a chilly reception) while frosty connotes a checking or restraining of advances (a frosty smile) and freezing connotes a blighting or repelling (a freezing reply to a letter) (many . . . had been repelled by his freezing looks—Macaulay) Frigid suggests such a deficiency of natural feeling as is abnormal or repellent; it is specifically applicable to persons who are sexually passionless and averse to sexual intercourse, but it is often applied to things which are not, but by their nature should be, impassioned or infused with feeling or warmth (frigid verse) (a frigid religion) (frigid hospitality) Gelid and icy suggest a discomfitting chill (as in manner or conduct), the former sometimes stressing the power to benumb, the latter the power to pierce or stab (immediately, the long gelid, nightly silence fell between us—Spina) (sweeping her sympathizers with a gelid gaze—Paton) (her voice dropped into an icy gravity—Yerby) (a lady of the most arresting beauty and icy good breeding—Max Peacock) Glacial suggests a chilling lack of vitality or animation (Boston, for all its glacial perfection, has no intimacy at all—Virgil Thomson) (his manner more glacial and sepulchral than ever—Molloy) Arctic frequently adds to frigid a connotation of remoteness from all that is human or referable to humanity (exact and arctic justice—Mencken) Ant hot
collate *compare, contrast

collateral adj *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, tributary

Ana *related, allied, kindred, cognate; correlative, complementary, corresponding, reciprocal

collation *comparison, parallel, contrast, antithesis

(see corresponding verbs at CONFIRM): emending or emendation, revising or revision, correcting or correction (see corresponding verbs at CORRECT)

colleague *partner, copartner, ally, confederate

Ana *associate, companion, comrade

collect *gather, assemble, congregate

Ana mass, *heap, pile; *accumulate, amass, hoard; consolidate, concentrate, *compact

Ant disperse: distribute —Con *scatter, dissipate, dispel: Dispense, divide, deal, dole (see DISTRIBUTE): *separate, part, sever, sunder: * assort, sort

collected composed, *cool, unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, nonchalant


Ant distracted, distraught —Con agitated, perturbed, upset, disturbed, flustered, flurried (see DISCOMPOSE)

collection assemblage, assembly, gathering, congregation (see under GATHER vb)

Ana heap, pile, mass, stack (see under HEAP vb): accumulation, hoarding or hoard (see corresponding verbs at ACCUMULATE)

collide *bump, clash, conflict

Ana hit, *strike: impinge, impact (see corresponding nouns at IMPACT): dash, charge, *rush

collision *impact, impingement, clash, shock, concussion, percussion, jar, jolt

Ana striking, hitting (see STRIKE vb): wrecking or wreck, ruining or ruin, dilapidation (see corresponding verbs at RUIN): demolishment, destruction (see corresponding verbs at DESTROY)

colonnade, arcade, arcature, portico, peristyle are discrimination as used in architecture. A colonnade is a row of columns (typically on the outside of a building) spaced at regular intervals and carrying an architrave or horizontal member lying directly across their capitals, so that the opening between each pair of columns is square-topped. A colonnade is usually applied not only to the columns but to the entire structure consisting of columns, roof, and pavement or to the space which they enclose. The word is used especially in reference to classical architecture. An arcade is a long series of arches with their supporting columns and piers together with the other members that complete the structure as an architectural feature. An arcade may be either inside or outside of a building: it may be a purely decorative feature or a means of admitting light and air. When purely decorative, the spaces between the arches and the piers may be filled in (sometimes providing niches for statues); this type of arcade is also called an arcature. An arcade may take the place of an outer wall (as of a gallery or cloister). Arcade is used especially of types of architecture (as the late Romanesque and the Gothic) in which the arch is an essential feature. Portico and peristyle are used in reference to architectural features employing the colonnade. When the colonnade extends across, or nearly across, one side of a building and serves as an entrance, it is called a portico; when it is continued so as to extend along three or, usually, all four sides of a building, it is called a peristyle.

color n 1 Color, hue, shade, tint, tinge, tone are comparable when they mean a property or attribute of a visible thing that is recognizable only when rays of light fall upon the thing and that is distinct from properties (as shape or size) apparent in dusk. Color is the ordinary term and, in precise use, the only generic term of this group. It may apply to the quality of blood which one describes as redness, of grass as greenness, of the sky as blueness, of snow as whiteness, or of ebony as blackness, or to the optical sensation which one experiences when one sees these things respectively as red, green, blue, white, and black. It may refer to any of the bands of the spectrum or to any of the variations produced by or as if by combination of one or more of these with another or with white, black, or gray. Color is also specifically applicable to the attribute of things seen as red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple (the chromatic colors) as distinct from the attribute of things seen as black, white, or gray (the achromatic colors) <give a white house touches of color by painting the window sashes and shutters green> Hue, especially in poetry or elevated prose, is often synonymous with color (as brown in hue as hazelnuts and sweeter than the kernels—Shak.> <all the gradational hues of the spectrum from red through yellow, green, blue, to violet—Scientific Monthly> More specifically, hue suggests some modification of color (their shining green has changed to a less vivid hue; they are taking bluish tones here and there—Hearty> Shade is often used in the sense of one of the gradations of a color, especially as its hue is affected by its brilliance. Shade is a darker shade of blue <a brighter shade of green> <various shades of gray> <the dark ultramarine of the west turns a shade paler—J. C. Van Dyke> Tint is also used as meaning a gradation of color in respect to brilliance, but it always suggests hue and is commonly used in reference to light colors that seem to be given by a light or delicate touching; thus, what are often called "pastel colors" or "pastel shades" are known also as tints. The term is not frequently used in contrast to shade, especially when the latter word connotes comparative darkness or dullness <the flags by the shore were turning brown; a tint of yellow was creeping up the rushes—Jeffries> <dark it appeared, but the precise tint was indeterminable—Hudson> <the sprays of bloom which adorn it are merely another shade of the red earth walls, and its fibrous trunk is full of gold and lavender tints—Cather> Tinge implies more of interfusion or stain than tint (autumn bold, with universal tinge of sober gold—Keats) <the water . . . imparts to the body of one bathing in it a yellowish tinge—Thoreau> Tone is a rather general word, sometimes equivalent to color but more often suggesting hue or a modification of hue (as a tint or tinge) <from strand to cloud-capped peak, the tone was purple—Beebe> <tone, which he plays with as has no other of the moderns, modifying color brightness to achieve his foreseen tonal harmony—Cheney>

Nearly all of these terms carry extended meanings derived from or related to the senses previously considered. Color usually suggests an outward character or aspect such as may be changed by circumstances <your love for him has changed its color since you have found him not to be the saint you thought him—Hardy> <it had been an essentially aristocratic movement—But . . . it took on a strongly democratic color—Menchower> color may be imparted to a thing to brighten and vivify it <people talk of matters which I had believed to be worn threadbare by use, and yet communicate a rich color . . . to them—Benson> Hue is less often used than color: it usually suggests a character rather than an aspect, but it does not necessarily imply an ingrained character <our
mental hue depends...completely on the social atmosphere in which we move—Horace Smith

Tint applies to a character that is not dominant but imparted as if by contact or influence (our inborn spirits have a tint of thee—Byron) Shade and tinge are used in the sense of trace, touch, trifile (for this sense, see touch) (eyes that...had some tinge of the oriental—Edmund Wilson) (a tinge less cordial than usual) (a tinge of sadness)

2 usually in plural colors *flag, ensign, standard, banner, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack

colorable *plausible, credible, believable, specious

Anna convincing, compelling, telling, cogent, sound, *valid

colorless uncolored, achromatic mean without color. However, they are not freely interchangeable. Colorless is applied to something that is transparent (water is a colorless liquid) or to something that is bleached, bleached, or paliled (colorless leaves) (colorless cheeks and lips) Uncolored is applied to something that is left in its natural state or is not dyed or stained (uncolored oranges) or to objects which have not been touched or touched up with color (an uncolored photograph) Achromatic is applied to something that is free from any of the hues in the spectrum or from any hues formed by combinations of these or that gives images which are free from extraneous colors produced by refraction (an achromatic color) (an achromatic telescope) A color (in its inclusive sense) may be chromatic or achromatic: if the former, it has a hue; if the latter, it has not and is, therefore, white, black, or a pure gray

Anna *pale, pallid, ashen, wan: whitened, blanched, bleached, decolorized (see whitening)

Ant colorful

colossal *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, torpid, sluggish, *lethargic

Anna monumental, stupendous, tremendous, prodigious, monstrous

column *pillar, pilaster

comatose torpid, sluggish, *lethargic

Anna *languid, languorous, listless, languishing: phlegmatic, *impassive: *insensible, anesthetic, impassible: inert, passive, supine (see inactive)

Ant awake

comb vb *seek, search, scour, hunt, ferret out, ransack, combat


Combative *belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, quarrelsome, contentious

Anna *aggressive, militant: strenuous, energetic, *vigorous, virile, manly, manful (see male)

Ant pacific

Combination, combine, party, bloc, faction, ring denote a union, either of individuals or of organized interests, for mutual support in obtaining common political or private ends. Combination is the most comprehensive of these terms, being applicable to any such union whether a trust, an alliance, or simply an association for the purpose of urging demands or resisting claims (a combination of citizens devoted to holding down taxes) (a combination of railroads to maintain existing rates) Combine is often interchangeable, especially in informal use, with combination (the coal combine) Often it may connote a combination with an improper or illegal aim in view (how the Mafia operates has been duplicated...in Ed Reid's book of that famous...combine—Kogan) (a combine that understands it must destroy...if it is actually to control—The Commonwealth) A party is a number of persons united in support of some opinion, cause, or principle; it usually implies a similar body in opposition, especially when used in reference to a political organization built up to continue the action and policies of government through election of its candidates to office (in the United States there are usually only two strong parties) (the Labour party in England) (he who draws his pen for one party must expect to make enemies of the other—Dryden) (who, born for the universe, narrowed his mind, and to party gave up what was meant for mankind—Goldsmith) Bloc implies a combination of persons or groups who otherwise differ in party or in interests for the sake of achieving a common and often temporary end; thus, in France and in Italy, a bloc is a combination of members of two or more political parties; in the United States, a bloc is a combination not of parties but of members of different parties who have a common end (the farm bloc formed by members from the agricultural states wishing to secure legislation helpful to their constituents) Faction frequently suggests a smaller body than party and commonly implies selfish ends and the use of unscrupulous or turbulent means (so several factions from this first ferment work up to foam and threat the government—Dryden) (the Whigs and Tories in Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem never forwent national points with more zeal, to attend to private faction, than we have lately—Walpole) Ring is applicable to an exclusive, often more or less secret, combination for a selfish and often corrupt or criminal purpose (as the control of a market, of political patronage, or of distribution of narcotics) (the Tweed Ring was in control of New York City politics for six years) Innocent women were frequently framed by a ring consisting of police officers, stool pigeons, bondsmen and lawyers—Ploscowe) Anna *monopoly, corner, pool, cartel, syndicate, trust

Combine vb 1 unite, associate, link, conjoin, *join, connect, relate

Anna *mix, mingle, commingle, blend, fuse, amalgamate: consolidate, unify (see compact vb)

Ant separate—Con part, divide, sever, sunder, divorce (see separate): *detach, disengage

2 *unite, cooperate, concur, conjoin

Anna coalesce, merge (see mix): coincide, *agree, concur

Combine n *combination, party, bloc, faction, ring

Anna see those at combination

combustible adj Combustible, inflammable, flammable, incendiary, inflammatory, which are not close synonyms, since they apply to different types of nouns, are comparable because they mean showing a tendency to catch or be set on fire. Combustible applies chiefly to material which is of such a nature that it catches fire easily and usually burns quickly (excelsior is very combustible) (a combustible roof of pine shingles) Inflammable applies to materials ready to flame up at the slightest cause. The term, however, suggests more than the ease with which a thing burns, for it stresses a capacity for flaring up dangerously (the fire soon gutted the attic, which had been full of old papers and other inflammable materials) Inflammable as applied to persons, their natures, their
hearts, and their temperaments stresses the danger as well as the ease in arousing them (as to anger, excitement, or passion); it applies also to a subject or situation that can induce such arousal (the vision of a single young woman is said to have overcome the inflammable monk—Meredith) (Don't trouble about it, Clym. They may get to be friends.” He shook his head. “Not two people with inflammable natures like theirs”—Hardy) A very inflammable subject to be raised at election time Flammable is equivalent to inflammable and used chiefly in respect to materials dangerously likely to flare up or explode (gasoline is a highly flammable substance requiring special care in storage and transportation) Incendiary not only stresses a capacity for starting up or causing a conflagration but a malicious intent to do the same. Therefore the term applies not only to something that is designed to cause fire but to fire that is caused by intent or design (an incendiary bomb) (an incendiary conflagration) The term may be extended to something (as an act, practice, speech, or publication) that tends to arouse something (as sedition, evil passions, or violence) that acts as destructively or disastrously as fire (incendiary ideas) (an incendiary policy) While the adjective is seldom applied to persons, the noun incendiary chiefly, except when used as short for such phrases as incendiary bomb, designates a person who maliciously or willfully sets fire to a building or other property or who deliberately incites quarrels, unrests, sedition, or violence. Inflammatory, like incendiary, emphasizes the power to cause a fire, especially in the hearts or minds of people, but it carries less suggestion of a malicious intent (taking to politics, he became a Chartist, and was found to be a capable inflammatory speaker—Lucas) this gentleman ... having been imprisoned fourteen months for inflammatory language anent the Federal Government—Reipplier

**Come**, burnable (see corresponding verb at burn): kindling, firing, igniting (see light vb) come, arrive are comparable because both basically mean to get to one point from another more or less distant in space, time, relation, or development. *Come (with to)* and *arrive (with at)* are synonyms of reach (see reach); thus, one *comes* to or *arrives* at the end of a journey; one *comes* to or *arrives* at a decision. *Come* is one of the elementary intransitive verbs of motion, always implying movement toward, and may be used wherever such movement, actual or apparent, physical or spiritual, is implied. *Arrive*, however, stresses rather the reaching of and the end of movement toward a destination. *Come*, therefore, may be used with or without the implication that the destination is reached; *arrive* consistently carries that implication (I can see them *coming*) (they will *arrive* at three o'clock) When used in reference to things that move or progress without an agent or agency (as because of some law of nature or in obedience to some inner law or principle) *come* is usually preferable unless a definite end or termination or, often, fulfillment (as of expectation) is suggested (the days *come* and go) (at last the day of departure *arrived*) (the longed-for breeze was slow in *coming*, but when it *arrived* it brought joy to all) (success never *comes* to those who await it idly; it usually *arrives* only after years of patient endeavor) *Come* often suggests or requires statement of a source of place from which a thing has issued; *arrive*, on the other hand, often suggests or requires a statement of an end, a goal, or a climax to a progress or development (the family *comes* from peasant stock) (the family *arrived* socially when the grandfather of the present baron was elevated to the peerage) In such cases *come* and *arrive* are not interchangeable, for the former is loosely synonymous with issue, emanate, originate, or arise and the latter with succeed, triumph, or (when followed by at) with acquire.

*A* approach, near: rise, arise, *spring*, proceed, emanate, issue, stem

**Ant** go — *Con* leave, depart, quit, withdraw, retire (see go)

**Comely** adj fair, pretty, bonny, handsome, lovely, *beautiful*, good-looking, beauteous, pulchritudinous

**Ant** homely

**Comestibles** provisions, viands, victuals, *food*, feed, provender, fodder, forage

**Comfort** n ease, *rest*, repose, relaxation, leisure

*A* contentedness or content, satisfaction (see corresponding adjectives under satisfy vb): enjoyment, joy, fruition, *pleasure*: relief, assuagement, alleviation (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE)

**Ant** discomfort — *Con* *distress*, suffering, misery

**Comfort vb** Comfort, console, solace are comparable when meaning to give or offer a person help or assistance in relieving his suffering or sorrow. **Comfort**, the homelier, more intimate word, suggests relief afforded by imparting positive cheer, hope, or strength as well as by the lessening of pain and distress (he hath sent me . . . to comfort all that mourn—Isa 61:1-2) (a mother comforts her sobbing child) but there was about him a certain reserve, and she dared not *comfort* him, not even speak softly to him (D. H. Lawrence) **Console**, the more formal term, emphasizes rather the alleviation of grief or the mitigation of the sense of loss than the communication of pleasure; it frequently implies some definite source of relief (the presence of his friend *consolated* him) (console oneself by philosophic reflections) (if you really want to *console* me, teach me rather to forget what has happened—Wilde) (his father's letter gave him one of his many fits of melancholy over his own worthlessness, but the thought of the organ *consolated* him—Butler d.1902) **Solace** frequently suggests relief from distressful emotions (as weariness, despondency, chaplain, loneliness, or dullness) rather than from grief or pain, and often, specifically, a lift of the spirits; the source of that relief is more often things than persons (solace oneself with books) (though you rail against the bar and the imperfect medium of speech, you will be *solaced*, even in your chaplain, by a sense of injured innocence—Cardozo)

**Ant** delight, gladden, rejoice, *please*: *relieve*, assuage, mitigate, alleviate: refresh, restore (see renew)

**Ant** afflict: bother — *Con* *distress*, trouble: torment, torture, *try* (see afflict): vex, *annoy*, irk

**Comfortable, cozy, snug, easy, restful** are comparable when they mean enjoying or providing conditions or circumstances which make for one's contentment and security. **Comfortable** usually implies the absence of whatever gives trouble, pain, or distress in any degree or of any kind to the body or mind (a comfortable chair) (a comfortable room both in summer and in winter) (he is never *comfortable* except in his own home) (a makeshift arrangement not altogether agreeable or *comfortable* for either of us—Ellis) but it often applies to persons or things that encourage in one serenity of mind, tranquillity, a sense of well-being, or complacency (the family was left in comfortable circumstances) (a *comfortable*, motherly woman) (diverted from senseless controversy into comfortable monologue—Jan Struther) Cozy suggests comfortableness derived from warmth, shelter, ease, and friendliness (a *cozy* fire) (a *cozy* armchair) (close all the windows and doors so as to make the house *cozy*) (the *cozy* talk by the fireside—J. R. Green) (Wimsey gratefully took in the *cozy* sitting room, with
comical
comic
adj
comical, laughable, farcical, funny, droll, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous

vb
command

— Con (see also NEAT) suggests the state or the frame of mind of one who has as much room, or responsibility, or freedom, or money as is essential to his well-being but no more than he actually needs to be cozy, content, or secure; the term usually connotes such comfort as is associated with small but comfortable quarters as distinguished from those that are spacious or with a quiet, restricted, but pleasant way of life as distinguished from one where there is little time for one's own interests or where one is driven by ambitions or restlessness; often, specifically, the term emphasizes protection from the elements, and warmth and dryness, as contributions to one's comfort (all the gypsies and showmen...lay snug within their carts and tents—Hardy)

<s>Arnold the heartbroken outcast from the snug house-hold of faith, wearing in spiritual wastes of sand and thorns—Montague</s>

Easy (see also EASY 2) implies relief from all that makes for discomfort or hardships, with the result that one is happy or free from care, anxiety, trouble, or doubt (he is in easy circumstances for the first time in his life) (she could now enjoy herself with an easy conscience) (people of the right sort are never easy until they get things straight—Mrs. Struthers—Con)

Ana
comforting, consoling, solacing (see COMFORT vb)
content or contented, satisfied (see under SATISFY)
grateful, welcome, agreeable, gratifying (see PLEASANT)
Ant
uncomfortable: miserable —Con (see MISERABLE): distressing, troubling (see TROUBLE vb)
annoy ing, vexing, irritating, bothering (see ANNOY)

comic
adj
comical, laughable, farcical, funny, droll, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous

Ana
diverting, amusing, entertaining (see AMUSE):
*witty, humorous, facetious: grotesque, antic, *fantastic
Ant
tragic —Con (see TERRORISM): distressing, troubling (see TROUBLE vb)
an noying, vexing, irritating, bothering (see ANNOY)

comical
comical, farcical, ludicrous, ridiculous, *laughable, risible, droll, funny

Ana
absurd, silly, *foolish: jocular, jocose, humorous (see WITTY): waggish, impish, roguish, sportive (see PLAYFUL): deriding or derisive, ridiculing, mocking (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

Ant
pathetic —Con (see TERRIBLE): distressing, troubling (see TROUBLE vb)

comity
amity, goodwill, *friendship

Ana
*association, society: companionship, comradeship (see base words at ASSOCIATE): concord, accord, *harmony

command
vb
Command, order, bid, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge mean to issue orders to someone to give, get, or do something. Command and order agree in stressing the idea of authority, command implying its more formal and official exercise (the chairman commands the undertaking—Kefauver) and order, its more peremptory, sometimes even arbitrary, exercise: thus, a king, a military officer, the captain of a ship, commands; a landowner orders a trespasser off his premises; one is apt to resent being ordered, except by those who have a right to command. But order is used by a physician with no such connotation (the doctor ordered outdoor exercise) Bid in this sense is usually somewhat literary or informal; it usually implies an ordering or directing (often with a suggestion of peremptoriness) directly and by speech (she bade him be seated) (he seized him by the collar and sternly bade him cease making a fool of himself—Shaw) Enjoin adds to the idea of authority the implication of urging or warning; direct and instruct suggest especially business, official, or diplomatic relations, direct being perhaps the more mandatory, instruct the more formal, of the two (a parent enjoins his children to be quiet) (the church enjoin certain duties) (the editor directed his secretary to admit no callers during a conference) (instruct an assistant to gather certain information) (St. Peter...enjoins us to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason for the faith that is in us—Lowes) (why otherwise does it [the Constitution of the United States] direct the judges to take an oath to support it?—John Marshall) Charge, chiefly a literary term, implies not only enjoining but the imposition of a task as a duty (Mrs. Yeobright gave him the moneybags, charged him to go to Misstover—Hardy) (Gustavus...considered himself charged by God with the defense of the true Lutheran faith—Barr)

Ana
control, manage, *conduct, direct: exact, *demand, require: *force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige
Ant comply, obey

command n
1 Command, order, injunction, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate mean a direction, that must or should be obeyed, to do or not do something. Command imputes to the person who issues the directions either unquestioned authority (the commands of a general) or complete control of a situation (the command of the intruder he held up his hands) The term usually connotes either peremptoriness or imperativeness (at the command of his father he returned to the house—Lowe) (every request of hers he interpreted as a command)

encroachment to some extent there is by every command or prohibition—Cardozo)

Order is not always clearly distinguishable from command; it is, however, the preferred word for directions to subordinates that are instructions as well as commands; in such use it commonly implies explicitness in detail (the troops were awaiting orders from headquarters) (in response to the principal's order, the pupils maintained silence while passing through the corridors) (refusal to recognize the authority of the emperor amounted to a refusal to take orders—Pharr)

Injunction carries a weaker implication of imperativeness than the preceding words except in legal use, where it is applied to a court order commanding a person to do or more often to refrain from doing something on the penalty of being adjudged guilty of contempt of court. In general use the word stresses admonition without losing the implication of expected or demanded obedience (the high injunction not to taste that fruit—Milton)

<she carefully obeyed the injunctions laid upon her by her physician> (delivered stern injunctions)

Bidding, chiefly literary, usually implies the status of master or parent in the person who issues the orders and therefore stresses expected obedience or the fact of being obeyed (thousands at his bidding speed—Milton) (at the ghostly bidding of the cloud, the surly summons of the sun—Aiken)

Behest is also distinctly literary and equivalent to bidding in its implications (do his master's high behest—Scott) (during the war, it is true, at the behest of government agencies, many writers worked into their serials incidents and dialogue of a worthy sociological nature—Thurber)

Mandate (see also MANDATE 2) carries the strongest implication of imperativeness of all of these words, for it denotes a command or order issued by a
commend, 
commemorate
vb
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

judicious or restrained praise, but it suggests as its motive criticize, reprehend, censure: admonish —

praise, laud, extol, eulogize, acclaim —

flattery in the manner or words of praise the visitors complimented, and Madame Defarge knew enough been so complimented, and Madame Defarge knew enough thing police commissioner publicly commended the —Skinner) Applaud implies an enthusiastic expression of approval; it usually applies to a command or authoritative judgment uttered by an inner voice (as of the conscience) or formulated in a principle or law the government which has a right to do an act, and has imposed on it the duty of performing that act, must, according to the dictates of reason, be allowed to select the means—John Marshall (a suspicion that . . . the moral law speaks in equivocal tones to those who listen most scrupulously for its dictates—L. P. Smith) 

command adds to it to men of other times and commend it to men of other times and places—Cohen) Recommend adds to commend the implication of offering something that is praised for acceptability, use, or employment by another the physician recommended the treatment of bruises with alternating cold and hot applications his present employers highly recommended him to his prospective employers a spare hour, I can recommend no more diverting pursuit —Skinner) Applaud implies an enthusiastic expression of approval; it usually suggests approval by a large number of persons or by the public the president was applauded for his closing of all banks in the crisis everybody applauded the mayor’s proposed entertainment, especially when it became known that he meant to pay for it all himself—Hardy) Compliment stresses either courtesy in the commendation or, sometimes, flattery in the manner or words of praise the visitors to the convention complimented the townpeople on the arrangements made for their comfort ("Marvelous cognac this, madame!") It was the first time it had ever been so complimented, and Madame Defarge knew enough of its antecedents to know better—Dickens

commercial adj Commercial, mercantile are comparable when they mean of, relating to, or dealing with the supplying of commodities. Commercial is the more widely applicable term: it may be used in reference to anything which has to do with the buying or selling of commodities for profit, with their transportation, and sometimes, even, with their production, or with business affairs in general; thus, a commercial transaction is any piece of business involving a buyer and seller of goods or property that is for the financial benefit of the seller; commercial law deals with all matters (as contracts, negotiable papers, liens, payment of debts, and partnerships) that have reference to business; a commercial attaché is, in the United States, an officer of the Department of Commerce attached by the Department of State to an embassy or legation in a country where trade is important. Also, commercial is used to describe whatever has for its aim financial profit or is guided by the methods or practices of business the commercial theater) (commercial aviation) (commercial sports) (commercial radio programs are programs paid for by advertisers) Mercantile is often used interchangeably with commercial with little difference in meaning; thus, a mercantile transaction is not ordinarily distinguishable from a commercial transaction, nor mercantile law from commercial law. The term, however, more often suggests actual buying and selling (the occupation of a merchant) than commerce in general including production and transportation and is therefore more restricted in its application; thus, a commercial house is a business or company engaged in foreign or domestic commerce: a mercantile house is a business, usually wholesale, engaged in merchandising (mercantile agent) (mercantile establishment).

commingle mingle, blend, *mix, merge, coalesce, fuse, amalgamate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
commit vb 1 Commit, entrust, confide, consign, relegate are comparable when they mean to assign to a person or place for some definite end or purpose (as custody or safekeeping). Commit is the widest term; it may express merely the general idea of delivering into another's charge <commit the management of an estate to an agent> <on landing in Boston in 1872, my father and I were able safely to commit our trunk to the expressman—Santayana> or it may have the special sense of a transfer to a superior power or to a place of custody <into thine hand I commit my spirit—Ps 31:5> <we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust—Book of Common Prayer> 

2 committed, entrusting, confiding, conveying, entrusting (see corresponding verbs at DEPLORE): pitifulness, piteousness, pitiableness (see corresponding adjectives at PITIFUL)

Ant ruthlessness, pitilessness

commission vb *authorize, accredit, license


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people than does vulgar, which even in this sense nearly always carries derogatory connotations (as of inferiority or coarseness) (<i>a popular song</i> <i>dancing</i> . . . of all the arts . . . most associated in the popular mind with pleasure —<i>Ellis</i> <i>this mode of interpreting Scripture is fatal to the vulgar notion of its verbal inspiration—</i><i>Arnold</i> <i>a popular instead of an accurate and legal conception of what the word monopolize in the statute means—</i><i>Justice Holmes</i> <i>we were reluctant to expose those silent and beautiful places to vulgar curiosity—</i><i>Cather</i> <i>Ana</i> prevalent, *prevailing, rife, current: *usual, customary: *plentiful, abundant, ample <i>Ant</i> uncommon: exceptional —<i>Con</i> rare, *infrequent, occasional: singular, unique, peculiar, odd, *strange <i>commonplace</i> n <i>Commonplace, platitude, truism, bromide, commonplace</i> which fit them for narrower use in specific senses. <i>Commotion</i> designates great physical, mental, or emotional excitement, it indirectly suggests <i>commotion</i> represents mental or emotional excitement, it indirectly suggests movement in heightening the ideas of unrest and perturbation (eighteen years of <i>commotion</i> had made the majority of the people ready to buy repose at any price—Macaulay) <i>Agitation</i>, on the other hand, suggests a stirring up or a shaking up comparable physically to that accompanying a fermentation or to boiling or seething (<i>the agitation of the earth's crust during an earthquake</i> Usually it describes strong emotional excitement that, whether controlled or not, causes distress or pain to the person involved (<i>that sickening agitation of the heart which arises from hope deferred—</i><i>Scott</i> <i>‘Pray,’ said Mr. Lorry . . . bringing his left hand . . . to lay it on the suppuratory fingers that clasped him in so violent a tremble, ‘pray control your agitation’—</i><i>Dickens</i>) It may also refer to the stirring up of men's minds and emotions on some usually emotionally charged matter or question (<i>political agitation by foreign agents</i> <i>an anti-Catholic agitation</i> that was marked by the destruction of churches—<i>Amer. Guide Series: N. Y.</i> <i>Tumult</i> may mean, generally, either commotion or agitation that is characterized by uproar, din, or great disorder (<i>the tumults and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart—</i><i>Kipling</i>) It also may apply specifically to a riot or fracas or to an insurrection or rebellious outbreak (<i>the tumults and disorders of the Great Rebellion had hardly been subdued—</i><i>T. S. Eliot</i>) but it is equally applicable to other things (as a violent disturbance of the elements or an agitating conflict of passions) that suggest in combination noise, disorder, and intense excitement (<i>thunders and lightens . . . what tumult's in the heavens?—</i><i>Shak</i>) (<i>the gods approve the depth, and not the tumult, of the soul—</i><i>Wordsworth</i>) <i>Turmoil</i> implies a state where nothing is at rest and where everything seethes with excitement. It is applicable to a state of physical commotion or to a condition of mental or emotional agitation, but in all cases it carries a suggestion of harassment and of ferment from which there seems no escape. In fact, it often connotes the point of view of a person who loves peace and hates disturbance (<i>her life had been calm, regular, monotonous . . . now it was thrown into . . . indescribable turmoil—</i><i>Bennett</i>) (<i>the child's inner life is often a turmoil of terrors and anxieties of which his parents know almost nothing—</i><i>Inge</i>) (<i>the great peace beyond all this turmoil</i> and fret compassed me around—<i>L. P. Smith</i>) <i>Turbulence</i> implies an excitement that cannot be easily put down or allayed; it may suggest impetuosity, insubordination, unruliness, lack of discipline, or comparable qualities in inanimate things (<i>yon foaming flood seems motionless as ice; its dizzy turbulence eludes the eye, frozen by distance—</i><i>Wordsworth</i>) (<i>it required all the personal influence of the king to check the turbulence of his irritated followers—</i><i>Pattison</i>) (<i>the rest exhibited plenty of the turbulence of passion, but none of the gravity of thoughtful emotion—</i><i>Quiller-Couch</i>) <i>Confusion</i> (see also <i>confusion</i>) applies chiefly to a mental state which may affect one person or many and which is marked by such a condition that the mind is at sea and unable to function; usually it suggests perturbation and inability to think coherently often as a result of embarrassment or discomfort (<i>the crown was slowly emerging from the mental confusion which followed the fall—</i><i>Ellis</i> <i>to cover his confusion, he half turned away—</i><i>Anderson</i>) <i>Convulsion</i> and upheaval suggest large-scale violent activity, commotion, or agitation. More particularly <i>convulsion</i> implies a sudden, surging, confused, or spasmodic action (as in the earth's crust, the individual's mind, or the body politic) (<i>flourishing cities were demolished by the earth's convulsion—</i><i>Martín
commune

Gardner: 'a convulsion of wild laughter' (the vast social convulsions of a continent in travail—Niebuhr) while upheaval implies a violent and forceful thrusting that results in a heaving up or overthrowing (an emotional upheaval as shattering as an earthquake—Gough) (there had also been social upheavals before the Reformation—J. R. Lowell)

Ana hubbub, racket, *din, uproar, pandemonium: *motion, movement: *stir, bustle, flurry, ado

Con calmness or calm, placidity, tranquillity (see corresponding adjectives at Calm): quietness or quiet, silence or stillness (see corresponding adjectives at Still)

commune vb *confer, consult, advise, parley, treat, negotiate

Ana converse, talk, *speak: *discuss, debate, argue communicable *infectious, contagious, catching

communicate, impact mean to convey or transfer something (as information, feelings, or qualities) neither tangible nor concrete; they differ chiefly in emphasis, communicate stressing the result, impart rather the process, of the transfer. To communicate (the more general term) is to make common to both parties or objects involved the knowledge or quality conveyed: to impart is to share with another what is regarded as primarily one's own <his courage communicated itself to his men> <the smoke imparted its odor to his clothes> <teaching is essentially an imparting of one's knowledge or skill to others> <I wonder do we ever succeed really in communicating our thoughts to one another—Shaw> (you are worth to society the two marriages with the Dutch Vandergraves had consolidated these qualities of thrift and handsome living—Wharton)

Unify implies a union of heterogeneous or homogeneous parts, elements, or individuals that results in the making or producing of something that has oneness and integrity and that stands by itself as a thing apart; the term does not, however, carry as strong an implication of solidarity as does consolidate but, on the other hand, it places stress on the integration of parts so that each does its appointed work or serves its own purpose to the benefit not only of itself but of the whole; thus, a dramatist unifies (not consolidates) the play he composes; after a civil war, the task of the government is to unify (rather than consolidate) a nation; the imagination of a great poet unifies a mass of images and impressions; the Homeric poems may have been originally a collection of narrative poems, but it seems likely that one person unified them <would now be technically possible to unify the world and abolish war—Russell> Concentrate usually carries the implication of bringing together a number of things that are scattered or diffused and of massing them around a point or center; <concentrate troops at places where an attack is expected> <concentrate one's efforts on a single piece of work> (the science of that age was all divination, clairvoyance . . . seeking in an instant of vision to concentrate a thousand experiences—Wharton) Concentrate may be extended to imply the fixing of the mind or attention on one thing so that all distracting objects or thoughts are eliminated <her excitement made her unable to concentrate on the task> A similar implication of eliminating whatever weakens, dilutes, or adulterates is found in technical use; thus, the chemist concentrates a solution by evaporating the solvent; a miner concentrates ores (i.e., separates the base from the precious metals) by a machine or by washing


compact vb Compact, consolidate, unify, concentrate are comparable when meaning to bring or gather together the parts, particles, elements, or units of a thing so as to form a close mass or an integral whole. Compact stresses the process more than the effect. It usually suggests a packing or pressing together of many things so as to form a closely arranged mass or a dense substance and may be used in reference both to material and immaterial things; sometimes it carries so strong an implication of solid formation or construction that it fundamentally means to build firmly or to strengthen <heat and lack of rain have compacted the soil> <compact matted fibers of wool and hair into felt by rolling and pressing> <sweet spring . . . a box where sweets compacted lie—Herbert> (it

is based on solid facts, may, is compacted of solid facts from the first sentence to the last—Times Lit. Sup.)

Consolidate implies a merging or uniting, often in an exceedingly close union, of previously distinct but usually homogeneous or complementary things. The term may take as its object such a whole as a nation, a people, or an empire or as a substance or material and may imply a process which promotes the binding together of the parts, elements, or individuals so that solidarity or solidity is achieved <war tends to consolidate a people> <organize state leagues for political action in order to consolidate the labor vote—Watkins> <rolling and cooling consolidated the newly laid asphalt into a firm smooth pavement> But consolidate can also take as its objects the units (as parts, elements, individuals, or groups) which have been brought together in close union (these organizations worked independently, and subsequently they were partially consolidated—Heiser) <two marriages with the Dutch Vandergraves had consolidated these qualities of thrift and handsome living—Wharton>)

Con conceal, *hide: *suppress, repress: withhold, hold, keep back, reserve (see Keep)

compact adj dense, *close, thick

Ana compressed, condensed, contracted (see Contract vb): concentrated, consolidated, compacted (see Compact vb): solid, *firm, hard: *tight

Con *loose, slack: diffuse, prolix, verbose, *wordy: versing, talking (see Speaking): *news, tidings, advice, information

compact noun a thousand experiences—Wharton) Concentrate usually carries the implication of bringing together a number of things that are scattered or diffused and of massing them around a point or center; <concentrate troops at places where an attack is expected> <concentrate one's efforts on a single piece of work> (the science of that age was all divination, clairvoyance . . . seeking in an instant of vision to concentrate a thousand experiences—Pater) Concentrate may be extended to imply the fixing of the mind or attention on one thing so that all distracting objects or thoughts are eliminated <her excitement made her unable to concentrate on the task> A similar implication of eliminating whatever weakens, dilutes, or adulterates is found in technical use; thus, the chemist concentrates a solution by evaporating the solvent; a miner concentrates ores (i.e., separates the base from the precious metals) by a machine or by washing


Con dissipate, disperse, *scatter: separate, part, divide

compact noun Pact, entente, convention, concordat, treaty, cartel, *contract, bargain

companionable *social, cooperative, convivial, gregarious, hospitable

Ana friendly, neighborly, *amicable: *amiable, obliging, complaisant, good-natured: sociable, affable, *gracious, cordial

Con uncongenial, unsympathetic (see Inconsonant): reserved, taciturn, uncommunicative (see Silent)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
compassion, ken, purview

**Analogous words**
- compendium
- compendious summary, pithy, succinct, *concise, terse
- compelling

**Contrasted words**
- tenderness, compassionateness, responsiveness, warmheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at TENDER)
- mercy, charity, grace, lenity, clemency

**Contrasted words**
- indifference, aloofness, unconcern (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)
- merciless, unrelenting, relentless, implacable

**Compatible words**
- compatible
- congruous, *consonant, consistent, congruous

**Compendium**
- compendious
- digest, abridged, abbreviated, shortened (see SHORTEN)

**Compensate**
- compensate vb 1 Compensate, counterbalance, balance, offset, counterbalance, counterpoise are comparable when meaning to make up for or to undo the effects of.

**Compendium**
- aperçu
- compendious summary, pithy, succinct, *concise, terse

**Compell**
- *force, coerce, constrain, oblige

**Compelling**
- impel, drive, *move: *command, order, enjoin

**Compendious**
- extraneous

**Compassionate**
- tender, sympathetic, warmhearted, warm, responsive

**Compassion**
- pitty, pitiful, piteous: merciful, *forbearing, clement
- humane: benevolent, *charitable

**Competent**
- competent

**Compatible**
- compatible
- congruous, *consonant, consistent, congruous

**Compat**
- compat, *close: condensed, contracted (see CON-}

**Compassion**
- tender, sympathetic, warmhearted, warm, responsive

**Compat**
- compact, *close: condensed, contracted (see CON-}

**Con**
- indifference, aloofness, unconcern (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)
- merciless, unrelenting, relentless, implacable, *grim:

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Democracy—Schlesinger b. 1917)

*Anna* self-assured, self-confident, self-possessed, assured, confident (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE); conceited, egotistic, egotistic (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT); proud, vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE n)

**Con** *humble, modest: diffident, *shy

**complaint** ailment, *disease, disorder, condition, affection, malady, distemper, syndrome

**complaisant** obliging, good-natured, *amiable

**complement**

Complement, supplement are comparable both as nouns meaning one thing that makes up for a want or deficiency in another thing and as verbs meaning to supply what is needed to make up for such a want or deficiency. **Complement** implies a completing; it may suggest such a relation between two things or two groups of things that if they are put together they form a whole, or the full number, amount, or quantity necessary for a given purpose; thus, a grammatical complement is a word or phrase which must be added to a predicate if the latter is to make a definite assertion (as in "he feels well," free in "to set him free," of no use in "it proved of no use") (bought a farm complete with its complement of implements and livestock) (you need two more chairs to complement those you already have in the room). However, the term even more often suggests such disparity in two things that what is supplied by either one is lacking in the other, with the result that their actual or theoretical combination gives a completeness that constitutes or approaches perfection (had found someone whose . . . masculinity was the very complement of his own fragile graces—Horace Gregory) (no adequate conception of the pictorial art of Asia can be attained without taking account of these wonderful works [of Japanese figure painting], complementing, as they do, the philosophic and poetic art which culminated in the Chinese painting of the Sung era—Binyon) (the chief products of Belgium and the Netherlands appeared to complement more than to duplicate one another—Valentine) **Supplement** implies an addition to something relatively complete but capable of improvement, enrichment, or enhancement by such an addition; thus, a supplement to a newspaper (often, a "book supplement" or "literary supplement") is an additional section which enriches the character of the issue. Usually the term means exactly this (a year of foreign travel is an excellent supplement to a college education) (supplement a work with an index) (the detailed study of history should be supplemented by brilliant outlines—Russell) Sometimes, however, the term carries the implication of needless addition (the policy of apartheid is only a political supplement to an economic policy—Ross) Sometimes, on the other hand, it comes close to complement in suggesting essential differences or a need of combination if perfection is to be attained (physics, history, and religion have their different valuations of experience—Russell) A complete philosophy would find room for all and would show how they supplement each other—Inge (the settle, which is the necessary supplement to a fire so open that nothing less than a strong breeze will carry up the smoke—Hardy)

**Anna** counterpart, correlate, *parallel

**complement** vb (see under COMPLEMENT n)

**Anna** complete, finish, *close

**complementary, complementary** *reciprocal, correlative, corresponding, convertible

**Anna** complementing, supplementing (see corresponding verbs under COMPLEMENT n); completing, finishing (see close vb); related, associated (see join)

**Con** *different, diverse, divergent, disparate: inconsiderant, incompatible, incongruous, inconsistent

**complete** adj *full, plenary, replete

**Anna** entire, *whole, total, all: *perfect, intact, whole, entire

**Ant** incomplete

**complete** vb finish, conclude, *close, end, terminate

**Anna** effect, fulfill, achieve, execute, accomplish, *perform, discharge

**Con** initiate, inaugurate, start, *begin, commence

**complex** adj Complex, complicated, intricate, involved, knotty are comparable when they mean having parts or elements that are more or less confusingly interrelated. Something is complex which is made up of so many different interrelated or interacting parts or elements that it requires deep study or expert knowledge to deal with it (the complex mechanism of a watch) (our general failure to grasp the need of knowledge and thought in mastering the complex modern world—Russell) (the complex details of naval, ground, and air activities—Roosevelt) Something is complicated which is so complex that it is exceedingly difficult to understand, solve, explain, or deal with (a complicated problem in mathematics) (his descriptions of the most complicated organic structures are astonishingly lucid—Huxley) Something is intricate which, because of the intertwining or interlacing of its parts, is perplexing or hard to follow out (the intricate tracery of an arabesque) (nature utilizes the sunshine, the air and the earth as raw materials for creating myriad perfumes, but so intricate are her processes . . . that man cannot follow precisely in her footsteps—Morris) (the economic situation is so complex, so intricate in the interdependence of delicately balanced factors—Dewey) Something is involved in which the parts are or are thought of as so intertwined or interwoven or so turned upon themselves as to be separated or traced out only with difficulty; the term, therefore, in reference especially to financial affairs, implies extreme complication or disorder (the involved patterns of heraldic knots) (an involved sentence or argument) (her husband . . . at his death . . . had left his affairs dreadfully involved—Austen) (public issues are so large and so involved that it is only a few who can hope to have any adequate comprehension of them—Dickinson) Something is knotty which is not only complicated but is so full of perplexities, difficulties, or entanglements that understanding or solving seems almost impossible (that brings up at last the knotty question, what is enough?—Shaw) (the knotty problems of a complex society—Parrington) The same object may often be regarded from more than one of the above points of view; a sailor’s knot may be intricate and complicated, as well as involved; a network of railroad tracks may be complicated as well as intricate, though not involved. **Anna** mixed, mingled, blended, merged, fused, amalgamated (see mix); composite, compound (see corresponding nouns at MIXTURE)

**Ant** simple (see pure)

**complex** n *system, scheme, network, organism, economy

**Anna** component.—Con member, *part, portion, piece: constituent, *element, factor: *item, particular, detail

**complexion** temperament, temper, *disposition, character, personality, individuality

**Anna** humor (see wit): *mood, humor, vein, temper: nature, kind, *type, sort

**compliance** acquiescence, resignation (see under COM-
<table>
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<tr>
<th>PLAIN</th>
<th>170</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>compliment</strong></td>
<td><strong>compunction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>yield, submit, defer, bow</em></td>
<td>Ant command, enjoin — Con <em>resist, withstand; thwart, balk,</em> frustrate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>component</strong></td>
<td><strong>convene</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>constituent, ingredient, <em>element, factor</em></td>
<td>Con persuasion, inducement (see corresponding verbs at INDUCE): *choice, option, election, preference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **compliment, acquiescent, resigned,** and their corresponding nouns **compliance, acquiescence, resignation,** are comparable when used in reference to a person, a mood, or a disposition that manifests acceptance (as of another's will or of something disagreeable or hard to endure). **Compliant** suggests a flexibility or lack of firmness in mood or temperament and frequently implies readiness to accept meekly and without question *educational methods that make children compliant* > (a naturally compliant race) **Acquiescent** implies acceptance without protest or rebellion; it often also connotes a temperamentally weak person. **Resigned** usually presumes a disposition or a temperament neither compliant nor acquiescent and implies deliberate but not necessarily happy acceptance and resolute forbearance from repining. **He had become resigned to his perpetual lamentation** — Meredith **Resignation** to inevitable evils is the duty of us all — Austen
| *obedience, docility, amenability, tractableness (see corresponding adjectives at OBEDIENT): submitting or submission, yielding, deferring or deference (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)* || *obedience, amenability, tractableness (see corresponding adjectives at OBEDIENT): submitting or submission, yielding, deferring or deference (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)* |
| **Ant frowardness — Con obstinacy, stubbornness (see corresponding adjectives at OBSTINATE)** | *Ant command, enjoin — Con *resist, withstand; thwart, balk, *frustrate |
| **Think** | *Ant command, enjoin — Con *resist, withstand; thwart, balk, *frustrate |
| **compliment** | **compliance** |
| praise addressed directly to a person. A compliment is a courteous expression of commendation and may be either sincere or merely formal > (in the noble dedication . . . to the Duchess of Ormond we have an example of Dryden’s most polished and magnificent style in elaborate personal compliment — Gosse > pay the craftsmen the compliment of making a study of their language — Ulliyett |
| Flattery implies insincerity in compliment or a play upon self-love or vanity by means of artful or obsequious praise > (when one is flagging, a little praise (if it can be had genuine and unadulterated by flattery) . . . is a cordial — Scott > it is better to leave genuine praise unspoken than to expose yourself to the suspicion of flattery — Shaw |
| Adulation adds to flattery the implications of servility or fulsomeness > (he fascinated others into believing him a superior being; feasted his self-esteem on their adulation until it swelled to monstrous proportions — Huxley |
| *encomium, tribute, panegyric, eulogy: praise, lauding or laudation, extolling or extollation (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE)* | *encomium, tribute, panegyric, eulogy: praise, lauding or laudation, extolling or extollation (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE)* |
| **Ant taunt — Con *affront, insult, indignity: deprecation, disparagement (see corresponding verbs at DECRY): criticism, censure, reprehension, reprobation, denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)** | *Ant taunt — Con *affront, insult, indignity: deprecation, disparagement (see corresponding verbs at DECRY): criticism, censure, reprehension, reprobation, denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)* |
| **compliment** | **compliance** |
| vb *commend, applaud, recommend* | Con *criticize, censure, reprehend, condemn, denounce: *decry, depreciate, disparage*
| *praise, laud, extol, eulogize, acclaim* | comply *obey, mind* |
| *accede, consent, agree, acquiesce (see ASSENT)* | *accede, consent, agree, acquiesce (see ASSENT)* |

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
compute | 171 | concern

*Anà regret, *sorrow: conscientiousness, scrupulousness or scrupulosity (see corresponding adjectives at UPRIGHT) 2 scruple, *qualm

Anà *hesitation, hesitancy: reluctance, disinclination (see corresponding adjectives at DISINCLINED)

*compute: calculate, reckon, estimate

Anà *count, enumerate, number: sum, total, tot, figure, cast, *add

*comrade: associate, companion, crony

Anà *friend, intimate, confidant: colleague, *partner, confederate, ally

*conation: will, volition

Anà *grant, allow

*grant, accord, award

Anà *yield, submit: surrender, resign, cede, *relinquish

Anà *hesitation, hesitancy: reluctance, disinclination (see RELINQUISH)

Anà *hesitation, hesitancy: reluctance, disinclination (see corresponding adjectives at INTENT)

Anà *秉持, *seek, *oblige

Anà *grant, allow

Anà *yield, submit: surrender, resign, cede, *relinquish

Ant *deny (see DECLINE)

conceive 1 Conceit, egotism, egoism, self-esteem, self-love, amour propre mean an attitude of regarding oneself with favor. Conceit implies a conviction of superiority in one or more lines of achievement or an overwhelmingly favorable opinion of one’s powers or accomplishments. It often connotes a failure to see oneself truly or an offensive, pompous manner. To have lost the godlike conceit that we may do what we will, and not to have acquired a homely zest for doing what we can, shows a . . . mind that . . . forswears compromise—Hardy. Conceit may puff a man up, but never prop him up—Ruskin. It was part of the author’s formidable conceit that he wrote only for the most learned of his professional colleagues—Galbraith. Egotism stresses the tendency to attract attention to one’s achievements. The word sometimes implies contempt for but more often an overriding of or disregard for others’ interests or opinions. A man and a boy of ten are perhaps better company than a man and a boy of fifteen. There’s so much less egotism between them—H. G. Wells. Egotism resides more in a kind of proud isolation, in a species of contempt for the opinions and aims of others—Benson. Egoism emphasizes concentration on oneself, one’s interests, and one’s needs. It seldom suggests a tendency to display oneself or to attract attention to oneself, but it commonly implies self-interest, especially as opposed to altruism or interest in others, as the inner spring of one’s acts or as the measure by which all things are judged—she preferred to be herself, with the egoism of women—Meredith. The essence of a self-reliant and autonomous culture is an unshakable egoism. It must not only regard itself as the peer of any other culture; it must regard itself as the superior of any other—Mencken. Self-esteem implies a proper and balanced pride in oneself oftentimes nothing profits more than self-esteem, grounded on just and right—Milton. Love, hope, and self-esteem, like clouds depart and come, for some uncertain moments lent—Shelley. Woman had the feeling of being a constructive factor in the economic process; thus she was provided with a sound basis for self-esteem—Horne.

Self-love usually implies an abnormal regard for oneself that excludes or overshadows all other interests or affections. On the other hand it occasionally designates that degree of love for oneself or interest in one’s well-being which is the proper and necessary complement of one’s love for others but ’tis not easy with a mind like ours . . . to bid the pleadings of self-love be still—Cowper. Self-love but serves the virtuous mind to wake, as the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake . . . friend, parent, neighbor, first it will embrace; his country next; and next all human race—Pope. Amour propre comes closer to self-esteem, for it stresses pride, usually pardonable pride, in oneself. It is therefore used when the idea of sensitivity to others’ opinions is indicated (the amour propre of the French people had been outraged—Holt & Chilton. She flattered his amour propre by asking that from his generosity which she could have taken as a right—Read.

Anà *pride, vanity, vainglory: arrogance, superciliousness, insolence (see corresponding adjectives at PROUD): complacency, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT)

Anà *humility —Con humbleness, modesty, meekness, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at HUMBLE): diffidence, shyness, bashfulness (see corresponding adjectives at SHY)

2 *caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, vagary, crotchet

conceive *think, imagine, fancy, realize, envisage, envision

Anà *consider, excogitate: speculate, cogitate, *think: ponder, ruminate, meditate

concentrate *center, focus, centralize

Anà *fix, set, settle: establish: muster, convoque, convene (see SUMMON)

2 *compact, consolidate, unify


Ant *dissipate —Con disperse, dispel, *scatter: dilute, *thin, attenuate, extenuate, rarely: *distribute, divide, dispense, deal

concentration *attention, study

Anà *intentness, raptness, engrossment, absorption (see corresponding adjectives at INTENT)

Ant *distraction

concept *idea, conception, notion, thought, impression

Anà *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment: theory, *hypothesis

Ant *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment: theory, *hypothesis

concern *affair, business, matter, thing

2 solicitude, *care, anxiety, worry

Anà *thoughtfulness, considerateness or consideration,
attentiveness or attention (see corresponding adjectives at THOUGHTFUL)

Ant unconcern —Con indifference, aloofness, inconsiderateness, uninterestedness, disinterestedness (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)

concerned solicitous, careful, anxious, worried (see under CARE)

Ana engrossed, absorbed; *intent; impressed, affected, influenced, touched (see AFFECT vb): troubled, distressed (see TROUBLE vb)

Ant unconcerned —Con *indifferent, incurious, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested; *negligent, neglectful, remiss

concerning regarding, respecting, *about

concert vb *negotiate, arrange

Ana *discuss, debate, argue: concur, cooperate, *unite, conjoin, combine

concession *allowance

Ana favor, boon; *gift: indulgence, leniency, tolerance, forbearance (see under FORBEARING)

conciliate *pacify, appease, placate, propitiate, mollify

Ana arbitrate, adjudicate (see JUDGE vb): mediate, intervene (see INTERPOSE): persuade, prevail (see INDUCE): calm, tranquilize (see corresponding adjectives at CALM): adjust, accommodate, reconcile, *adapt

Ant antagonize —Con *strange, alienate, disafflect: *provoke, excite, stimulate, pique; *excite, foment

concise, terse, succinct, laconic, summary, pithy, compendious are comparable when meaning briefly stated or presented or given to or manifesting brevity in statement or expression. A person is concise who speaks or writes briefly; a thing is concise that is brief because all superfluities have been removed and all elaboration avoided (a concise report) (I hadn’t known Jane spoke so well. She has a clever, coherent way of making her points, and concise in reply if questioned—Rose Macaulay) A thing is terse that is both concise and finished; the word often implies both pointness and elegance (pure, terse, elegant Latin—Edwards) {terse headlines are another part of the Tribune’s campaign to save newspaper—New Yorker} A person or thing is succinct that compresses or is marked by compression into the smallest possible space; the term suggests great compactness and the use of no more words than are necessary (succinct directions) (a strict and succinct style is that where you can take away nothing without loss, and that loss to be manifest—Ben Jonson) {a book must have a title, and today it must have a succinct title; therefore this book appears as Richelieu—Bello} A person or thing is laconic that is characterized by such succinctness as to seem curt, brusque, unperturbed, or mystifying (this laconic fool makes brevity ridiculous—Davenant) {I cannot exactly say with Caesar, “Veni, vidi, vici”; however, the most important part of his laconic account of success applies to my present situation—Byron} {laconic, these Indians—La Barre} A thing is summary that presents only the bare outlines or the main points without detail (a summary account of the year’s events under a few main headings) The term often suggests almost rude curtness or extreme generality (the terms I use here are exceedingly summary. You may interpret the word salvation in any way you like—James) {her diary and her letters continued to be mainly the swift and summary record of crowded and delightful days—Elitist} A thing is pithy that is not only terse or succinct but full of substance and meaning and therefore especially forcible or telling (pithy epigrams) {a brief, pithy, and, as it then appeared to him, unanswerable argument against the immortality of the human soul—Hawthorne} {his speech was blacksmith-sparked and pithy—Masefield}

Something is compendious which is concise, summary, and weighted with matter; the word suggests the type of treatment that distinguishes the typical compendium {a compendious account of the Reformation} {a compendious style} {the compendious scholarly words which save so much trouble—T. E. Brown}

Ana condensed, compressed (see CONTRACT vb): compacted, concentrated (see COMPACT vb): abridged, abbreviated, shortened (see SHORTEN): *brief, short

Ant redundant —Con prolix, diffuse, verbose, *wordy

conclude 1 *close, finish, terminate, end, complete

Ant open —Con commence, *begin, start, initiate, inaugurate

2 judge, gather, *infer, deduce

Ana reason, speculate (see THINK): *conjecture, surmise, guess

concluding adj *last, final, terminal, latest, ultimate

Ana closing, terminating, ending, finishing, completing (see CLOSE vb)

Ant opening —Con beginning, commencing, starting, initiating or initial, inaugurating or inaugural (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN)

conclusion judgment, deduction, inference (see under INFERENCE)

conclusive, decisive, determinative, definitive are comparable when they mean having or manifesting qualities that bring something to a finish or end. Conclusive applies most frequently to an argument, evidence, or reasoning that is irrefutable or so convincing that it compels certainty or certitude and puts an end to question or debate concerning a matter (there is one very convincing text which so strongly supports the tradition that it seems conclusive—Bello) {a very persuasive if not a conclusive argument—John Marshall} Decisive (see also DECIDED) applies to something (as an act, event, influence, or argument) that puts an end to controversy or competition, to vacillation, to uncertainty, or to insecurity; it often comes close in meaning to critical (the decisive battle of the war had not yet been fought) {my words had been decisive. At least they put an end to the discussion—London}

Determinative applies especially to matters (as decisions, judgments, operative causes, or influences) which put an end to uncertainty, wavering, and fluctuation and serve to give a fixed direction, goal, or character (as to a life, a course, or a movement) (the determinative influence in shaping his career) {an appeal covering similar merchandise is pending . . . which will be determinative of this issue—U. S. Treasury Decisions} Definitive, which is often opposed to tentative and, sometimes, to provisional, applies to whatever is put forth as final and as serving to make further questioning, dispute, uncertainty, or experiment needless or as serving to put an end to an unsettled state or condition where temporary measures have been necessary (the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States are definitive) {a definitive treaty} {a definitive edition of an author’s works is one that claims to have said the last word on all textual problems} {not until there is a settled and definitive world order can there be such a thing as a settled and definitive version of human history—Huxley}

Ana convincing, compelling, telling, cogent (see VALID): *certain, inevitable, necessary

Ant inconclusive —Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic: *theoretical, speculative, academic: *plausible, credible, specious

concot *contrive, devise, invent, frame

Ana *make, fabricate, fashion, manufacture: create, discover (see INVENT): conceive, envisage, envision

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
*think
concomitant adj coincident, concurrent, synchronous, simultaneous, contemporaneous, *contemporary, coeval, coetaneous

*due, rightful

condescend *stoop, deign

condition Condition, stipulation, terms, provision, proviso, reservation, strings are comparable when meaning something that is established or is regarded as the prerequisite of a promise or agreement being fulfilled or taking effect. Condition implies the laying down of something as a prerequisite which must be observed or satisfied if the validity of the whole agreement, promise, dispensation, or gift is not to be destroyed. *be to go to Oxford or Cambridge ... if he succeeded in gaining a scholarship ...

That was the condition his father had laid down—Archibald Marshall—and by the stipulation of the lessor was that if the lessee held over he held over for a year—Justice Holmes. A stipulation is a statement of conditions that are agreed to in the conduct of some affair—Kaufmann. Terms indicates conditions offered or agreed upon by one or both parties to a contract, agreement, or deal; thus, two parties may come to terms (i.e., may agree upon such a matter as work to be done, prices to be paid, or a division of property) ... only a general of repute could get recruits, and for that service he could make his own terms—Buchan. The terms of the lease are not harsh—Montague. A certain despair of her ever understanding ... terms of a contract—Mary Austin. Provision applies chiefly to a documentary statement which provides measures for the treatment of certain matters legally (the admission of Arkansas with a provision in its constitution forbidding the abolition of slavery without the consent of the slaveowners—L.B. Evans). According to the provisions of the constitution the state courts have no jurisdiction in this controversy. It may be specifically used of a clause or of a part of such a document or of a document that is comparable in laying down a condition or making a stipulation (into his will he wrote a provision that all of his children should accept his decision regarding the disposal of his property on pain of being disinherited). Proviso denotes a condition or a stipulation, especially one that is clearly stated and binding ... passions—Russell. It is because the practical businessman always forgets this proviso that he is such a hopeless idiot politically—Shaw. Reservation indicates a qualification or modification of the terms of an agreement or statement, often to cover contingencies. It may become a stipulation or proviso if the other party or parties concerned agree or acquiesce (she [Spain] had already in the treaty of Madrid promised to leave the Valettein, but with such reservations that she could still hold on—Belloc) or it may be avowed only to oneself (mental reservation) in evading the generally understood sense of a promise or an oath or other statement that one is impelled to make for reasons of necessity or expediency (the issues that won him most votes were issues that, at bottom, he didn’t believe in; there was always a mental reservation in his rhetoric—Mencken). Strings suggests strands which the maker of a promise, a proposal, or an offer keeps in his hands so that he may pull them back if what he lays down as a condition or imposes as a stipulation is not kept; the term usually denotes conditions or provisos, often unexpected or concealed, that may radically alter or even annul an agreement (make me a cash offer, with no strings).

Ana prerequisite, requisite, *requirement

2 *state, situation, mode, posture, status

Ana circumstance, *occurrence, event: occasion, antecedent, *cause: phase, aspect, side, facet, angle

3 *disease, disorder, affection, ailment, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome

condition vb *prepare, fit, qualify, ready

conditional *dependent, contingent, relative

Ana problematic, questionable (see doubtful): *provisional, tentative: subject, prone, *liable, open: *acci-
condolence *sympathy, pity, commiseration, compassion, ruth, empathy

%Ana consoling or consolation, solacing or solace, comforting (see corresponding verbs at comfort)

Con felicitation, congratulation (see corresponding verbs at felicitate)

condone *excuse, forgive, pardon, remit

%Ana disregard, overlook, forget, ignore (see neglect vb): *excutate, absolve, acquit

Con *punish, chastise, discipline, castigate, correct: condemn, denounce, censure, reprobate, reprehend (see criticize): *disapprove, deprecate

conduct n *behavior, deportment
Ana act, deed, *action: demeanor, mien, deportment, *bearing

convey, transmit, *carry

vb 1 escort, convoy, *accompany, attend, chaperon
Ana *guide, lead: convey, transmit, *carry

2 Conduct, manage, control, direct are comparable when they mean to use one's skill, authority, or other powers in order to lead, guide, command, or dominate persons or things. Conduct may imply the act of an agent who is both the leader and the person responsible for the acts and achievements of a group having a common end or goal (conduct an orchestra) (the minister conducts the prayer meetings) (Douglas conducted conferences and studies which led to a reorganization of the Stock Exchange—Current Bisg.) but often the idea of leadership is lost or obscured and the stress is placed on a carrying on by all or by many of the participants (debates, conducted seriously with a view to ascertaining the truth, could be of great value—Russell) (it was judged desirable for him to see how affairs were conducted in the United States—Heiser) Manage usually implies the handling, manipulating, or maneuvering of a person or persons or a thing or things so as to bring about a response or submission to one's wishes or attempts to use, guide, lead, or command (he manages the sailboat admirably) (he cannot manage himself, so how can he be expected to manage others) (manage a refractory child) (the boy . . . could not yet manage his “r’s” and “th’s” aright—Kipling) (the first condition for an artist in glass is to know how to manage blue—Henry Adams) (now do you leave this affair in my hands. Only tell me which woman it is and I will manage the affair—Buck) But manage is also often used to imply the action of one who is in authority and charged with handling the details of a business or industry or of one of its departments or of any complex or intricate system or organization (he manages a theater) (manage the financial affairs of a company) (the delight she would take in managing a real house, not in any sense as its drudge, but magnificently as its mistress—Dell) (manage a chain of restaurants) Control stresses the idea of authoritative guidance and suggests a keeping within set or desired bounds (as of accuracy, efficiency, propriety, or discipline); it implies a regulating or a restraining often by getting or keeping the upper hand (no attempt was made . . . to control by public authority the production and distribution of wealth—Dickinson) (in order to make its highways most useful, the business traffic upon them must be controlled—Justice Holmes) (he started things moving and then was caught up in the repercussions of the movement. He mounted an act as if it were a horse, found himself unable to control it—Cloete) (Sometimes, however, control implies little more than domination or the complete subjection of the dominated person or thing to one's will (he has learned to control himself) (the struggle between two strong-willed women to control one weak-willed man is the usual motive of the French drama in the nineteenth century—Henry Adams) (pirates at one time practically controlled the coasts of Florida—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.) (direct (see also command, direct 1, direct 2) implies a regulation of the activities (as of a group of persons) or of the course or courses to be followed; it carries no suggestion of a desire or aim to dominate, but of an intent or purpose to keep the persons or things involved straight, well organized, or properly administered (the president and trustees direct the affairs of the institution) (the architect directed the building of the bank) (direct American taste and mold the genius of the young republic—Brooks) (Ana supervise, oversee (see corresponding nouns at oversight): *govern, rule: engineer, pilot, steer, lead (see guide vb): operate, work, function (see act vb) 3 demean, deport, *behave, comport, acquit, quit

conduct *channel, canal, duct, aqueduct

confederacy, confederation federation, coalition, fusion, *alliance, league

confederate n 1 *partner, copartner, colleague, ally
Ana, Ant, & Con see those at ally

2 Confederate, conspirator, accessory, abettor, accomplice. As used in law these words all convey the idea of complicity or common guilt in a wrongful act. Confederate is the general term applied to any person who in conjunction with others intentionally contributes to the commission of an unlawful act, whether the act be a crime or a civil injury. For civil joint wrongdoers the specific term is conspirator. An accessory is neither the chief actor (principal) in an offense nor a person present at its performance but one who accedes to or becomes involved in its guilt by some act (as of instigating, encouraging, aiding, or concealing) either previous or subsequent to the commission of the offense. In the case of certain classes of offenses (as treason or misdemeanors) the law ordinarily recognizes no distinction between an accessory and a principal. An abettor is one who is actually or constructively present at the commission of the deed and contributes to it by moral or physical force. An accomplice is one who with criminal intent participates in the commission of an offense whether as principal, abettor, or accessory. Legal usage does not recognize the distinction made by laymen between principal and accomplice.

confer 1 bestow, present, *give, donate, afford
Ana accord, award, vouchsafe, *grant

2 Confer, commune, consult, advise, parley, treat, negotiate are synonyms when they are used intransitively and bear the meaning to carry on a conversation or discussion especially in order to reach a decision or settlement. Confer implies comparison of views or opinions and, as a rule, equality in those participating in the discussion (the executives confer weekly about important business affairs) (the Dauphin and his train approacheth, to confer about some matter—Shak) Commune, once a close synonym of confer, now is rare in this sense (we were communing on important matters—Walpole) In current use it usually implies spiritual intercourse (as in prayer or meditation or in a close union of minds and spirits) (there, sitting on the ground, the two [mother and child] would commune with each other by the hour—Hudson) Consult adds to confer the implication of seeking or taking counsel (the president will not make his reply to the ambassador until he has consulted with the cabinet) (the three powers would consult on how to ameliorate the internal political conflict—Vucinich) Advice often is not clearly distinguishable from consult except that it is more suitable for use regarding personal matters on which one seeks advice (before he makes his decision, he will...
confide

in his power of dealing with the difficulties of the

confidant

confession

in his power of dealing with the difficulties of the

Ant

confess

acknowledge, admit, own

Ant

converse, talk, speak: discuss, debate, argue

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*sure
Ant apprehensive: diffident — Con *fearful, afraid: nervous, uneasy, jittery (see IMPATIENT): shy, bashful, modest: dubious, *doubtful

confidential close, intimate, *familiar, chummy, thick
Ana *secret: trusty, tried, trustworthy (see RELIABLE)

configuration conformation, figure, shape, *form
Ana *outline, contour, silhouette, profile, skyline

confine vb circumscribe, *limit, restrict
Ana bind, tie: restrain, curb, inhibit, check: hamper, trammel, fetter, shackle, hog-tie, manacle: imprisonment, incarcerate, immure, intern, jail

confine n bound, *limit, end, term
Ana verge, edge, *border: circumference, periphery, compass

confirm 1 ratify
Ana *assent, consent, acquiesce, accede, subscribe: validate (see CONFIRM 2): sanction, *approve, endorse
Con reject, refuse, *decline

2 Confirm, corroborate, substantiate, verify, authenticate, validate mean to attest to the truth, genuineness, accuracy, or validity of something. Confirm and corroborate are both used in reference to something doubtful or not yet proved. Confirm, however, usually implies the resolving of all doubts typically by an authoritative statement or by indisputable facts (his failure to pay his debts confirmed their suspicion that he was not to be trusted) (there is a rumor—which cannot of course be confirmed—Gorell) (it was expected exquisitely gratified, superabundantly confirmed—Henry James) Corroborate suggests particularly the strengthening of one statement or piece of evidence by another (the bystanders corroborated his story) (In general the material illustrates and corroborates what has already become known from other sources—Kennan) Substantiate presupposes something needing to be demonstrated or proved and implies the offering of evidence sufficient to sustain the contention or to create a strong presumption in its favor (they were able to substantiate their claim to the property when the long-lost deed was found) (Darwin spent nearly a lifetime in gathering evidence to substantiate his theory of the origin of species) (no proof had to be brought forward to substantiate the claims they made—Anderson) Verify has for its distinctive implication the established correspondence of the actual facts or details to those that are given in an account or statement. When what is in question is a suspicion, a fear, or a probability, it can be verified only if the result, event, or fulfillment (the prediction of a severe storm was verified in every detail) (it [faith] begins as a resolution to stand or fall by the noblest hypothesis . . . ; but it is verified progressively as we go on—Inge) In more general use verify implies a deliberate effort to establish the accuracy or truth of something usually by comparison (as with ascertainable facts, an original, or a series of control experiments) (verify all the citations in a book) (statements of accounts due are not sent out until they are verified) (the careful scientist verifies every step in an experiment) (he has explored most of Trans-Jordan, verified biblical accounts by his findings and excavations—Current Bio.) (a government survey party was verifying the neighboring landmarks—Farphy) Authenticate presupposes question of a thing's genuineness or validity and therefore implies a demonstration of either of these by someone (as an expert or the proper authority) in a position to know or to determine (the collector refused to purchase the manuscript until it had been authenticated by experts) (the bank authenticated the signatures on the note) (an authenticated copy of the Declaration—Dumas Malone) Validate is more often used than authenticate when applied to legal papers requiring an official signature or seal before becoming valid (validate a passport) It is, however, also used when the soundness of a judgment, of a belief, or of a policy is in question (the expansion of demand which alone can validate the policy—Hobson) (he validated his conclusion when he demonstrated that his facts and his reasoning were correct in every detail)
Ana *support, uphold, back: vouch, attest, *certify
Ant deny: contradict — Con gainsay, traverse, impugn, contravene, negative (see DENY): confute, refute, controvert, *disprove

confirmed *inveterate, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted
Ana established, fixed, set, settled (see SET vb): hardened, indurated, callous

confiscate appropriate, *arrogate, usurp, preempt
Ana seize, *take, grab: condemn, proscribe (see SENTENCE vb)

conflagration *fire, holocaust

conflict n 1 combat, fight, *contest, affray, fray
2 strife, contention, dissension, difference, variance, *discord
Ana clash, collision, impingement, *impact: antagonism, hostility, *enmity: incompatibility, incongruousness, inconsistency, inconsonance, discordance (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT)
Ant harmony — Con consonance, concord, accord (see HARMONY): comity, amity, *friendship: compatibility, congruity (see corresponding adjectives at CONSONANT)

conflict vb 1 *resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, antagonize
2 *bump, clash, collide
Ana *contend, fight: *differ, vary, disagree
Ant accord — Con harmonize, *agree: *match, equal, touch, rival

confluence *junction, concourse

conform 1 *adapt, adjust, accommodate, reconcile
Ana *harmonize, tune, attune: *assent, accede, acquiesce: accept, *receive
2 *agree, accord, harmonize, correspond, square, tally, jibe
Ant diverge — Con *differ, disagree

conformation configuration, *form, shape, figure
Ana *structure, anatomy, framework, skeleton

confound 1 dumbfound, nonplus, bewilder, mystify, *puzzle, perplex, distract
Ana flabbergast, amaze, astound, astonish, *surprise: discomfit, faze, rattle, abash, *embarrass, disconnect
2 confuse, *mistake
Ana muddle, addle, *confuse: *mix, mingle
Ant distinguish, discriminate

confront vb *meet, face, encounter
Ana defy, beard, challenge, brave, dare (see FACE): oppose, withstand, *resist
Ant recoil from

confuse 1 Confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle, befuddle mean to throw one out mentally so that one cannot think clearly or act intelligently. Confuse usually implies intense embarrassment or bewilderment (you confuse me, and how can I transact business if I am confused? Let us be clear-headed—Dickens) Muddle often suggests stupefaction (as by drink) and usually implies blundering, aimless, but not necessarily unsuccessful attempts to deal with ideas, situations, or tasks beyond one's powers of analysis or one's capacity (a subject so abstruse as to muddle the brains of all but exceptional students) (we have
muddled through so often that we have come half to believe in a providence which watches over unintelligent virtue—Inge> Adde suggests staleness or emptiness of mind and resulting mental impotence (I have added my head with writing all day—Dickens> Fuddle and the more common befuddle imply confusion from or as if from titpling or indulgence in a drug that clouds the mind and makes one's thinking and speech absurdly incoherent (Shakespeare's Falstaff is most amusing when he is completely befuddled) (corridors, archways, recesses... combined to fuddle any sense of direction—Elizabeth Bowen) (perhaps his best would be a little better if he didn't befuddle his mind with... slander—Franky> Ana confound, bewilder, mystify, perplex, *puzzle: discomfit, discontent, faze, rattle (see EMBARRASS): fluster, flurry (see DISCOMPOSE)> Ant enlighten 2 *mistake, confound Ant differentiate

**confusion**

1 Confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, jumble, clutter, snarl, muddle are comparable when they mean the state or a condition in which things are not in their right places or arranged in their right relations to each other, or an instance of such a state or condition. Confusion suggests such mixing or mingling as obliterates clear demarcation or distinction; disorder (see also DISEASE) implies lack or more frequent disturbance or breach of due order or arrangement; thus, a busy worker might leave his desk in confusion with objects mingled together and no arrangement apparent to an observer, but a burglar searching it for money would probably leave it in disorder with contents thrown about and out of their normal (though not necessarily orderly) arrangement (the dark confusion of German history—Guérard> (mid the misery and confusion of an unjust war—Shelley> (cowardice has succeeded to courage, disorder to discipline—Dickinson> (our last chance to substitute order for disorder, government for anarchy—E. B. White> Chaos suggests an absolute or sometimes hopeless confusion suggestive of the ancient Greek conception of Chaos as the unorganized state of primordial matter before the creation of distinct and orderly forms; the term therefore more often implies innate lack of organization rather than disturbance of an existent order (the Essays of Montaigne... a chaos indeed, but a chaos swarming with germs of evolution—J. R. Lowell> When chaos does imply a disturbing, it usually suggests a reducing to the utter confusion of primordial matter (back not merely to the dark ages but from cosmos to chaos—Baruch> Disarray, more even than disorder, implies disarrangement; it is therefore preferable when the breaking up of order or discipline is to be suggested (the disarray into which society had been thrown by this deplorable affair made their presence in town more necessary than ever—Wharton> Jumble implies the mixing of incongruous things with resulting confusion (the house they lived in... was a heterogeneous architectural jumble—Meredith> Clutter implies confusion and crowding and often suggests a disagreeable or more or less messy state (Lord, what a mess this set is in! If there's one thing I hate above everything else... it's clutter—Millay> Snarl, basically applied to a tangle of filaments (as hairs or threads), implies confusion and entanglement and suggests great difficulty in unraveling and ordering (his affairs are in a snarl) (held up by a traffic snarl) Muddle (compare muddle at CONFUSE 1) also implies confusion and entanglement, but in addition it suggests the influence of bungling and a more or less hopeless condition (we both grumbled in a muddle—Dickens> the world's been confused and poor, a thorough muddle; there's never been a real planned education for people—H. G. Wells> Ana derangement, disarrangement, disorganization, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISORDER): *din, babel, pandemonium, hullabaloo: *anarchy, lawlessness Con ordering or order, systematization, organization (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): system, *method 2 *commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, convulsion, upheaval Ana disorder, disorganization, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISORDER): perturbation, agitation, disquiet, upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): discomfiture, embarrassment (see corresponding verbs at EMBARRASS)> Confute controvert, refute, *disprove, rebut Congeal vb *coagulate, set, curdle, clot, jelly, jell Ana solidify, *harden: *compact, concentrate, consolidate: cool, chill, freeze (see corresponding adjectives at COLD)> Con melt, *liquefy, deliquesce

**congenial** *consonant, consistent, compatible, congruous, sympathetic Ana companionable, cooperative, *social: sociable, genial, cordial, *gracious, affable: pleasing, *pleasant, agreeable Ant uncongenial: antipathetic (of persons); abhorrent (of tasks, duties)

Ana inherent, constitutional, ingrained: *native Con acquired (see GET): *accidental, adventitious Conglomerate, conglomeration agglomerate, agglomeration, *aggregate, aggregation Ana mass, heap, pile, stack (see under HEAP vb): accumulation, amassment, hoarding or hoard (see corresponding verbs at ACCUMULATE)> Congratulate *felicitate Con console, solace, *comfort: commiserate, condole with, pity (see corresponding nouns at SYMPATHY)> Congregate *gather, assemble, collect Ana swarm, *teem Ant disperse Congregation assembly, assemblage, gathering, collection (see under GATHER vb)> Ant audience, *following, public: *crowd, throng, press, crush Congruous compatible, congenial, *consonant, sympathetic, consistent Ana harmonizing or harmonious, according or accordant, corresponding or correspondent, agreeing or agreeable (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): seemly, proper (see DECOROUS): meet, appropriate, fitting, *fit Ant incongruous —Con incompatible, uncongenial, *inconsonant, discordant, discrepant

Conjectural hypothetical, suppositional, *supposed, suppositious, reputed, putative, purported Ana presumed, assumed, postulated (see PRESUPPOSE): *theoretical, speculative: alleged (see ADDUCE)> Con proved, demonstrated (see PROVE)> Conjecture vb Conjecture, surmise, guess are comparable as verbs, meaning to draw an inference from slight evidence, and as nouns, denoting an inference based upon such evidence. Conjecture implies formation of an opinion or judgment upon what is recognized as insufficient evidence (Washington conjectured that at least 300 of the enemy were killed—Amer. Guide Series: Pa> (mysteries which must explain themselves are not worth the loss of time which a conjecture about them takes up—Sterne> Surmise implies still slighter evidence, and exer-

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
cise of the imagination or indulgence in suspicion (what thoughts he had beseems not me to say, though some surmise he went to fast and pray—Dryden) (just how long the small multiplied impressions will take to break into surmise . . . nobody can tell—Quiller-Couch) (we are not told what their business was but we may surmise it was the fur trade—G. F. Hudson) Guess implies a hitting upon or an attempting to hit upon either at random or from insufficient, uncertain, or ambiguous evidence (you would never guess from meeting them that anyone would pay them for their ideas—Rose Macaulay) (my daughter Lucie is . . . such a mystery to me; I can make no guess at the state of her heart—Dickens)

**Ana** infer; gather, conclude, judge, deduce: speculate, reason, *think: imagine, fancy, conceive (see THINK)

**Con** ascertain, determine, learn, *discover: *prove, demonstrate, test, try

**conjecture** n surmise, guess (see under CONJECTURE vb)

**Ana** theory, *hypothesis: *opinion, view, belief, sentience: inference, deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under INFER)

**Ant** fact

**conjoin** 1 *join, combine, unite, connect, associate, relate

2 combine, *unite, concur, cooperate

**conjugal** *matrimonial, marital, connubial, nuptial, hymenal

**Ant** single

**connect** *join, link, associate, relate, unite, conjoin, combine

**Ana** attach, *fasten, affix: articulate, concatenate, *integrate

**Ant** disconnect—Con sever, sunder, divorce, *separate, part, divide: *detach, disengage

**connosseur** dilettante, *aesthete

**Ana** epicure, gourmet, bon vivant: *expert, adept

**Con** amateur, tyro, dabbler

**connotation** denotation (see under CONNOTE)

**Ana** suggestion, implication, intimation (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST): evoking consonant

**Ant** fact

**conquer, defeat, vanquish, overcome, surmount, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overthrow, rout, beat, lick all mean to get the better of or to bring into subjection whether by the exercise of force or of strategy. Conquer and defeat are perhaps the most general. Defeat usually signifies merely the fact of getting the better of or winning against and may imply no more than a temporary checking or frustrating (the enemy were successfully defeated) (he defeated the older man in the tennis tournament) (a distortion of the news picture which defeats the whole purpose to which our system is committed—Mott)

**Conquer**, however, usually implies a large and significant action (as of a large force in war) or an action involving an all-inclusive effort and a more or less permanent result (Caesar conquered most of Gaul) (culture conquers more surely than the sword—A. M. Young) (science has conquered yellow fever—Amer. Guide Series: LA.) (the 21-year-old Englishman who conquered the most dangerous river in the world—N. Y. Times Book Rev.)

Vanquish suggests a significant action of a certain dignity usually in the defeat of a person rather than a thing and usually carrying the suggestion of complete defeat (to overthrow the enemy solely by his own strength—to vanquish him solely by his own effort—Heaney) (vanquish an opponent in a championship match at tennis) Overcome usually implies an opposing, more or less fixed obstacle to be dealt with and a high degree of effectiveness in dealing therewith whether by direct conflict or perhaps more often by indirect means (as evasion or substitution) (overcome the enemy’s shore fortifications) (overcoming difficult legal obstacles—Americana Annual) (using the airlift to overcome the blockade—Collier’s Yr. BK.) (overcome a speech defect) Surmount, like overcome, implies an opposing, more or less fixed obstacle but carries the idea of surpassing or exceeding rather than overcoming in face-to-face conflict (the technical problems to be surmounted—K. F. Mather) (many petty faults which he is apparently unable to surmount—New Republic) (Simon . . . has an inner force that is capable of surmounting conditions—Malcolm Cowley) Subdue, subjugate, and reduce all throw emphasis upon the condition of subjection resulting from defeat. Subdue signifies to bring under control by or as if by overwhelming (in 1803 Commodore Edward Preble subdued the Barbary Coast pirates—Amer. Guide Series: ME.) (in their last century of conquest they almost succeeded in subduing the whole island—Blanshard) (all violence or recklessness of feeling has been finally subdued—Cather) (the wilderness had been almost completely subdued by cutting down the forests and building roads and cities) Subjugate signifies to bring into and keep in subjection, often as a slave is in subjection (authoritarian reaction which overwhelmed Italy and subjugated it for two centuries—R. A. Hall) (the heart and imagination subjugating the senses and understanding—Arnold) Reduce signifies surrender and submission but usually of a town or fortress under attack or siege (the town and finally the province were reduced by the invaders) Overthrow is much like overcome but carries the strong idea of disaster to the overthrow (overthrow the established government by violence) (get swiftly through the field of fire and pierce and overthrow the enemy lines—Wintringham) (a huge body of evidence . . . completely overthrows the older view—Comfort) Rout always suggests a defeat so complete as to cause flight or the complete dispersion of the opposition (twelve hundred French and a large force of Indians . . . were intercepted . . . and utterly routed, only 200 of the French escaping capture or death—Bingham) (Weaver with the assistance of two other gunboats routed a large force of Texas cavalry when they attacked Fort Butler—Bolander) Beat and lick are characteristic of a less formal style of expression or level of usage than the preceding verbs. Both come close to defeat in meaning but distinctively beat (see also BEAT 1) is rather neutral in this sense, except that occasionally it may imply the finality though not the scope of vanquish (the local ball team won the state championship by beating all comers) while lick usually implies a complete humbling or reduction to impotency and ineffectiveness of the one defeated (the fighter must be confirmed in the belief that he can lick anybody in the world—Liebling) (with the problem growing, the railroads have redoubled their efforts to lick it—Faulkner)

**Ana** frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent, outwit, baffle, balk

**Con** surrender, submit, capitulate (see corresponding nouns at SURRENDER): *yield, succumb, bow, cave

**conqueror** vanquisher, *victor, winner, champion

**conquest** *victory, triumph

**Ana** subjugation, subdual, defeating or defeat, overthrowing or overthrow, routing or rout (see corresponding verbs)
conscientious scrupulous, honorable, honest, *upright, just
Ant unconscious, unscrupulous —Con slack, lax, remiss, *negligent, neglectful: *careless, heedless, thoughtless
conscious sensible, *aware, cognizant, alive, awake
Ana attending or attentive, minded or mindful, watching (see corresponding verbs at TEND): *watchful, alert, vigilant: perceiving, noticing, noting, remarking, observing (see SEE)
Ant unconscious —Con ignoring, overlooking, disregarding (see NEGLECT vb): *forgetful, unmindful, oblivious
consecrate hallow, dedicate, *devote
Con desecrate, profane (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION): defile, pollute (see CONTAMINATE)
consecutive, successive, sequent, sequential, serial are comparable when meaning following one after the other in order. Consecutive and successive apply to objects which follow one another without interruption or break. But consecutive is somewhat more emphatic, stressing the immediacy of the succession, the regularity or fixedness of the order, and the close connection (as in time, space, or logic) of the units while successive is applicable to things that follow regardless of differences (as in duration, extent, or size) or of the length of the interval between the units; thus, one would speak of nine, ten, and eleven as consecutive numbers since they follow one another in immediate and regular order, but of flashing the consecutive numbers three, eleven, and nine on a screen since the order would then be neither immediate nor regular; one would speak of successive (not consecutive) leap years since the order though regular is not immediate and of successive strokes of a piston since, though immediate, it need not be regular (the most important cause . . . has run through our post-Conquest history like a consecutive thread —Coulton) <the product of the successive labors of innumerable men—Mumford> Consecutive is also applicable to a person or to thought that manifests logical sequence <consecutive thinking absolutely requires personal initiative—Eliot> Sequent and sequential apply to an arrangement or to things (sometimes a thing) following a sequence (as a causal, logical, or chronological sequence) or some settled order <the events of the Narrative do not follow in sequent order> <the galleys have sent a dozen accounts of his adventures—Krutich> <towards the end of her adventure story she adds: —Shak> <changes which proceed with sequential regularity> <combination of two sequential courses into one—Pressey> Serial implies that the thing or things so qualified form a series or will appear as a series; it therefore suggests likeness or uniformity in the units and, usually, a prearranged order especially in time or space <the fifth of the series> <from the publisher’s point of view mystery stories make good serial narratives> <wrote her a serial account of his adventures—Krutich>
Ana following, succeeding, ensuing (see FOLLOW): continuous, *continual, incessant: coherent (see corresponding noun COHERENCE): logical
Ant inconsecutive —Con alternate, *intermittent, recurrent, periodic: desultory, *random, haphazard, hit-or-miss
conscientiousness 1 result, *effect, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, sequel, issue, outcome, event
Ana antecedent —Con *cause, determinant, reason, occasion: *origin, source, root
Ant consequence 1 result, *effect, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, sequel, issue, outcome, event
Ana necessity, *need, exigency: *worth, value: renown, honor, reputation, repute, *fame: eminence, illustriousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAMOUS)
Consider 1 Consider, study, contemplate, weigh, exegocate are comparable chiefly as transitive verbs meaning to fix the mind for a time on something in order to increase one’s knowledge or understanding of it or to solve a problem involved in it. Consider often suggests little more than an applying of one’s mind <a proposal so unreasonable that one does not need to consider it> but sometimes it also carries such a restricting implication as that of a definite point of view <in the last paragraphs we have considered science as a steadily advancing army of ascertained facts —Inge> or as that of thinking of <the publishers told him they would consider his book> <marriage is an action too freely practiced and too seldom adequately considered—Rose Macaulay> <in Florida consider theflamingo, its color passion but its neck a question—Warren> or as that of casting about in order to reach a suitable conclusion, opinion, or decision <when I came to consider his conduct, I realized that he was guilty of a confusion —T. S. Eliot> Study implies greater mental concentration than consider; usually it also suggests more care for the details or minutiae and more of an effort to comprehend fully or to learn all the possibilities, applications, variations, or relations <the president said that the bill must be studied before he reached a decision regarding the signing or vetoing of it> <a work of architecture that deserves to be studied closely> <study a patient’s reactions to a new treatment> <I like very naturally to think that I am being read; but the idea that I am being studied fills me, after the first outburst of laughter, with a deepening gloom—Huxley> Bryce, who had studied the matter so thoroughly, was wont to insist it is the smallest democracies which today stand highest in the scale—Ellis> Contemplate (see also SEE) implies, like meditate (see under PONDER), the focusing of one’s attention upon a thing and a close dwelling upon it; the term, however, does not always carry a clear implication of the purpose or result. When the object on which the mind rests is a plan, a project, or an imaginative conception, the word usually suggests its formulation in detail or its enjoyment as envisioned <Henchard bent and kissed her cheek. The moment and the act he had contemplated for weeks with a thrill of pleasure—Hardy> <the poet "has an idea," and in the course of contemplating it he draws up from his subconscious a string of associated ideas and images—DayLewis> When the object contemplated lies outside the mind and has either material or immaterial existence, the term suggests an attempt to increase one’s knowledge and comprehension of it through minute scrutiny and meditation <nature is beautiful only to the mind which is prepared to apprehend her beauty, to contemplate her for her own sake apart from the practical delight she brings—Alexander> <the opinion . . . widely held, that while science, by a deliberate abstraction, contemplates a world of facts without values, religion contemplates values apart from facts—Inge> Weigh (compare PONDER) implies evaluation of something and especially of one thing in respect to another and relevant thing or things; it suggests an attempt to get at
considerate

the truth by a balancing (as of counterclaims, contradictory data, or conflicting evidence) in teaching the young to think hard, any subject will answer. The problem is to get them to weigh evidence, draw accurate inferences . . . and form judgments—Elliot (it is not enough to count, we must evaluate; observations are not to be numbered, they are to be weighed—Ellis) Excogitate is often replaced by think out and implies the application of the mind to something so that one may find the solution of the problems involved (excogitate a plan whereby poverty may be relieved without unduly burdening the taxpayers) (there may have been a time when the scientific inquirer sat still in his chair to excogitate science—Dewey)

Ana 180

consistent

*alot: resign, surrender, yield (see relinquish)
consistent congruous, *consistent, compatible, congenial, sympathetic
Ana conforming or conformable, tallying, jibing, squaring (see corresponding verbs at agree): matching, equaling (see match vb): identical, alike, similar, *like
Ant inconsistent —Con discreet, discordant, incongruous, *inconsistent, incompatible: contradictory, contrary, *opposite, antithetical

console vb *comfort, solace
Ana assuage, alleviate, mitigate, *relieve, allay: calm, tranquilize (see corresponding adjectives at calm): *satisfy, content

Con *trouble, distress: *discompose, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset, disquiet

consolidate *compact, unify, concentrate
Ana *integrate, articulate, concatenate: amalgamate, merge, fuse, blend (see mix): condense, compress (see contract vb): *weave, knit
Con melt, *liquefy: *separate, sever, Sunder, part: *distribute, dispense, divide: dissipate, *scatter, disperse

consolidation, merger, amalgamation are comparable when denoting a union of two or more business corporations. Consolidation is often used as a general term; more precisely it implies a unification of the companies or corporations with dissolution of their separate corporate identities and transfer of their combined assets, franchises, and goodwill to a single new corporate unit, often under an entirely new name. Merger usually implies a unification in which one or more companies or corporations are absorbed by another and the assets (as property, franchises, and goodwill) of the former are transferred to or merged into the latter whose corporate status and name remain unchanged. In a merger additional shares of stock may be issued by the absorbing company or corporation to replace on an agreed basis the shares of the units absorbed or a monetary transaction may be involved. Amalgamation is often used interchangeably with consolidation in its general sense and applied to any form of consolidation or merger. It is sometimes restricted to a consolidation in which a new corporation with an entirely new name and corporate identity results or, in British use, to a union of the merger type.

Ant dissolution

consonance *harmony, concord, accord
Ana agreement, conformity, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at agree): concurrence, coincidence (see corresponding verbs at agree): compatibility, congruity (see corresponding adjectives at consonant)
Ant dissonance (in music): discord —Con inconsonance, discordance, incompatibility, incongruity, discrepency (see corresponding adjectives at consonant)

consonant adj Consontant, consistent, compatible, congruous, congenial, sympathetic are comparable when they mean being in agreement one with another or agreeable one to the other. Consonant implies agreement with a concurrent circumstance or situation, or conformity to an accepted standard, or harmony between two things that must come into contact or comparison with each other; the term suggests absence of discord (Fijians possessed a physical endurance consonant with their great stature—Krutch) (it is . . . more consonant with the Puritan temper to abolish a practice than to elevate it and clear away abuses—Quiller-Couch) (to pursue callings more consonant with Buddha's teaching—Binyon) (nature has no ends consonant with . . . the desires of man which would make it possible for him to accord himself to her—Krutch) Consistent suggests such agreement or harmony between things or between the details of the same thing as implies
the absence or avoidance of contradiction (that their letters should be as kind as was consistent with proper maidenly pride—De Quincey) (did not think it to be consistent with his dignity to answer this sally—Trollope) (no one has yet imagined a consistent picture of what the electron and proton really are—Jeans) Consistent implies a capacity for existing or coming together without disagreement, discord, or disharmony; the term does not necessarily suggest positive agreement or harmony, but it does imply the absence of such conflict between two or more things as would make their association or combination impossible or incongruous (with all the eagerness compatible with . . . elegance, Sir Walter and his two ladies stepped forward to meet her—Austen) (to combine, in the highest measure in which they are compatible, the two elements of refinement and manliness—Froude) (many bad qualities are of course compatible with vitality—for example, those of a healthy tiger. And many of the best qualities are compatible with its absence—Russell) Congruous implies more positive agreement or harmony than comparable does; ordinarily it implies the fitness, suitability, or appropriateness of one thing to another so that their association or combination, no matter how they produce a pleasing or at least a not disagreeable impression (congruous furnishings of a room) (not congruous to the nature of epic poetry—Blair) (thoughts congruous to the nature of their subject—Cowper) The negative form incongruous is currently far more common than congruous. Congenial is most often used of persons or things that are in such harmony with the taste of a person that they afford him pleasure or delight or satisfaction (a congenial companion) (a pair of not very congenial passengers—Conrad) (the reticence and understatement of the method it made it specially congenial [to the Chinese]—Binyon) (Hobbes’s) theory of government is congenial to that type of person who is conservative from prudence but revolutionary in his dreams—T. S. Eliot) (the ideal of a Greek democracy was vastly congenial to his aristocratic temperament—Parrington) Occasionally congenial is used of things in the sense of wholly and satisfyingly congruous (all such introduced ideas are congenial to the subject—Alexander) (statement, overstatement, and understatement in letters given a congenial context, every one of them is right—Montague) Sympathetic (see also tender), like congenial, usually suggests qualities in the person or thing so described that make him or it in agreement with another person’s likings or tastes, but, in contrast with congenial, it suggests a more subtle appeal and often a less hearty acceptance (every author who is sympathetic to them—Bradley) (Arnold does still hold us. . . . To my generation. . . . he was a more sympathetic prose writer than Carlyle or Ruskin—T. S. Eliot) (a tête-à-tête with a man of similar tastes, who is just and yet sympathetic, critical yet appreciative—Benson) Ana) conforming or conformable, harmonizing or harmonious, agreeing or agreeable, according or accordant (see corresponding verbs at agree): concurring or concurrent, coinciding or coincident (see corresponding verbs at agree)

Ant inconsonant: dissonant (in music) —Con discordant, discrepant, inconsistent, incompatible, incongruous (see inconsonant)

Conspicuous synopsis, epitome, *abridgment, abstract, brief

Ana *compendium, syllabus, digest, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu

Conspicuous prominent, salient, signal, *noticeable, remarkable, striking, arresting, outstanding

Ana patent, manifest, *evident, distinct, obvious: eminent, celebrated, illustrious (see famous)

Ant inconspicuous —Con *common, ordinary: *obscure, vague: lowly, *humble, modest: hidden, concealed (see hide): *secret, covert

Conspicuous calab, intrigue, machination, *plot

Ana *sedition, treason: treacherousness or treachery, perfidiousness or perfidy, disloyalty, faithlessness, falseness or falsity (see corresponding adjectives at faithlessness)

Conspirator *confedrate, accessory, accomplice, abettor

Constant adj 1 faithful, true, loyal, staunch, steadfast, resolute

Ana abiding, enduring, persisting or persistent, lasting (see corresponding verbs at continue): dependable, trustworthy, *reliable, trusted, tried

Ant inconstant, fickle —Con unstable, capricious, mercurial (see inconstant): disloyal, *faithless, false, perfidious

2 *steady, uniform, even, equable

Ana established, settled, set, fixed (see set vb): invariable, immutable, unchangeable (see affirmative adjectives at changeable): *regular, normal, typical, natural

Ant variable —Con *changeable, changeable, mutable, protean: fluctuating, wavering (see swing)

3 *continual, incessant, unremitting, continuous, perpetual, perennial

Ana persisting or persistent, persevering (see corresponding verbs at persevere): persistent, dogged, *obstinate, stubborn: chronic, confirmed, *inveterate

Ant fitful —Con *intermittent, alternate: spasmodic (see fitful): occasional, sporadic, *infrequent

Constitution panic, terror, alarm, fright, *fear, dread, dismay, horror, trepidation

Ana confusion, muddlement or muddle (see corresponding verbs at confuse): bewildernment, distraction, perplexity (see corresponding verbs at puzzle): agitation, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at discompose)

Con sangfroid, composure, *equanimity, phlegm: aplomb, self-possession (see confidence)

Constituent n component, *element, ingredient, factor

Ana *part, portion, piece, detail, member: *item, particular

Ant whole, aggregate —Con *system, complex, organism, economy: composite, compound, blend, amalgam (see mixture)

Constitution *physique, build, habit

Ana temperament, temper, personality (see disposition): organism, *system: *structure, framework, anatomy

Constitutional adj *inherent, intrinsic, essential, ingrained

Ana congenital, *inmate, inborn: *native: natural, normal (see regular): *characteristic, individual, peculiar


Constrain oblige, coerce, compel, *force

Ana impel, drive, *move, actuate: require, exact, *demand

Constrain compulsion, coercion, duress, restraint, *force, violence

Ana suppression, repression (see corresponding verbs at suppress): compelling or impulse, driving or drive (see corresponding verbs at move): goad, spur, *motive, spring: *obligation, duty

Constrict compress, *contract, shrink, condense, deflate

Ana *tie, bind: restrict, confine, circumscribe, *limit: *restrain, curb

Con *expand, dilate, distend, swell, inflate: enlarge, *increase

Construct *build, erect, frame, raise, rear

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
An adjective (adj) denotes a quality or characteristic. A verb (vb) describes an action or state of being. An adverb (adv) modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb. A noun (n) names a person, place, thing, or idea. Prepositions (prep) show the relationship between a noun and another word in the sentence. Pronouns (pron) take the place of nouns. Conjunctions (conj) connect words, phrases, or clauses. Interjections (intr) express strong emotions or sudden actions. A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
contemn 183 contemnible

or stained or in process of corruption or decay <tainted meat> <his unkindness may defeat my life, but never taint my love—Shak.> <the Claudii, brilliant, unaccountable, tainted with some deep congenital madness—Buchan> <directed toward the purge from the public service rolls of those tainted with fascism—Taylor Cole>

The less common attainant may be closely synonymous with taint <our writers have been attained by the disease they must help to cure—Frank> More often it retains a hint of its primary meaning of to sentence to outlawry or death and then suggests a sullying (as of one's name) or a degrading especially as a result of actual or reputed misconduct <wherein a good name hath been wrongfully attained—Milton> <no breath of calumny ever attained the personal purity of Savonarola—Milman>

Pollute implies that the process which begins with contamination is complete and manifest and that what was pure and clean has lost its clearness or fairness and has become muddy or filthy or poisoned <the nuisance set forth in the bill was one which would be of international importance—a visible change of a great river from a pure stream into a polluted and poisoned ditch—Justice Holmes>

Pollute is especially apt when the reference is to something that ideally is clean, clear, or bright <pollute the minds of children by obscenities> <you . . . are polluted with your lusts—Shak.> Delicately strongly implies befouling of something which ought to be kept clean and pure or held sacred. It usually suggests violation, profanation, or defacement and is highly opprobrious in its connotations <an evil bird that defilies his own nest—Latimer> (scenics such as these) "tis his supreme delight to fill with riot, and defile with blood—Cowper> Cruelty is not only the worst accusation that can be brought against a man, defiling the whole character—Bellow>

Ana *debase, vitiate, corrupt, deprave: impair, spoil, injure, harm

tempt *despire, disdain, scorn, scowl

Ana repudiate, reject (see DECLINE): slight, neglect, disregard: flout, scoff, jeer

Con venerate, revere, reverence: respect, esteem, admire, regard (see under REGARD n)

contemplate 1 study, consider, weigh, exorcitate

Ana *ponder, meditate, muse, ruminant: reflect, cogitate, speculate, *think

2 observe, survey, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern, *see, view, behold, descry, espys

Ana *scrutinize, inspect, examine, scan

contemplative meditative, reflective, *thoughtful, speculative, pensive

Ana *intent, rapt, engrossed, absorbed: musing, ruminating, pondering (see PONDER): reflecting, cogitating, reasoning, thinking (see THINK)

contemporaneous *contemporary, coeval, coetaneous, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent

Con *preceding, antecedent, previous, prior, foregoing: following, ensuing, succeeding (see FOLLOW)

contemporary adj Contemporary, contemporaneous, coeval, coetaneous, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent are comparable when they mean existing, living, or occurring at the same time. In contemporary and contemporaneous (of which contemporary is applied somewhat more frequently to persons, contemporaneous to events), the time regarding which agreement is implied is determined only through the context <Shakespeare was contemporary with Cervantes, who died in the same month> <Shelley's last year was contemporaneous with Matthew Arnold's first> <the reign of Louis XIV was contemporaneous with the Commonwealth in England and also with the Restoration and the revolution of 1688> <a recent history of the 15th century based on contemporary accounts> <love of school is not contemporaneous with residence therein; it is an after product—Grandgent> Contemporary, but not contemporaneous, may imply reference to the present; it then means of the same time as that of the speaker or writer <we are not without contemporary talent—Wharton> <most contemporary novels Jane found very bad—Rose Macaulay>

Coeval usually implies contemporaneousness for a long time or at a remote time (everybody knows that the Roman Catholic religion is at least coeval with most of the governments where it prevails—Burke) <the theory requires that these coeval stars should be of nearly the same mass and brightness—Eddington> Coetaneous is a close synonym of coeval, but it may more specifically suggest contemporaneity of origin (the maturation of Veblen's thought led him to note two forces . . . whose coetaneous presence acted first in the promotion of reason and then in its derangement—Rosenberg> <ancient and coetaneous mountain ranges> Synchronous implies an exact correspondence between the usually brief periods of time involved; simultaneous more frequently denotes agreement in the same point or instant of time <two pendulums so adjusted that their movements are synchronous>

The two shots were simultaneous <French speech has run a similar and almost synchronous course with English—Ellis> <it was proposed that there should be simultaneous insurrections in London . . . and at Newcastle—Macaulay> Coincident applies to events that are regarded as falling or happening at the same time; it ordinarily minimizes the notion of causal relation (the discovery of America was almost coincident with the capture of Granada) <the growth of the mine union movement was coincident with the growth of business and manufacturing—Hay> Concomitant carries so strong an implication of attendance or association that it often imparts a subordinate character; however, only when it implies coincidence or synchronousness is it truly a synonym of the other words <the concomitant circumstances of this event cannot be ignored> <as the beauty of the body always accompanies the health of it, so certainly is decency concomitant to virtue—Spectator>

Concurrent adds to synchronous the implication of parallelism or agreement (as in length of existence or in quality or character) <concurrent terms in prison> <the concurrent operation of many machines> <great cultural achievements have not been inevitably, or even generally, concurrent with great material power—Bryson>

Ana living, existing, subsisting (see BE)

Con see those at CONTEMPORANEOUS

contempt despite, disdain, scorn (see under DESPISE vb)

Ana abhorrence, detestation, loathing, hatred, hate (see under HATE vb): aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, distaste (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT)

Ant respect —Con esteem, admiration, *regard: *reverence, awe, fear

contemnible adj Contemnible, despicable, pitiable, sorry, scurrv, cheap, beggarly, shabbily are comparable when they mean arousing or deserving scorn or disdain. Contemnible applies to whatever inspires such scorn or disdain for any reason however great or small <with that property he will never be a contemnible man—Austen> (the one disgraceful, unpardonable, and to all time contemnible action of my life was to allow myself to appeal to society for help and protection—Wilde> Despicable is a stronger term and frequently implies both keen and scornful, sometimes indignant, disapprobation and a sufficient cause for such a reaction <the immorality of James's Court was hardly
more despicable than the imbecility of his government—J. R. Green> (even excellent science could and did often make despicable morality—Gauss) **Pitiable** (see also **PITIFUL**) implies the inspiring of pity mixed with contempt (a pitiable show of weakness) (a pitiable attempt at reform) (the resorting to epithets . . . is a pitiable display of intellectual impotence—Cohen) **Sorry** is often used interchangeably with pitiable without marked loss, but it often distinctively implies contemptible or ridiculous inadequacy, wretchedness, or sordidness (sorry accommodations for the travelers) (mounted . . . upon a lean, sorry, jackass of a horse—Sterne) **Scary** implies extreme despircibility and meanness and the arousing of disgust as well as scornful contempt (a scary trick) (a scary impostor) (what difference between this Rome and ours . . . between that scary dumbshow and this pageant sheen . . . ?—Browning) **Cheap** often implies contemptibility that results from undue familiarity or accessibility (had I so lavished of my presence been . . . so stale and cheap to vulgar company—Shak.) More often, however, cheap and beggarly imply contemptible pettiness, cheap by falling far below the standard of what is worthy, beggarly by its remoteness from what is adequate (cheap politics) (a cheap and nasty life—Shaw) (about his shelves a beggarly account of empty boxes—Shak.) (the South in 1800 was a land of contrasts, of opulence and squalor . . . fine mansions, beggarly taverns—Brooks) **Shabby** comes close to cheap and beggarly in implying contemptible pettiness and to scary in implying meanness and the arousing of disgust; distinctively it may stress the poverty, the paltriness, or the ungenerous nature of what is so characterized (the shabby way in which this country . . . treated a poet so deeply devoted to it—Engle) (the explorer's mistress shows up with the shabby truth of the man's life—Hewes) **Ana** detestable, abominable, abhorrent, odious, *hate-* ful: vile, low, *base: abject, *mean, sordid, ignoble **Ant** admirable, estimable: formidable —Con *splendid, sublime, glorious, superb

**contend** 1 Contend, fight, battle, war come into comparison when they mean to strive in opposition to someone or something. Contend, the most general of these words, always implies a desire or an effort to overcome that which is opposed, but it may imply rivalry rather than animosity, the use of argument rather than the exercise of physical strength or skill or the employment of weapons, a nonhuman rather than a human antagonist (the river was stronger than I, and my arms could not for many hours contend with the Thames—Jefferyes) (since they had left the España country behind them, they had contended first with wind and sandstorms, and now with cold—Cather) (the Manichean theory of a good and an evil spirit contending on nearly equal terms in the arena—Inge) **Fight** in its earliest and still most common sense implies a struggle involving physical strength or prowess, originally between men with the fists or with weapons and later also between animals (fight, gentlemen of England! fight, bold yeomen!—Shak.) (fight fiercely, Harvard—Lehrer) (a dog that will fight other dogs larger then himself) In extended use (see also **RESIST**) fight differs from contend not so much in its range of application, for both may imply other than a human adversary, as in its stress on a rigorous effort to achieve one's ends, and in its suggestion of a struggle against odds or great difficulties (fight for the defeat of a bill) (fight for breath) (fight against a growing evil) (he had fought like a demon every inch of the way against poverty and discouragement—Long) **Battle** and **war** are more picturesque or more poetic terms than fight: they are used chiefly in an extended sense, the first to suggest a continuous assaulting or attacking of the enemy or other method characteristic of open battle, and the second to suggest the noise, fury, or tumult of war (he found he must battle his way to success) (sometimes a patriot, active in debate, mix with the world, and battle for the state—Pope) (he wars with darkling powers (I war with a darkling sea)—Kipling)

**Ana** quarrel, wrangle, altercation, squabble (see under **QUARREL** n): *resist, combat, withstand, oppose, fight: compete, vie, *rival 2 *compete, contest **Ana** battle, war (see **CONTEND**): oppose, *resist, withstand, combat, fight **content, contended** satisfied (see under **SATISFY**)

**Ana** gratified, pleased (see **PLEASE**): sated, satiated, cloyed, surfeited (see **SATIATE**): replete (see **FULL**) **content vb */satisfy**

**Ana** gratify, *please: sate, *satiate, surfeit, cloy **Con** tansilize, tease (see **WORRY**): pique, stimulate, *provok, excite

**contention** dissension, difference, variance, strife, *discord, conflict

**Ana** *quarrel, wrangle, altercation, squabble: controversial, dispute, *argument: contending, fighting, warring (see **CONTEND**)

**Con** agreement, concurrence, coincidence (see corresponding verbs at **AGREE**): *harmony, accord, concord, concurrence

**contentious** quarrelsome, bellicose, *belligerent, pugnacious, combative

**Ana** *contrary, perverse, froward: captious, faultfinding, caviling, carping (see **CRITICAL**): *aggressive, militant

**Ant** peaceable —Con *pacific, peaceful, irenic: serene, tranquil, *calm: *amiable, good-natured, complaisant, obliging

**conterminous** contiguous, abutting, adjoining, *adjacent, tangent, juxtaposed

**contest vb */1 compete, contend **Ana** struggle, strive, endeavor (see **ATTEMPT**): fight, battle (see **CONTEND**)

2 *resist, withstand, oppose, fight, combat, conflict, antagonize

**contest n** **Contest, conflict, combat, fight, affray, fray** denote a battle between opposing forces for supremacy, for power, or for possessions. **Contest** is the broadest term; originally it referred solely to strife in argument but it is now applicable to any struggle, whether friendly or hostile, for a common object that involves a test of ability, strength, endurance, or strategic skill (a swimming contest) (a contest of wits) (what mighty contests rise from trivial things—Pope) (boundary controversies or other contests between states—Frankfurter) **Conflict** implies discord and warfare; it also suggests a closer engagement than contest (arms on armor clashing brayed . . . dire was the noise of conflict—Milton) **Conflict** may be extended to denote a struggle (often spiritual or mental) between opposing or contradictory principles or forces (there is [in a Shakespearean tragedy] an outward conflict of persons and groups, there is also a conflict of forces in the hero's soul—Bradley) **Combat** is less commonly used in an extended sense (a combat against despair) It implies an encounter, especially an armed encounter, between two (individuals, parties, or forces), frequently for the determination of a dispute (let these have a day appointed them for a single combat in convenient place—Shak.) (these progressive leaders in both parties rose only after bitter struggle. They were the product of more than a lively contest. Sometimes the
contingent emergency, exigency, pinch, juncture, pass, continual, continuous, constant, incessant, unremitting, lecherousness, lustfulness, incontinence —

or antonyms

lecherousness, lustfulness, incontinence —

or antonyms

conti-
lines to be spoken in a radio broadcast) as provision for perfection in sequence and in timing of the performance. *Ana* extending or extension, prolonging or prolongation, protracting or protraction (see corresponding verbs at *Extend*)

*Ant* cessation

*Continue*, *last*, *endure*, *abide*, *persist* are comparable when meaning to remain indefinitely in existence or in a given condition or course. *Continue* distinctively refers to the process and stresses its lack of an end rather than the duration of or the qualities involved in that process. Often, in addition, it suggests an unbroken course *(what a man is as an end perishes when he dies; what he produces as a means *continue* to the end of time—*Russell*) *(the illusion *continues* that civilization can somehow be reconciled with atomic war—*Fleming)* *Last* especially in its derivative *lasting* *(see *lasting*)* when unqualified usually stresses length of existence exceeding what is normal or expected *(the anger of slow, mild, loving people has a *lasting* quality—*Deland*) When qualified, *last* often loses this distinctive implication *(the work that Michelangelo did complete has *lasted* well—*Barry*) *(the refrigerator is guaranteed to *last* five years; *(the fire *lasted* only three months). *Endure* adds to *last* the implication of resistance, especially to destructive forces or agencies *(for living things, who suffer pain, may not *endure* till time can bring them ease—*Lowely*) *(an art . . . which *endured* . . . until man changed his attitude toward the universe—*Henry Adams*) *Abide* and its derivative *abiding* imply stability or constancy, especially in opposition to mutability or impermanence *(though much is taken, much *abides*—*Tennyson*) *(notwithstanding the countless features of London's living which were *abiding*, the changes made themselves felt—*J. M. Brown)* *Persist* adds to *continue* the implication of outlasting the appointed or normal time; it often also connotes recurrence, especially in sporadic instances *(an attitude towards life, which . . . *persists*, with many changes but no breaks, till the closing of the Athenian lecture rooms by Justinian—*Inge*)

*Ana* remain, *stay*: survive, *outline*, *outlast*

*Con* *arrest*, *interrupt*, check: *stop*, cease, *desist*, *quit*, *discontinue*: suspend, stay, *intermit*, *defer*, *postpone*

*Continuity* *continuation*, *continuance*

*Ana* *succession*, *sequence*, *chain*, *train*, *progression* *Con* *intermittence*, *recurrence*, alternation, *periodicity* *(see corresponding adjectives at *Intermittent*): *fitfulness* *(see corresponding adjective at *Fitful*)*

*Continuous* constant, perennial, *cyclic*, incessant, unremitting

*Ana* connected, related, linked *(see *Join*): successive, *consecutive*, *sequent*, serial: *steady*, constant, uniform

*Ant* interrupted — *Con* *interrupted*, recurrent, *periodic*, alternate

*Confort* distill, warp, *deform*

*Ana* twist, bend, *curve*

*Contour* *outline*, silhouette, skyline, *profile* *Ana* configuration, shape, *form*, *conformation*, figure

*Contraband* adj *smuggled*, bootleg

*Contract* n *Contract*, *bargain*, *compact*, *pact*, *treaty*, *entente*, *convention*, *cartel*, *cordand* designate an agreement reached after negotiation and ending in an exchange of promises between the parties concerned. *Contract* applies especially to a formal written agreement, often of a business nature, couched in such explicit terms as to be enforceable at law *(a regular *contract* to the above effect was drawn up by a lawyer, and signed and sealed in the presence of witnesses—*Hawthorne)* *Bargain* applies especially to an agreement regarding purchase and sale *(this *bargain* provides for an exchange of so much Ameri—

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

can wheat and cotton for so much British rubber and tin* A *compact* is an earnest or solemn exchange of promises, sometimes between state or political groups and often between persons. A compact may be unwritten or undocumented, the only assurance of its execution being the trust which each party places in the honor of the other. The word is used when a keen sense of the obligation which it imposes is assumed of each of the parties *(men and women . . . marry and promise loyalty to some one person. They can keep that *compact* and yet not shut themselves away from other men and other women—*Rose Macaulay)* *(let us make a *compact*. I shall do everything to please you, and you must promise to do everything to please me—*Hudson)* *(the National Assembly, inspired by Thiers's patriotism, adopted . . . the "*Compact* of Bordeaux," whereby it was agreed that political differences should be put aside in order to carry through expeditiously the work of reconstruction—*Schapiro*)

*Pact* as used of an agreement between persons or groups is usually interchangeable with *compact* *(suicide pact, an agreement between two persons to commit suicide)* *(an unvoiced *pact* between us to read him with . . . *skepticism*—*Horace Gregory*) Perhaps because of its popularity with newspaper headline writers which its brevity won for it, *pact* is used with increasing frequency in the (often unofficial) agreement between states *(the *Pact* of Corfu was a constitutional *pact* wherein leaders of the southern Slavs agreed to join in a unitary kingdom—*The Nation*); in this use it is frequently interchanged with *treaty*, which is the generic term for an agreement between states made by negotiation or diplomacy *(the lateran *pact* or *treaty* establishing vatican *city*—*a nonaggression *pact*—*a trade *pact*—*a commercial *treaty*—*the president . . . shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make *treaties*—*U. S. Constitutions* *treaty*, and never *pact*, however, is the term for an agreement establishing peace after a period of armed hostility *(the *Treaty* of Versailles)* An *entente* is a cordial or amicable agreement between nations in regard to their foreign affairs, usually involving a promise of joint military action in case of aggression against an adherent to the *entente* *(the *Triple Entente* between France, Great Britain, and Russia)* An *entente* may be in writing set forth in a published document or it may be based simply on an exchange of promises between heads of government, or may be merely a state of mind of the peoples concerned *(it changes the *entente* into an alliance, and alliances . . . are not in accordance with our traditions—*Grey*) The word is also used of an understanding between groups *(as of economic competitors)* *(a broader "peace *treaty*" between leaders of industry, labor, and agriculture governing both price and wage adjustments. This kind of *entente* would seem to be central to the management of an economy such as ours—*L. G. Reynolds*) A *convention* is usually an agreement which is either less formal or more specific than a *treaty*; it may be an agreement between several states regulating matters affecting all of them *(as the *treaty* of copyright for the conduct of war) or an agreement between commanders of armies in respect to military operations *(the *conventions* for suspending hostilities agreed upon by me with Marshals Soult and Suchet—*Wellington)* A *cartel* *(see also *Monopoly*) is a written agreement or convention between opposing nations, usually for the regulation of intercourse between them in view of or during war. *Cartels* provide for such matters as the treatment and exchange of prisoners, postal and telegraphic communication, the mode of reception of bearers of flags of truce, and the treatment of the wounded. *Concordat* usually applies to
### contract

1. pledge, covenant, engage, promise, plight
2. catch, incur

**Con**
- *escape, evade, elude, shun, eschew: avert, ward, prevent*

3. **Contract, shrink, condense, compress, constict, deflate**
   - denote to decrease in bulk, volume, or content, but they vary widely in their suggestion as to how this decrease is effected and what consequences it has. **Contract** means to draw together the sides or the particles of, especially by a force from within, with a consequent reduction in compass or a compacting of the mass (the heart, by contracting and dilating rhythmically, keeps up the circulation of the blood) <molten iron contracts as it cools>
   - **Shrink** means to contract so as to fall short of an original length, bulk, or volume (shrink cloth) <his assets have shrunk>
   - **Capples often shrink before rotting**<condense denotes reduction, usually of something more or less homogeneous, to greater compactness without material loss of content (condense a gas to a liquid) (condense a speech into a few paragraphs)>
   - **Compress, which also means to reduce to a compact state, differs from condense in that it connotes a pressing or squeezing of something formless or diffused into definite shape or into a small compass (compress air) (compress cotton into bales) (compress the events of a lifetime into a play taking three hours to present)>
   - **Constrict means to make narrow or smaller in diameter either by contraction or by squeezing (the pores of certain bodies are constricted under the influence of cold) (the throat is constricted by too tight a collar)>
   - **Deflate** means to cause to shrink by exhausting of a gas, or something insubstantial (deflate a balloon)

**Ana**
- dwindle, diminish, decrease, reduce

**Ant** expand — Con dilate, swell, distend, inflate (see EXPAND)

### contrary

*adverse: negating, nullifying (see NULLIFY)*

1. **Contrary, perverse, restive, balky, froward, wayward** are comparable when they mean given to opposing or resisting wishes, commands, conditions, or circumstances. A person is **contrary** who by nature or disposition is so self-willed that he cannot or will not accept dictation or advice (she is the most contrary child I have ever seen) or who vigorously objects to any arrangements or plans made by others (they've been in your way all these years, and you've always complained of them, so don't be contrary, sir — Cather)
   - A person or sometimes one of his acts, occurrences, or desires is **perverse** when he or it as a result of temperament or disposition, or sometimes of physical constitution or moral character, runs counter to what is right, true, correct, or in keeping with human nature, especially as determined by the moral law, by custom, or by the laws of nature or the state. Like contrary, the term may suggest obstinate willfulness, but even then it usually carries a stronger suggestion of wrongheadedness (perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth — 1 Tim 6:5) (they will not be resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate — Burke)
   - More often, however, the term suggests defiance of or disobedience to the law, especially the moral law or the established proprieties (Rimbaud was the rebel incarnate . . . he was perverse, untractable, adamant—until the very last hour—Henry Miller) (the poet's sense of responsibility to nothing but his own inner voice is perhaps his only way of preserving poetic integrity against the influences of a perverse generation — Day Lewis)
   - Perverse sometimes suggests perversion or a sexual maladjustment that reveals itself in aberrant or abnormal desires or acts (the presence of a small minority of abnormal or perverse persons affords no excuse for restricting the liberty of the many to the standard of the few — Ellis) (the last perverse whim which has taken possession of the debauchee — Krutch)
   - A person is **restive** (see also IMPATIENT) who obstinately refuses to obey the commands or the will of another; the term may imply inaction or a turning in another direction but more often it suggests intractability or unrelunis (the common man . . . is increasingly restive under the state of “things as they are” — Veblen) (your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable — Burke)
   - A person or, more often, an animal (as a horse) is **balky** when he or it stops short and refuses to go further in the desired direction or in the performance of something undertaken (the horse was never balky unless he was overloaded) (a child may become balky when he is confused by too many orders) (examination of witnesses, mostly reluctant if not downright balky — The Nation)
   - A person (often a child) is **froward** who is so contrary or so prone to disobedience that he will not comply with the most reasonable of requests or suggestions; the term usually suggests a characteristic rather than an occasional or a justifiable reaction (all the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them — Prov 8:8) (I never entered on disobedience without having settled with myself that the fun of it would be worth the pains, scornd repentance, and endured correction with a philosophy which got me the reputation of being a hardened and froward child — Mary Austin)
   - A person is **wayward** who is so perverse that he is incapable of government by those in authority over him and therefore goes his own way, however wanting captured they are deprived it may be (an institution for wayward girls) (I have been wild and wayward, but you'll forgive me now — Tennyson)
   - Things that are erratic or fail no clear law or principle are also describable as wayward (wayward fancies) (a wayward breeze)

### contrasted words

- See also explanatory notes facing page I
contrast 188

**contrast** n 
- comparison, collation, parallel, antithesis
- distinction, difference, divergence, discrepancy, dissimilarity, unlikeness: conflict, discord

**contravene** vb 
- deny, contradict, traverse, impugn, negative

**contribution** n 
- donation, benefaction, alms
- contribution

**contrivance** n 
- means for

**example**

Ana inventing, creation, discovery (see corresponding verbs at **INVENT**): implement, tool, instrument, appliance, utensil: machine, mechanism, apparatus

**counsel** vb 
- direct, manage, conduct

**converse** vb 
- contradiction, denial, dispute, argument

**counsel** vb 
- advise, counsel, consult

**counsel** vb 
- counsel, consult

**contrive, devise, invent, frame, concoct** mean to find a way of making or doing something or of achieving an end by the exercise of one’s mind. Contrive implies ingenuity or cleverness in planning, designing, or in scheming; it is a matter of indifference whether the end or object is good or bad, since the word stresses the manner of making, doing, or achieving rather than the character of the end (in every deed of mischief he had a heart to resolve, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute—*if we were perfectly satisfied with the present, we should cease to contrive, to labor, and to save with a view to the future—Macaulay*) *(she was forced to hurry. And she had risen that morning with plans perfectly contrived for the avoidance of hurry—Bennett) *(contrive a way of helping them without their knowing it!)* Devise often comes very close to contrive, but in general it throws more stress upon mental effort than upon ingenuity; the term often implies the serious reflection and experimentation that precedes the bringing of something into being, especially something new or quite different *(devise new and dainty dishes for a fastidious taste) *(devise an engine of triple the power) *(devise a plan of campaign) *(devise a new method of teaching a subject) *(grossly contriving their dear daughter’s good—poor souls, and knew not what they did, but sat ignorant, devising their own daughter’s death—Tennyson) *(Leonardo was a child even ... in devising ... fantasy ... and concocting ... tricks—Ellis)*

Invent, though often used interchangeably with devise, commonly retains from its primitive senses some notion of finding, but the term comes closer in its implication to originating, especially after reflection and but, sometimes more quickly, as the result of a happy accident *(the telescope was invented by Galileo in 1609) *(Huxley claims to have invented the term agnostic) *(his pains to invent a complete, generally unlovely terminology of his own—Muller) *(she was tired of inventing means for making the days and nights pleasant and capriciously variable for others—Van Vechten)*

Frame (see also build) implies the exact fitting of one thing to another (as in devising or inventing a story, a theory, or a rule); usually the term suggests an exact fitting (as of the words to the thought, or of the plot, character, and actions to the story as a whole, or of the expression to the spirit, or of the means to the end) *(it will take me some time to frame a proper reply to this letter)* *(statutes ... which must needs have been framed for some purpose or other—Kingsley)* *(never, it may be safely asserted, was a plan of society framed so consistent, harmonious and beautiful in itself—Dickinson)*

Concoct especially suggests a bringing together of ingredients in new or unexpected combinations, arrangements, or order so as to enhance their effectiveness (as in writing, in imagining, or in fashioning) *(from the scraps of conversation he had overheard he concocted a plausible and amusing yarn) *(the most horrible monsters and tortures ... his fervid imagination could concoct out of his own bitter experiences and the manners and customs of his cruel times—Elliot)*

Ana plan, scheme, project (see under **PLAN**): manipulate, ply, swing (see **HANDLE**)

control vb 
- direct, manage, conduct

Ana govern, rule: regulate, adjust: guide, lead, pilot, engineer, steer: restrain, curb, check

control n 
- command, dominion, authority, power, jurisdiction, sway

Ana ascendancy, supremacy: might, puissance, power, force: management, direction (see corresponding verbs at **CONDUCT**)

Con mutiny, revolt, rebellion

control vb 
- rebut, refute, disprove, confute

Ana contravene, traverse, impugn, deny, gainsay: oppose, combat, fight (see **RESIST**): dispute, debate, agitate, argue, discuss

Ant assert — *Con defend, justify, maintain, vindicate*

contumacious rebellious, insubordinate, mutinous, seditious, factious

Ana contrary, perverse, froward: refractory, recalcitrant, intractable, ungovernable, unruly, headstrong

Ana obedient — *Con compliant, acquiescent, resigned: amenable, tractable, docile (see **OBEDIENT**)

contumelious *abusive, opprobrious, vituperative, scurrilous

Ana insolent, overbearing, arrogant, disdainful (see **Proud**): humiliating, demeaning, debasing, abasing (see **ABASE**): flouting, scoffing, jeering, sneering (see **SCOFF**)

Ana obsequious — *Con complimenting or complimentary, commending or commendatory, applauding (see corresponding verbs at **COMMEND**)

contusion bruise, wound, trauma, traumatism, lesion

Ana Edmund, puzzle, riddle, enigma, problem, mystery

convalesce *improve, recover, recuperate, gain

Ana progress, advance: strengthen, invigorate: cure, heal, remedy

convenience **convention** n, *form

convene **convocation** n, *summon, summons, call, cite

Ana gather, congregate, assemble, collect

Ant adjourn — *Con disperse, scatter, dismiss, eject

convent **convent** n, *cloister, nunnery, monastery, abbey, priory

convention **convention** n, *entente, compact, pact, treaty, cartel, cord, contract, bargain

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
conversant, versus are comparable when they mean being familiar with something; they are seldom found in attributive use. Conversant (usually followed by with) implies a familiarity with a subject or a field of knowledge or with the writings on that subject or in that field that comes from long association, long experience, frequent intercourse, or many dealings with them (like Walpole ... he was thoroughly conversant with questions of finance—Lecky) "The Pilgrim's Progress" is known not only to everyone who is conversant with the other writings of the period, but to thousands, the world around, who never heard of ... [Bacon's] "Essays"—Lowes) "British officers ... must be conversant with the ways of a dozen or more castes—Rand) Versed (followed by in) may be used interchangeably with conversant or it may be used distinctively to convey not only an implication of familiarity with something, but of skill, adeptness, or proficiency (as in an art or a profession); thus, a person versed in law need not be conversant with the laws of all European countries; a specialist in forensic medicine though versed in medicine may not be conversant with all the new methods of treating pneumonia. Because of this added implication, versed is often used in combination <well-versed> <ill-versed> <poorly versed> <I don't think he is deeply versed in life—Byron) <political minutemen excited by the issues of the day, informed on these issues and at the same time fully versed in the problems of the community—Humphrey) <versed in all the arts of procrastination, indolence, and evasion—A. R. Williams.)

Ana intimate, *familiar: informed, acquainted (see inform): *learned, erudite: adept, *proficient, skilled, expert, skillful, masterly

Ant ignorant

conversation, converse communion, communication, *intercourse, commerce, traffic, dealings, correspondence

Ana conversing, talking or talk, speaking or speech (see corresponding verbs at speak)

converse vb talk, *speak

Ana *express, voice, broach, air, ventilate, vent, utter: *chat, chatter, gabble: *gossip, tattle: *discourse, descant, expatiate, dilate

converse n see CONVERSATION

converse n Converse, obverse, reverse are frequently confused when they mean something which is the opposite of another thing. Converse applies chiefly to statements or to propositions; typically it implies an interchange or transposition of the important terms (the relation of wife to husband is called the converse of the relation of husband to wife—Russell) "the converse of "none but the brave deserves the fair" is "none but the fair deserves the brave") "Converse is not to be confused with contradi-
tory (see under OPPOSITE adj); so long as the important terms are transposed, one proposition is the converse of another whether or not it is its opposite (the feeling that society needs protection against the individual rather than the converse—Brownell.) Obverse and reverse specifically apply to the two faces of a coin or medal, obverse applying to the one containing the head or principal inscription, reverse to the other; in more general use, obverse refers to the more, reverse to the less, apparent or intentionally conspicuous side or face of something (looking at the fair tapistry of Life, with its royal and even sacred figures, he dwells not on the obverse alone, but here chiefly on the reverse; and indeed turns out the rough seams, tatters, and manifold thums of that unsightly wrong side—Carlyle)

Ana opposite, contrary, antithesis, contradictory (see under OPPOSITE adj)

conversion transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, transmogrification, transfiguration (see under TRANSFORM)

convert vb *transform, metamorphose, transmute, trans-
mogrify, transfigure

Ana manufacture, fabricate, forge, *make: apply, utilize, employ, *use

convert n Convert, proselyte are synonyms only in being applicable to the same person. Both denote a person who has embraced another creed, opinion, or doctrine than the one he has previously accepted or adhered to. Convert commonly implies a sincere and voluntary change of belief; it is, therefore, the designation preferred by the church, the party, or the school of thought of which such a person becomes a new member (the first American novelist to become a ... convert to naturalism—Malcolm Cowley) Convert is also applied to a person who under-
goes the religious experience called conversion or a turning from a life of sin or indifference to one guided by religious (specifically, Christian) principles and motives. Proselyte basically denotes a convert to another religion. It is still used in reference to a convert to Judaism who manifests his sincerity and fidelity by strict adherence to religious laws and practices. In general use, however, the term may suggest less a reverent or convicted and voluntary embracing than a yielding to the persuasions and urgings of another, be it an earnest missionary or zealot or someone with less praiseworthy motives (ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte—Mt 23:15) Proselyte is often the designation chosen by the members of a church for one formerly of their number who has been converted to another faith. The term is also applied to a person won over to a party, a cause, or a way of life in which he has formerly expressed disbelief or disinterest (you agree with the rest of the married world in a propensity to make proselytes—Shenstone)

Ana neophyte, *novice

Con apostate, *renegade, backslider, recreant, turncoat

convertible *reciprocal, corresponding, correlative, complementary, supplemental

Ana interchangeable, exchangeable (see corresponding verbs at EXCHANGE)

convey 1 transport, *carry, transmit, bear

Ana *move, remove, shift, transfer: take, fetch, *bring

2 *transfer, deed, alienate

Ana consign, *commit, relegate

convict n *criminal, felon, malefactor, culprit, delinquent

Ana miscreant, blackguard, scoundrel, *villain: offender, sinner (see corresponding nouns at OFFENSE)

conviction 1 assurance, certitude, *certainty

Ana faith, *belief, credence, credit

Con doubt, *uncertainty, dubity, dubiosity, skepticism: disbelief, *unbelief, incredulity

2 belief, persuasion, *opinion, view, sentiment

Ana tenet, dogma, *doctrine: judgment, conclusion (see under INFER)

convincing compelling, telling, cogent, *valid, sound

Ana proving, demonstrating (see PROVE): persuading or persuasive, inducing (see corresponding verbs at INDUCE): forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful

convivial companionable, *social, gregarious, hospitable, cooperative

Ana analogous words Anant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
convulse

**Con**

rock, *shake, agitate

**Ana**

*discompose, disturb, disquiet, perturb

**vb**

 escort, conduct, *accompany, attend, chaperon

rock, * shake, agitate

convene, muster, * summon, summons, call, cite

**convoke**

unruffled

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

and assurance that one cannot be abashed, annoyed, disconcerted, alarmed, or otherwise disturbed; it usually implies a temperamental rather than an acquired frame of mind ⟨Franklin’s *imperturbable* common sense—Arnold⟩

⟨a very good-looking, rosy little man with . . . a soft voice and a manner of *imperturbable* urbanity—H. G. Wells⟩

Unflappable is a somewhat informal synonym of *imperturbable* and like the latter stresses ability to resist what tends to disturb ⟨from his encounters with lions and hippos . . . Mr. Hillaby emerges unflappable and subtly triumphant—*Times Lit. Sup.*⟩

 ⟨an unflappable debater, he never let a Soviet accusation go unanswered—*Newsweek*⟩ (an unflappable management of affairs that might otherwise become bothersome—*Wicker*)

Nonchalant stresses an easy coolness of manner or casualness that suggests indifference or unconcern; it often connotes lightheartedness or offhandedness ⟨God . . . knows, if he is not as indifferent to mortals as the nonchalant deities of Lucretius—*Byron*⟩ (at the back [of the ambulance], haughty in white uniform, nonchalant on a narrow seat, was The Doctor—*Sinclair Lewis*)

⟨he walked in a nonchalant fashion—D. H. Lawrence⟩

Ana *calm, tranquil, serene, placid: detached, aloof,* indifferent; *inactive, stoic, phlegmatic

**Ant**

ardent: agitated —*Con* fervid, fervent, passionate, per fervid, *impassioned: perturbed, discomposed, disturbed, upset, fluttered, flurried (see DISCOMPOSE)

coop

*enclose, enclose, fence, pen, corral, cage, wall

Ana con fine, circumscribe, *limit, restrict: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar

cooperate conjoin, *unite, combine

Ana coincide, *agree, concur

Ant counteract —*Con* neutralize, negative: *nullify, negate, annul

cooperative *social, companionable, gregarious, convivial,

hospitable

Ana sociable, cordial, genial, affable, *gracious: helping or helpful, aiding, assisting (see corresponding verbs at HELP)

Ant uncooperative —*Con* *unsocial, asocial

cop vb *steal, filch, pinch, snatch, swipe, lift, pilfer, purloin
copartner *partner, colleague, ally, confederate

Ana *associate, companion, comrade

copious *plentiful, abundant, ample, plenteous

Ana *profuse, lavish, exuberant, prodigal, luxuriant, luscious

Ant meager —*Con* scanty, scant, scrimpy, sparse, exiguous, spare (see MEAGER): *thin, slight, tenuous, slim, slender

copy n *reproduction, duplicate, carbon, carbon copy, transcript, facsimile, replica

Ana counterpart, *parallel: imprint, print, *impression, impress: *image, effigy

Ant original

copy vb *Copy, imitate, mimic, ape, mock mean to make something like an already existing thing in form, appearance, or obvious or salient characteristics. Copy implies duplication of an original and thereby as close a resemblance as is possible under the circumstances ⟨copy a letter⟩ ⟨copy Da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa”⟩ (copy the clothes of a fashionable designer) ⟨later examples of the Greek revival travestied the classic style rather than *copied* it—*Amer. Guide Series: Mars.*⟩

Imitate stresses following something as a pattern or model; it does not therefore preclude variations from the original; thus, a writer who imitates Keats may merely reecho enough of that poet’s rhythms, images, or sentiments to produce poetry reminiscent of Keats. *Imitate* may imply emulation ⟨she slept for hours in the daytime, imitating the cats—*Stafford*⟩ (imitated the example of his elders) or it may imply

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Costly

to something which affords a means of securing or insuring accuracy, uniformity in quality, or the maintenance of a standard <an arbitrary formula too rigidly adhered to may endanger good writing, but a good set of principles used as a check and an aid may be very helpful—Mott> Antidote, basically a remedy that counteracts a poison, implies that harm has been done and that a corrective which will neutralize or nullify these effects is necessary <there is no antidote against the opium of time—Browne> <the whole truth is the best antidote to falsehoods which are dangerous chiefly because they are half-truths—Coleridge>
correlate n *parallel, analogue, counterpart
correlative adj corresponding, complementary, complemental, *reciprocal, convertible
correspond *agree, square, accord, tally, jibe, harmonize, conform
Appraoch, touch, *match, rival, equal
correspondence *intercourse, communication, conversation, conference, communion, commerce, traffic, dealings
corresponding adj *correlative, complementary, complemental, *reciprocal, convertible
Ana similar, analogous, *like, parallel, comparable
corridor passageway, *passage, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory
corroboration *confirm, substantiate, verify, authenticate, validate
Ana attest, vouch, *certify: *support, uphold, back
Ant contradict *—Con *invalid*ate, negate, *nullify
corrupt vb deprave, debauch, pervert, *debase
Ana degrade, debase, *abuse: *ruin, wreck: pollute, defile, *contaminate
Con reform, amend, *correct
corrupt adj 1 also corrupted debased, vitiated, depraved, perverted (see under DEBASE)
Ana *abandoned, dissolve, profligate, reprobate
Con *upright, honorable, honest, just, conscientious, scrupulous: virtuous, righteous, *moral, ethical, noble
2 iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious, infamous, *vicious, villainous, degenerate
Ana *crooked, devious, oblique: venal, *mercenary: *base, low, vile: *pernicious, noxious, deleterious, detrimental, baneful: degraded, abused (see ABASE)
corsair *pirate, freebooter, buccaneer, privateer
cortège *procession, cavalcade, parade, motorcade
Ana train, string, *succession: followers, satellites, disciples, partisans, henchmen (see singular nouns at FOLLOWER)
coruscate *flash, gleam, scintillate, glance, glint, sparkle, glitter, glisten, twinkle
cosmic *universal, catholic, ecumenical, cosmopolitan
Con *earthly, terrestrial, mundane, worldly
cosmopolitan adj catholic, *universal, ecumenical, cosmic
Ana *liberal, progressive: all-around, many-sided, *versatile
Ant provincial: insular: many-sided, *versatile
cosmos universe, macrocosm, *earth, world
cosset *caress, fondle, pet, cuddle, dandle
cost n expense, *price, charge
costly adj Costly, expensive, dear, valuable, precious, invaluable, priceless mean having a high value or valuation, especially in terms of money. Costly, expensive, dear refer to the expenditure or sacrifice involved in obtaining or procuring a thing. Costly applies to something which actually costs much; it usually implies such justi-
fication as sumptuousness, rarity, or fine workmanship
their home is filled with costly furniture} I took a 
(chestnut) necessarily filled with 
(diamonds—Shak.) they are clad in very costly robes of 
silk; they are girdled like queens—Hearn) Expensive 
appplies chiefly to something which is high-priced, espe-
cially with the implication of a cost beyond the thing's 
value or the buyer's means (an expensive suit of clothes
the father . . . was unable to give the child as expensive 
a
education as he had desired—Froude} Both costly 
and expensive may also be applied to whatever involves 
great losses or is a drain upon one's resources, not only 
in money but in such matters as time, effort, or health 
(Ches. St. F.) 
that is expensive for get rid of, but even 
more expensive to maintain—Heiser} Dear is opposed to 
cheap and commonly suggests a high, often an exorbit-
tant, price or excessive cost; usually it implies a relation 
to other factors than the intrinsic worth of a thing (but 
to cheap it is when it is plentiful, and dear when it is scarce— 
Shaw) (relatively high wages of building labor bring 
derar. housing—Hobson) (their stout resistance was 
destined to cost them dear. . . . Many thousand citizens 
were ruined—Motley} Valuable when applied to things 
which have monetary value usually suggests the price 
they will bring in a sale or exchange (the most valuable 
dog in the kennel) (he stores away all his 
effects which have monetary value usually suggests the price 
were ruined—)

Would seem not quite in 

exorbitant, extravagant, *excessive: sumptuous,

Another synonym. But it carries a heightened implication of worth 
which is humanly valuable but biologically useless—Krutch} Precious originally came closer in meaning to 
costly than to valuable, of which it is now a very close 
synonym. But it carries a heightened implication of worth 
and often applies to something or someone whose value 
can scarcely be computed in terms of money (precious 
friends hid in death's dateless night—Shak.) (happy is 
the man who findeth wisdom . . . she is more precious than 
rubies—Prov 3:13-15) (to any one who has ever looked on 
the face of a dead child or parent the mere fact that 

matter could have taken for a time that 

precious form, ought to make matter sacred ever after—James) (and 
these two things, judgment and imagination, are, with 
knowledge itself, the most precious results of well directed 
schooling—Granten) When applied to a thing of mone-
tary value, precious usually means that it is one of the 
rarest and most costly of the class that is named (precious 
stones) (an alabaster box of very precious ointment—Mt 26:7) but it may mean that the thing so described is 
too scarce and therefore, often, too expensive to use freely 
or generally (he be careful of the butter; it's too precious to 
waste) Invaluable and priceless imply worth that cannot be 
estimated. In practice they are sometimes used when 
precious is actually meant but would seem not quite in 
keeping for one reason or another (an invaluable servant

this invaluable liquor was of a pale golden hue, like other 
of the rarest Italian wines—Hawthorne) (a priceless 
(jewel) the colleges of this country have been a priceless 
element in the making of the freedom and might of this 
nation—L. M. Chamberlain) Therefore their use tends to 
be hyperbolic and often, especially in the case of 
priceless, intensive (I've just heard a priceless story

isn't that dress priceless?

*luxurious, opulent
Ant cheap —Con beggarly, sorry, scurvy, *contempt-
ible poor, *bad

coterie circle, set, clique
couchant recumbent, dormant, supine, *prone, prostrate
counsel n 1 *advice
Ant admonishing or admonition, chiding, reproaching 

or reproach (see corresponding verbs at PROPOSE); war-
ning, forewarning, cautioning or caution (see corresponding 
verbs at WARN); precept, rule (see LAW)
2 *lawyer, counselor, barrister, advocate, attorney, solicitor
counsel v e advise (see under ADVICE)
Ant admonish, chide (see REPRAISE); *warn, forewarn, 
caution: remonstrate, expostulate (see object vb): 

instruct, direct (see COMMAND vb)
counselor *lawyer, barrister, counselor, advocate, attorney, solicitor
count v b 1 Count, tell, enumerate, number are comparable 
when they mean to ascertain the total of units in a col-
lection by noting one after another or one group after 
other. Count (see also RELY) implies computation of 
a total by assigning to each unit or each group of units as 
noted its proper numeral in succession, such as one, two, 
three . . . or three, six, nine . . . (they were counting 
the books one by one when he told them it would be quicker 
to count them by fives) (as many as thirty bonfires could 
be counted within the whole bounds of the district— 
Hardy) Tell, which is somewhat old-fashioned in general 
use, usually stresses a counting one by one (look now 
toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number 
them—Gen 15:5) (all told there were 27 public schools

—Jones) or it may suggest a lingering counting inter-
spersed with meditation on each unit counted (thus he ... like beads the 
collections of his days—Powell) Tell is more common in current use in the collocation 
tell off which adds to the notion of counting that of setting 
apart the units counted (told off a detail and put them to 

opening a trench—Dobie) Enumerate implies a listing 
or mentioning of each one in a series not only that their 
total may be ascertained, but that they may be individually 
known or specified (enumerate the powers of the supreme 
court) (enumerate the species of plants found on an 

island) (enumerate the various dishes served at a dinner)
Number is a somewhat literary equivalent of either count 
or enumerate: in some uses it carries an additional sug-
gestion of allotment or limit (the days of every man are 
numbered) 
Ant numbers the flowers of the field) (but even 
the very hairs of your head are all numbered—Lk 12:7)

isn't that dress priceless?y

*analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
counteractive

**counter** *adverse, antagonistic*

*countervaluing, counterbalancing, counterpoising, compensating, offsetting, balancing* (see **COMPENSATE**); correct(ing) (see **CORRECT** vb 1); neutralizing (see **NEUTRALIZE**)

**counterbalance** vb offset, *compensate, counterval, balance, counterpoise*

*stabilize, steady, poise: *correct (sense 1)*

**counterfeit** vb feign, sham, simulate, pretend, *assume, affect*

*copy, imitate, mimic, ape: dissemble, *disguise*

**counterfeit** adj **Counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony** are comparable when meaning not at all what it is said to be or purports to be. **Counterfeit** implies that what is so qualified is an imitation of something else and usually of something finer, rarer, or more valuable and that the imitation is intended to deceive or defraud; thus, play money intended for the use of children at play is imitation but not **counterfeit** money; a clipped coin, though intended to defraud, is a real coin and not **counterfeit**; but a false banknote is both imitation and intended to deceive or defraud and is **counterfeit** <planned to substitute a **counterfeit** gem for the historic original> <the austere word of genuine religion is: save your soul! The degenerate counsel of a **counterfeit** religion is: save your soul!—**Sullivan**> **Spurious** designates something as false rather than true or genuine; it carries no strong implication of being an imitation; thus, a **spurious** painting is one that is falsely attributed to a well-known painter; **spurious** writings attributed to Shakespeare are those thrown out of a canon of his work; a **spurious condition** is one which only superficially resembles the genuine condition <**spurious** pregnancy> **The word does not necessarily connote a fraudulent purpose; it may suggest an honest mistake, confusion, or lack of scholarship** <it is certain that the letter, attributed to him, directing that no Christian should be punished for being a Christian, is **spurious**—**Arnold**> <it would have been unfair to call his enthusiasm <it would have been unfair to call his enthusiasm for social reform **spurious**. It was real enough in its way—**Galsworthy**> <no **spurious** argument, no appeal to sentiment . . . can deceive the American people—**Roosevelt**> **Bogus** carries the implications of fraudulence or deceit and applies to whatever may be passed off on one or may attempt to deceive one as to its true nature <**bogus certificates**> <**bogus** legal actions> <he had figured . . . the night before, in red cambic and **bogus** ermine, as some kind of a king—**Mark Twain**> <**Herman Melville made a habit of breaking out, whenever he was excited, into** **bogus** Shakespeare—**Huxley**> **Fake** and **sham** are often equal to the past participle adjectives **faked** and **shammed**, both usually implying a more or less obvious implication of something real. But **fake** emphasizes the idea of a false fabrication or of fraudulent manipulation <**give fake news**> <**Americans who cling to illusions about communism and its fake Utopia—A. E. Stevenson**> <**sell a fake medicine**> <**a fake diamond**> and **sham** stresses the thinness and obviousness of the disguise, the naiveté of the deception, or often the lack of intent to imitate exactly <**a sham battle**> <**a sham jewelry**> <**a sham crown**> <**a garden adorned with sham ruins and statues—L. P. Smith**> **Pseudo** actually means false in any way; as an adjective modifying a noun or in the combining form joined with a separate noun it frequently implies pretense rather than fraud or spuriousness rather than counterfeit(ing) <these **pseudo** evangelists pretended to inspiration—**Jefferson**> <**luxuries which, when long gratified, became a sort of pseudo necessaries—Scott**> <**o'er taste awhile these pseudo-bards prevail—Byron**> **Pinchbeck** implies a cheap, tawdry, or worthless imitation often of something precious, costly, or grand; it rarely implies an intent to deceive and is therefore closer to **sham** than to **counterfeit** <**a pinchbeck age of poetry—Symonds**> <**a pinchbeck imitations of the glory of ancient Rome—Manchester Guardian**> **Phony** stigmatizes something which does not impose but puzzles or perplexes since it has a dubious appearance of reality <**a phony message**> <**a phony examination**> <**journalists described as a phony war the period of relative inactivity near the beginning of World War II**> **Simulate, feign, pretended (see **ASSUME**): fraudulent (see corresponding noun at **DECEPTION**): deceptive, *misleading, delusive, delusory*

**counterfeit**, **spurious**, **bogus**, **fake**, **sham**, **pseudo**, **pinchbeck**, **phony** are comparable when meaning not at all what it is said to be or purports to be. **Counterfeit** implies that what is so qualified is an imitation of something else and usually of something finer, rarer, or more valuable and that the imitation is intended to deceive or defraud; thus, play money intended for the use of children at play is imitation but not **counterfeit** money; a clipped coin, though intended to defraud, is a real coin and not **counterfeit**; but a false banknote is both imitation and intended to deceive or defraud and is **counterfeit** <planned to substitute a **counterfeit** gem for the historic original> <the austere word of genuine religion is: save your soul! The degenerate counsel of a **counterfeit** religion is: save your soul!—**Sullivan**> **Spurious** designates something as false rather than true or genuine; it carries no strong implication of being an imitation; thus, a **spurious** painting is one that is falsely attributed to a well-known painter; **spurious** writings attributed to Shakespeare are those thrown out of a canon of his work; a **spurious condition** is one which only superficially resembles the genuine condition <**spurious** pregnancy> **The word does not necessarily connote a fraudulent purpose; it may suggest an honest mistake, confusion, or lack of scholarship** <it is certain that the letter, attributed to him, directing that no Christian should be punished for being a Christian, is **spurious**—**Arnold**> <it would have been unfair to call his enthusiasm for social reform **spurious**. It was real enough in its way—**Galsworthy**> <no **spurious** argument, no appeal to sentiment . . . can deceive the American people—**Roosevelt**> **Bogus** carries the implications of fraudulence or deceit and applies to whatever may be passed off on one or may attempt to deceive one as to its true nature <**bogus certificates**> <**bogus** legal actions> <he had figured . . . the night before, in red cambic and **bogus** ermine, as some kind of a king—**Mark Twain**> <**Herman Melville made a habit of breaking out, whenever he was excited, into** **bogus** Shakespeare—**Huxley**> **Fake** and **sham** are often equal to the past participle adjectives **faked** and **shammed**, both usually implying a more or less obvious implication of something real. But **fake** emphasizes the idea of a false fabrication or of fraudulent manipulation <**give fake news**> <**Americans who cling to illusions about communism and its fake Utopia—A. E. Stevenson**> <**sell a fake medicine**> <**a fake diamond**> and **sham** stresses the thinness and obviousness of the disguise, the naiveté of the deception, or often the lack of intent to imitate exactly <**a sham battle**> <**a sham jewelry**> <**a sham crown**> <**a garden adorned with sham ruins and statues—L. P. Smith**> **Pseudo** actually means false in any way; as an adjective modifying a noun or in the combining form joined with a separate noun it frequently implies pretense rather than fraud or spuriousness rather than counterfeit(ing) <these **pseudo** evangelists pretended to inspiration—**Jefferson**> <**luxuries which, when long gratified, became a sort of pseudo necessaries—Scott**> <**o'er taste awhile these pseudo-bards prevail—Byron**> **Pinchbeck** implies a cheap, tawdry, or worthless imitation often of something precious, costly, or grand; it rarely implies an intent to deceive and is therefore closer to **sham** than to **counterfeit** <**a pinchbeck age of poetry—Symonds**> <**a pinchbeck imitations of the glory of ancient Rome—Manchester Guardian**> **Phony** stigmatizes something which does not impose but puzzles or perplexes since it has a dubious appearance of reality <**a phony message**> <**a phony examination**> <**journalists described as a phony war the period of relative inactivity near the beginning of World War II**> **Simulate, feign, pretended (see **ASSUME**): fraudulent (see corresponding noun at **DECEPTION**): deceptive, *misleading, delusive, delusory*
courageous

ingrained or characteristic capacity for meeting strain or stress in a manner suggestive of a finely tempered sword blade. It often implies qualities (as resiliency, ardor, fearlessness, fortitude, or gallantry associated less with physical strength than with mental or spiritual vigor.)

Courage, like mettle, refers to a temperamental quality but suggests something more fragile or volatile. It implies an ability to hold one's own, to assert oneself or one's principles, or to keep up one's morale when opposed, interfered with, frustrated, or tempted. It does not mean that one can forgive you entirely, even now—it is too much for a woman of any spirit to quite overlook. To quit a comrade on the road, and Hardy) he saw that England was saved a hundred years ago. (Paracelsus) It often connotes ingratiating personal qualities (as ease of address, a dashing style, or a polished manner.)

Tenacity adds to resolution the implications of stubborn persistence and of unwillingness to acknowledge defeat. Tenacity—Kirk) is not to say that the French lack tenacity. . . . Having determined upon a thing, the French character tends to exceed in its pursuit, and, while fighting for it, to hold out to the death—Bello) maintained this conviction with a fearless tenacity—Kirk) Ana bravery, boldness, audacity, dauntlessness, intrepidity, doubtlessness, fearlessness (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): valor, heroism, gallantry: fortitude, spirit, guts, backbone, sand

Courageous

- Con timorousness, timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID)

- Con cowardice—Con timorousness, timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID)

Courteous

- Polite, civil, courtly, gallant, chivalrous

- Newark, affable, cordial, suave, urbane, politic, diplomatic: considerate, thoughtful, attentive: obliging, complaisant (see AMIABLE)

- Con discourteous—Con rude, impolite, uncivil, ill-mannered, ungracious: curt, brusque, gruff, blunt (see BLUFF): insolent, supercilious, overbearing (see PROUD)

- Con courtesy, amenity, attention, gallantry are comparable when they denote a manner or an act which promotes agreeable or pleasant social relations. Courtesy suggests consideration for others or deference (as to their rank, sex, or age); it usually implies good breeding and acquired graces but it sometimes connotes innate gentleness or instinctive politeness rather than social training. The beauty of an inherited courtesy . . . of a thousand little ceremonies flowering out of the most ordinary relations and observances of life—Binyon) rising to him . . . with all the engaging graces and courtesies of life—Dickens) Amenity implies a disposition to make easy the approach to or the continuance of pleasant social relations; when used concretely it may be applied not only to words or acts but to pursuits, interests, or facilities that bring men into rapport. He was . . . a charming letter-writer; above all, an excellent and delightful talker. The gaiety and amenity of his natural disposition were inextricable—Arnold) he is a man of informed tastes who happens to prize the amenities. A snob, however, he is not and never has had to be—J. M. Brown) Should she be interested to read it? Might he send it to her? Joan's chaperon . . . put no bar upon these amenities—H. G. Wells) Attention implies a singling out of a particular person for special favor or consideration, or as the recipient of courtesies showing one's admiration or love (as in courting). The elder son is paying attention to his roommate's sister: Of his visitors were busily deferential toward the young lord, and evidently flattered by his attentions—Carlos Baker) she loved her children, but did not unduly spoil them or turn their heads with injudicious attentions—Rose Macaulay) Gallantry stresses devoted attention, sometimes amorous attention, to a lady; it also often connotes ingratiating personal qualities (as ease of address, a dashing style, or a polished manner.)

- Con graciousness, cordiality, affability, geniality (see corresponding adjectives at GRACIOUS): politeness, courteousness, courtliness, chivalrousness or chivalry, civility (see corresponding adjectives at CIVIL): considerateness or consideration, attentiveness, thoughtfulness (see corresponding adjectives at THOUGHTFUL)

- Con discourtesy—Con churlishness, boorishness (see corresponding adjectives under BOOR): rudeness, impoliteness, ungraciousness, incivility (see corresponding adjectives at RUDE)

- Con courtesies flowering out of the most ordinary relations; and a set purpose; a man not desirous to be met rushing down a narrow pass with a gulf on either side, for nothing would turn the man—Dicksen) the General . . . had no resolution, no will of his own, was bullied into the favors he bestowed—Parrellis) he saw that England was saved a hundred years ago. (Paracelsus) It often connotes ingratiating personal qualities (as ease of address, a dashing style, or a polished manner.)

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the emphasis is upon one of these implications, the basic idea being obscured <their advance was covered by squadrons of airplanes> <he covered his anxiety by joining in the laugh> <there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed—Mt 10:26> In still another sense cover implies an extending so far as to include, embrace, or comprise something (left scarcely enough money to cover his debts) <this point has already been covered in the argument> <Chaucer's life covered the last sixty years of the fourteenth century> <I think your statement covers the matter completely> <a situation not covered by the rules> Overspread usually implies a covering by something that diffuses itself or spreads over a surface; the word carries no clear implication of concealing, sheltering, or protecting, but it does suggest the activity of something that flows, expands, or scatters until the entire surface is covered <clouds overspread the sky> <the ground is overspread with weeds> <a blush overspread his face> <the rising waters quickly overspread the valley> Envelop suggests the presence or addition of something that surrounds and therefore covers or nearly covers a person or thing on all sides; it is often used of a gas or a liquid or of clothing <enveloped in a fur overcoat> <enveloped in water up to his chin> <till the sweet . . . incense-laden atmosphere . . . enveloped her like a warm and healing garment—Rose Macaulay> Envelop lends itself to extension and often connotes something impalpable or intangible as the enveloping element <words stir our feelings . . . through their enveloping atmosphere of associations—Lowes> <we are surely justified in . . . calling the spiritual presence which envelops us the spirit of Christ—Inge> Wrap comes very close to envelop in meaning, but it suggests something that folds or winds about so as to enclose rather than surround; the difference, although sometimes slight, is usually important to idiomatic usage; thus, one wraps (better than envelops) oneself in blankets or one wraps up (not envelops) several bars of soap <a closely wrapped female figure approached—Hardy> In extended use wrap usually suggests something that enfolds, envelops, or entangles or enfolds <one covetousness is suggested <is not thy kindness subtle, covetous . . . expecting in return twenty for one?—Shak.> Greedy emphasizes absence of restraint in desire; it is a censorious term only when the object of longing is evil either in itself or in immoderation, or cannot be possessed without harm to oneself or to others <greedy for gold> <exploitation [of provinces] by greedy proconsuls—Buchan> <he loved learning; he was greedy of all writings and sciences—Coulton> Acquisitive implies not only eagerness to possess but the capacity for acquiring and retaining what is desired. Thus, an acquisitive mind is not only greedy for knowledge but is capable of absorbing it in large amounts; the acquisitive classes of society not only covet possessions but have the means whereby they can constantly add to their possessions <one of those strenuous, acquisitive women—Weeks> Grasping implies eagerness and capacity to acquire wealth and selfishness in its acquisition and often suggests use of wrongful or unfair means <people who are hard, grasping . . . and always ready to take advantage of their neighbors, become very rich—Shaw> Avaricious also implies eagerness and capacity to acquire wealth, but especially wealth in a form (as money) which can be hoarded. It, more than any of the others, emphasizes extreme stinginess <an unremittting, avaricious thrift—Wordsworth> Clear, manifest, patent, *evident, obvious Covet 1 Covet, envy, grudge, begrudge though not closely synonymous all carry the implication of a selfish desire to have something for one's own enjoyment or possession. To covet (for fuller treatment see desire) is to long inordinately for something which belongs to another <covet a neighbor's piece of property because of its fine view> To envy is to regard another with more or less chagrin, repining, jealousy, or hatred because he possesses something one covets or feels should have come to oneself <envy a person his good fortune or his promotion> To grudge or begrudge implies reluctance or hesitation (often through selfishness, meanness, or stinginess) in giving another what he (or it) ought to have because it is his (or its) due or need <surely you wouldn't grudge the poor old man some humble way to save his self-respect—Frost> <begrudges every penny he spends on taxis> <she grudges every moment spent on housekeeping chores> 2 crave, *desire, wish, want Ana yearn, *long, pine, hanker, thirst, hunger: pant, aspire, *aim Ant renounce <something desirable> —Con resign, *relinquish, yield, surrender: *abjure, forswear: *decline, refuse, reject Covetous, greedy, acquisitive, grasping, avaricious mean having or manifesting a strong desire for possessions, especially material possessions. Covetous implies inordinateness of desire: very often, with allusion to the Ten Commandments, it implies longing for something that is rightfully another's <covetous of Shakespeare's beauty—Cower> <first settlers brought fine hunting dogs . . . of which the Indians were so covetous that a day was set each year when settlers traded dogs—Amer. Guide Series: Va.> It is, however, used with derogatory intent or effect only when envy is implied or wrongful means of acquiring possession are suggested <is not thy kindness subtle, covetous . . . expecting in return twenty for one?—Shak.> Greedy emphasizes absence of restraint in desire; it is a censorious term only when the object of longing is evil either in itself or in immoderation, or cannot be possessed without harm to oneself or to others <greedy for gold> <exploitation [of provinces] by greedy proconsuls—Buchan> <he loved learning; he was greedy of all writings and sciences—Coulton> Acquisitive implies not only eagerness to possess but the capacity for acquiring and retaining what is desired. 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It, more than any of the others, emphasizes extreme stinginess <an unremittting, avaricious thrift—Wordsworth> Ana *envious, jealous: desirous, lustful (see corresponding nouns at desire): avid, athirst, *eager: rapacious, ravenous, glutonous, ravenous, *voracious Con self-denying, self-abnegating (see corresponding nouns at renunciation): renouncing, abjuring, forswearing (see abjure) Cow vb *intimidate, browbeat, bulldoze, bully Ana *frighten, terrorize, terrify: daunt, *dismay, appall: abash, discomfit, rattle, faze, disconcert, *embarrass
cozy •comfortable, snug, easy, restful

*cheat, defraud, swindle, overreach

coxcomb

*fop, dandy, beau, exquisite, dude, buck

croy bashful, *shy, diffident, modest

Ana nice, proper, seemly, *decorous, decent: aloof, detached (see INDIFFERENT): cautious, wary, chary

Ant pert —Con *saucy, arch: brazen, brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS)

cozens *cheat, defraud, swindle, overreach

Ana *dupe, bamboozle, gull, trick, hoax, hoodwink, befoul: delude, beguile, *deceive, mislead

cozy *comfortable, snug, easy, restful

Ana sheltering, harboring, housing, lodging (see HARBOR)

*safe, secure: containing, satisfying (see SATISFY)

Con *miserable, wretched

crabbed *sullen, surly, glum, gloomy, sulky, saturnine, dour

Ana *dupe, bamboozle, gull, trick, hoax, hoodwink, befoul: delude, beguile, *deceive, mislead

—Con pert

Ana *saucy, arch: brazen, brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS)

crack vb *break, burst, bust, snap, shatter, shiver

Ana *break, burst, bust, snap, shatter, shiver

crust, gruff, brusque, blunt (see BLUFF): testy, irritable, *miserable, wretched

Ana *miserable, wretched

sullen, surly, glum, morose, gloomy, sulky, saturnine, dour

Ana *dupe, bamboozle, gull, trick, hoax, hoodwink, befoul: delude, beguile, *deceive, mislead

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credential 198  creep

ing or acceptance, admitting or admission, receiving or reception (see corresponding verbs at RECEIVE): assenting or accept, acquiescing or acquiescence (see corresponding verbs at ASSENT): reliance, confidence, *trust, faith

credential, testimonial, recommendation, character, reference mean something presented by one person to another in proof that he is what or who he claims to be. Credential (usually in the plural credentials) implies material evidence and especially a letter or document indicating that a person (occasionally a thing) is what he claims (or it seems) to be; the term was originally and is still used of the letter from the sovereign or head of one state to another carried by a new envoy or ambassador and formally presented to the sovereign or head of the state in which he is to serve <an envoy extraordinary from Savoy . . . presented his credentials in the Banqueting House—Macaulay> The term is often used of a letter presented to show competency or to attest identity, or of statements made or acts performed that serve as proof of what is to follow <if we turn out to be poor managers of our own affairs, we will have inferior credentials to present abroad—W. O. Douglas> <the putative Providence of the fight business, who may or may not die of old age before his credentials as an architect are established—Lardner> <these statements I put forward by way of credentials for a comparison which I purpose to make—Grandgent> Testimonial usually implies a written statement from a person competent to judge the character, qualifications, or merits of another and to testify to his fitness to hold or to fill an office or a position <six testimonials were received affirming his fitness for the ministry> <the selected that seemed to me from the testimonial to be the two best men—Crofts> However, the word is often used as an equivalent of recommendation, a term which implies that the statement comes from one (a former employer or teacher) who commends a person to the notice of a possible employer <armed with several recommendations he started out to seek a job> Character, which in this sense is used chiefly in Great Britain, is the designation given to a statement furnished by a former employer about the qualities and habits of a person as manifested while in his employ <then came . . . the coachman, the grooms, the sweeper. For each and all of these I had to write characters—John Lang> Although reference may imply no more than the giving of the name of a person from whom information regarding another may be obtained (as by a possible employer or landlord) it increasingly tends to be employed as a synonym of recommendation or character <Mrs. Blank told the woman she would let her know when she had examined her references> <she had lost all her references and was afraid to apply for a job>

Ana certification, accreditation, endorsement, sanction (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)

credibile believable, *plausible, colorable, specious
Ana *probable, likely, possible: reasonable, *rational: trustworthy, *reliable, dependable
Ant incredible —Con fabulous, mythical, apocryphal, *fictitious: dubious, *doubtful, questionable

credit n 1 *belief, faith, credence
Ana reliance, *trust, confidence, faith: assurance, certitude, conviction, *certainty
Con *unbelief, disbelief, incredulity: *distrust, mistrust; doubt, *uncertainty
2 prestige, authority, *influence, weight
Ana reputation, repute, *fame; renown:

*power, sway

Ant discredit —Con opprobrium, obloquy, ignominy, disrepute (see DISGRACE)

3 Credit, asset are comparable when they mean a person or a thing that enhances another. Someone or something is a credit to another when he or it is a source of honor or of increase in good repute <the boy is a credit to his school> <his integrity is a credit to his upbringing> Someone or something is an asset to another when he or it adds to the usefulness, the worth, the advantages, or the attractiveness of another <the new teacher is an asset to the school> <his knowledge of how to deal with people made him an asset to his employer>

credit vb. accredit, *ascribe, assign, attribute, impute, refer, charge

credulity gullibility (see under CREDOUS)
Ana credence, credit, *belief
Ant incredulity: skepticism —Con *uncertainty, doubt, suspicion, mistrust

creduulous, gullible both mean unduly trusting or confiding but they differ significantly in their implications as do their corresponding nouns credulity and gullibility. Credulous and credulity stress a tendency to believe readily and uncritically whatever is proposed for belief without examination or investigation; typically they suggest inexperience, naiveté, or careless habits of thought rather than inherent incapacity <far from being unconscious of heredity . . . men were insanely creduulous about it; they not only believed in the transmission of qualities and habits from generation to generation, but expected the son to begin mentally where the father left off—Shaw> <Hess, who was as deeply interested in psychic matters as Lanny, and far more creduulous—Upton Sinclair> <we know from the satiric comments of Lucian and from the ingenuousness of Pliny the deep creduility of the average Roman—Buchan> Gullible and gullibility, on the other hand, stress the idea of being duped; they suggest more the lack of necessary intelligence than the lack of skepticism, and connote the capacity for being made a fool of <it was discovered that this man who had been raised to such a height by the creulity of the public was himself more gullible than any of his depositors—Conrad> <that any of us may be so gullible and so forgetful as to be duped into making "deals" at the expense of our Allies—Roosevelt> <monstrous was the gullibility of the people. How could an overcoat at twelve and sixpence be "good"—Bennett>

Ana assenting, acquiescing or acquiescent, agreeing, subscribing (see corresponding verbs at ASSENT): believing, crediting (see corresponding nouns at BELIEF)

Ant incredulous: skeptical —Con uncertain, doubtful, suspicious, mistrustful (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY)

creed faith, persuasion, *religion, denomination, sect, cult, communion, church

creep vb. Creep, crawl mean to move slowly along a surface in a prone or crouching position. Creep is more often used of quadrupeds or of human beings who move on all fours and proceed slowly, stealthily, or silently <a baby creeps before it walks> <crouching down . . . in a corner . . . he made out the three fishermen creeping through some rank grass—Dickens> and crawl of elongated animals with no legs (as snakes and some worms) or with many small legs (as centipedes) that seem to move by drawing the body along the ground or a surface, or of human beings who imitate such movement <when she saw the snake crawling along the path, she screamed> <he was so badly injured that he could only crawl to the open door> In extended use both words often imply
intolerable slowness (tomorrow, and tomorrow, and to-
tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day—
Shak.) (that sad, disappointing, disillusioning . . .
war crawled through that bitter winter of defeat—Rose
Macaulay) Both often imply a slow movement of
a person, especially into another's favor or into a
given status or position, but creep usually suggests stealthy
and insinuating methods (creep along the hedge-bottoms,
an' thou'll be a bishop yet—Tennyson) (even in later
and more enlightened times, the study of literature has
crept its way into official Cambridge—Quiller-Couch)
and crawl, procedure by awkwardness, servility, cringing,
or groveling (Cranmer . . . hath crawled into the favor
of the king—Shak.) (pomp-fed king . . . art thou not the
veriest slave that 'e'er crawled on the loathing earth?
—Shelley) Both also imply a sensation such as might
be produced by lice, fleas, or other human or animal
parasites, but creep suggests a shivering, nervous re-
action, and crawl, an intense feeling of distress and dis-
comfort (something in their countenances that made my
flesh creep with a horror I cannot express—Swift) (his
flesh was crawling with the need of alcohol—Doherty)

crevasse n crack, cleft, fissure, crevice, cleft, chink
Ana chasm, *gulf: *gulf, *gulf: *break, gap
Ant antonyms

critical adj critical, severe, trenchant, biting
Ant hypercritical, faultfinding, critical
Con principled

Analogous words

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critical

1 Critical, hypercritical, faultfinding, captious,
caviling, carping, censorious are comparable when they
mean exhibiting the spirit of one who detects and points
out faults or defects. Critical, when applied to persons
who judge and to their judgments, is the one of these
terms that may imply an effort to see a thing clearly, truly,
and impartially so that not only the good in it may be dis-
tinguished from the bad and the perfect from the imperfect,
but also that it as a whole may be fairly judged or valued
(a tête-a-tête with a man of similar tastes, who is just
and yet sympathetic, critical yet appreciative . . . is a high
intellectual pleasure—Benson) Critical may also imply a keen
awareness of faults or imperfections with often the
suggestion of loss of fairness in judgment (the attitude
of Euripides towards the popular religion is . . . clearly
and frankly critical—Dickinson) (the vast audience
. . . was wont to be exceedingly critical. Bungling work
drew down upon the headsman the execrations of the mob,
and not infrequently placed his own life in danger—
Reppier) When this loss of fairness is to be implied
or when the judge's undue awareness of defects and over-
emphasis of them is to be suggested, writers often prefer
hypercritical to critical (the audience that night was,
as the actors soon knew, hypercritical) (he was . . .
excessively difficult to please, not . . . because he was
hypercritical and exacting, but because he was indifferent
—Bennett) (constant hypercritical belittling of the
efforts of others—Rosen & Kiene) Faultfinding
sometimes takes the place of critical, sometimes of hyper-
critical, but usually suggests less background, less ex-
perience, or less fastidiousness than either; it is there-
fore frequently used when an unreasonably exacting
or a querulous temperament is also to be suggested
(continually faultfinding reviewer of books) (a fault-
finding parent) (Mrs. Stebbins's book would be better
throughout for a more critical (I don't mean faultfinding)
account of her authors' works—Bentley) Captious
implies a readiness, usually a temperamental readiness,
to detect trivial faults or to take exceptions on slight
grounds, because one is either unduly exacting or perversely
hard to please (is it captious to say that, when Manoah's

Analogous words

Ant

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page I
locks are called “white as down,” whiteness is no char-
acteristic of down?—Landon) <after reading a work of such
amplitude it seems captious to protest that the
motivating forces . . . are inadequately analyzed—Bruin
Caviling usually implies a captious disposition but stresses
the habit or act of raising picayune or petty objections
<cavilling legislators who delay the passage of a bill>
<the most caviling mind must applaud their devoted sense
of duty—Willis> <those cavilling critics who snipe from
the musty back rooms of libraries—Ramsdell> Carping,
far more than hypercritical or faultfinding, implies ill-
natured or perverse picking of flaws and often in addition
suggests undue emphasis upon them as blameworthy
<and to that end we wished your lordship here, to avoid
the carping censures of the world—Shak.> <that carping
spirit in which she had been wont to judge of his actions
—Trollope> Censorious implies a disposition or a ten-
dency to be both severely critical and condemnatory
of what one criticizes <such is the mode of these cen-
sorous days, the art is lost of knowing how to praise—
Sheffield>
Ana judicious (see WISE): *judicial: fastidious, finicky,
particular, *nice, fussy, squeamish: discriminating, dis-
cerning, penetrating (see corresponding nouns at DIS-
cERNMENT): understanding, comprehending, appre-
ciating (see UNDERSTAND)
Ant uncritical —Con *superficial, shallow, cursory
2 crucial, *acute
Ana decisive, determinative, *conclusive: momentous,
consequential, weighty, significant, important (see corre-
spending nouns at IMPORTANCE)
criticism, critique, review, blurb, puff are comparable
when meaning a discourse (as an essay or report) present-
ing one’s conclusions after examining a work of art
and especially of literature. None of these terms has a
clearly established and narrowly delimited meaning,
but, in general, each can be distinguished from the others
with reference to its leading implications and its place
in usage. Criticism is of all these terms the most nearly
neutral and the least capable of carrying derogatory
connotations. The proper aim and the content of a criticism
have never been definitely fixed and are still subjects
of controversy, but the term usually implies an author who
is expected to have expert knowledge in his field, a
clear definition of his standards of judgment, and an intent
to evaluate the work under consideration <read every
criticism of a new play the day following its first per-
formance> Criticism is more often applied to the art,
craft, or collective writings of such writers or speakers
than to the individual article <this feeling, that contempo-
rary judgments are apt to turn out a little ludicrous . . .
has converted much criticism of late from judgment
pronounced into impression recorded—Galsworthy>
<1 go on the assumption that a review is simply a short
piece of criticism, and that it should be as good criticism as
its writer can make it—Matthiessen> Because of this
tendency to restrict the use of criticism to its general
sense, critique is sometimes preferred as a designation of
a critical essay, especially of one dealing with a literary
work; but currently it is often avoided as an affectation
<Jeffrey’s critiques in the Edinburgh Review> Review
is now the common designation of a more or less informal
critical essay dealing particularly with new or recent
books and plays. The term is frequently preferred by
newspaper and magazine critics as a more modest desig-
nation of their articles than criticism or critique and as
permitting less profound or exhaustive treatment or
as requiring only a personal rather than a final judg-
ment of the merits and faults of the work. Review gener-
ally suggests literary criticism of a less pretentious kind,
giving in general a summary of a book’s contents and the
impressions it produces on the reviewer <the Sunday edi-
tions of many newspapers have a supplement devoted
to book reviews> Blurb is applied chiefly to a publisher’s
description of a work printed usually on the jacket of
a book for the purposes of advertisement <a term of re-
probation for fulsome ness on the “jackets,” or dust-
cloaks, of new books, blurb is a peach of the first order
—Montague> Puff, a word once common for any unduly
flattering account (as of a book or play), in current use
applies especially to a review that seems obviously
animated by a desire to promote the sale of a book or
the success of a play regardless of its real merits or to
one that is markedly uncritical in its flattering comments
<puffs . . . with which booksellers sometimes embroider
their catalogs—John Carter>
criticize, reprehend, blame, censure, reprobate, condemn,
denounce are comparable when they mean to find fault
with someone or something openly, often publicly, and
with varying degrees of severity. Criticize in its basic
sense does not carry faultfinding as its invariable or even
major implication; rather it suggests a discernment of the
merits and faults of a person or thing <know well each
ancient’s [classic poet’s] proper character; his fable, sub-
ject, scope in ev’ry page; religion, country, genius
of his age: without these at once before your eyes,
cavil you may—but never criticize—Pope> In ordinary
use, however, the word does commonly imply an un-
favorable judgment or a pointing out of faults and is
probably the term most frequently used to express this
idea <criticize a play severely> <averse to being criticized>
<avoid criticizing a person’s errors in speech> <it is foolish
. . . to criticize an author for what he has failed to achieve
—Huxley> <we are trying to get away from the word
“management” because it has been lambasted, ridiculed,
criticized, and blasted—Personnel Jour.> Reprehend
in present-day English takes a person as an object far less
often than a thing, a quality, or an action. In such use
it not only explicitly suggests the approach of a critic
and his disapproval but implies a more or less severe
rebuke <reprehend not the imperfection of others—
Washington> <the thing to be reprehended is the con-
fusing misuse of the word “verse”—Grandgent> Blame
fundamentally implies speaking in dispraise of a person
or thing rather than in his or its favor; in general it also
suggests the mental approach of a critic or detector of
faults <some judge of authors’ names, not works, and then
nor praise nor blame the writings, but the men—Pope>
<Heine . . . cared . . . whether people praised his verses
or blamed them—Arnold> <Aristotle, while blaming
the man who is unduly passionate, blames equally the
man who is insensitive—Dickinson> Blame sometimes
loses much of its opposition to praise and then may
strongly convey an imputation or accusation of wrong-
doing <one cannot blame starving children who steal
food> or of guilt <there is no one to blame but yourself>
Again blame may connot ultimate responsibility rather
than actual guiltiness and then can take a thing as well
as a person for its object <the German family, whose
patriciarchical authoritarianism has been blamed . . .
for militarism and despotism—Padover> <the drug-
fiend will get drugs somehow: if he finds his poppy
and mandragora in poetry, you must blame his habit,
not the poet—Day Lews> Since blame no longer in-
variably implies the simple reverse of commendation,
censure is usually preferred to blame as the antonym
of praise. This word carries a stronger suggestion of
authority or competence in the critic or judge than does
critique

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crowd

blame, as well as a clearer connotation of reprehension or, sometimes, of a reprimand (the judge censured the jury for their failure to render a verdict on the evidence) (the official was not dismissed until after he had more than once been severely censured for his mistakes of judgment) (I lose my patience, and I own it too, when works are censured, not as bad but new—Pope) (it is not one writer’s business to censure others. A writer should expound other writers or let them alone—F. M. Ford) Reprobate is often used as though it were a close synonym of reproach or rebuke ("I put it to you, miss," she continued, as if mildly reproaching some want of principle on Lydia’s part—Shaw) Distinctively, however, it may imply not only strong disapproval and, usually, vigorous censure but also a rejection or a refusal to countenance (he reprobed what he termed the heresies of his nephew—Irving) (that wanton eye so reprobed by the founder of our faith—L. P. Smith) Condemn carries even stronger judicial connotations than censure, for it implies a final decision or a definitive judgment; it commonly also suggests an untempered judgment which is wholly unfavorable and merciless (condemn the fault, and not the actor of it? Why, every fault’s condemned ere it be done—Shak.) (the freedom with which Dr. Johnson condemns whatever he disapproves, is astonishing—Burney) (no conceivable human action which custom has not at one time justified and at another condemned—Krutch) Denounce adds to condemn the implication of public declaration or proclamation (in all ages, priests and monks have denounced the growing vices of society—Henry Adams) (nothing ... makes one so popular as to be the moral denouncer of what everybody else denounces—Brooks)

Ana inspect, examine, *scrutinize, scan: *judge, adudge, appraise, evaluate, assess (see ESTIMATE)

critique *criticism, review, blur, puff

crochet vb knit, *weave, plait, braid, tat

crony comrade, companion, *associate

Ana intimate, *friend, confidant

crook vb *flex, bow, buckle

Ana *curve, bend, twist: contort, *deform

crooked, devious, oblique mean not straight or straightforward. Crooked may imply the presence of material curves, turns, or bends (a crooked back) (a crooked road) (the crooked trunk of a tree) In its frequent extended use it applies especially to practices (as fraud, cheating, or graft) involving marked departures from rectitude (crooked dealings) (a crooked politician) (crooked policies) (they are a perverse and crooked generation—Deut 32:5) Devious implies departure from a direct, appointed, regular, or fixed course and hence suggests wandering or errancy and, often, circuitousness (we sought with relief the empty roads of the fens, and, by devious routes, wound our way between golden buttercups and brown cattle—Lucas) (he went by devious ways, a little proud of himself for knowing the shortcuts, through a building used as a thoroughfare from one street to another, through what had once been the chuchyard of an ancient church—Archibald Marshall) The term as applied to persons and their acts or practices usually implies unreliability and often trickiness or shiftiness (the devious policies of the administration) (he had been a devious rascal—Bennett) (the marks of the thoroughbred were simply not there. The man was blatant, crude, overly confidential, devious—Mencken) Oblique implies a departure from the perpendicular or horizontal direction, or a slanting course (an oblique tower) (an oblique sunbeam) and in extended use suggests indirection or lack of perfect straightfor-wardness (an oblique glance) (all censure of a man’s self is oblique praise—Johnson) (their rebellion was an act of oblique homage—Collet) (people ... who think that ... the Japanese people are maddeningly oblique—Faunon Bowers)

Ana *awry, askew: twisted, bended or bent (see corresponding verbs at CURVE): distorted, contorted, deformed, warped (see DEFORM): tortuous, *winding: corrupt, nefarious, iniquitous, *vicious: stealthy, furtive, underhand (see SECRET)

Ant straight —Con *straightforward, aboveboard, forthright: *upright, honest, scrupulous, conscientious, honorable, just
crop vb *shear, poll, clip, trim, prune, lop, snip

Ana *cut, chop, hew, slash: *detach, disengage

cross n trial, tribulation, affliction, visitation

cross adj cranky, testy, touchy, cholerie, splenetic, *irascible

Ana capious, carping, caviling, faultfinding (see CRITICAL): *irritable, fractious, peevish, petulant, snappish, waspish, querulous
crosswise, crossways *across, athwart
crotchet *caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, conceit, vagary
crush vb *boast, brag, vaunt, gasconade

crow vb 1 *press, bear, bear down, squeeze, jam

Ana *push, shove, thrust, propel: *force, compel, constrain

2 *pack, cram, stuff, ram, tamp

Ana compress (see CONTRACT): *compact, consolidate, concentrate

crowd n Crowd, throng, press, crush, mob, rout, horde are comparable when they mean a more or less closely assembled multitude usually of persons. Crowd basically implies a close gathering and pressing together (the crowd came pouring out with a vehemence that nearly took him off his legs—Dickens) It often implies a merging of the individuality of the units into that of the mass (study the psychology of crowds) (no one in European art has rivalled Keion in the mastery of crowds of men each individually alive yet swept along by a common animating impulse, whether the raging passion of the victors or the panic of the routed—Binyon) (all our ideas are crowd ideas—Ferril) Throng varies so little in meaning from crowd that the two words are often used interchangeably without loss. Throng sometimes carries the stronger implication of movement and of pushing and the weaker implication of density (thronging circulating through the streets) (so they went northward ... past droves and droves of camels, armies of camp followers, and legions of laden mules, the throng thickening day by day—Kipling) (sailors hung from yards and bowsprits to shout the names of vessels to the bewildered, harried throng—Kenneth Roberts) Press differs from throng in being more often applied to a concentrated mass in which movement is difficult because of the numbers, but otherwise it also suggests pushing or pressing forward (perched on the folded-down top of a convertible, to roll down the boardwalk with a press of people following her car—Pete Martin) Crush carries a stronger implication than either crowd or throng of compactness of the group, of offering difficulty to one who wishes to make his way through it, or of causing discomfort to one who is part of it (the crush was terrific for that time of day ... for the street was blocked—Woolf) (a crush of dancing couples packed the floor—Basso) Mob strictly applies to a crowd or throng bent on the accomplishment of riotous or destructive acts (the citizens were terrorized for weeks by mobs)
crucial

crush

〈a mob . . . which pulled down all our prisons—Burke〉
Especially in the United States and in Australia mob may be employed as an intensive of crowd, sometimes implying more disorganization (it is the tendency of a large crowd to become a mob) but at other times denoting merely an extremely large crowd (you could scarcely call it a crowd; it was a mob) In theatrical use mob applies to any large and manifestly agitated crowd of persons that has to be directed as a unit to achieve the proper or the intended effects. Rout applies to an especially disorderly or tumultuous mob 〈a hireling rout scraped together from the dregs of the people—Milton〉 (the busy rout of the street could be seen. He loved the changing panorama of the street—Dreiser〉 Horde usually applies to an assemblage or to a multitude massed together. It is sometimes preferred to crowd, throng, mob, or rout when a contemptuous term is desired, especially one that suggests the rude, rough, or savage character of the individuals who constitute the multitude or mass 〈hordes of small boys roving through the streets〉 (the horde of excursionists took possession of the beach) 〈hordes of sturdy rogues and vagrants—Fussell〉

Ana *multitude, army, host, legion

crucial critical, *acute
Ana threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): trying, afflicting, torturing or torturous (see corresponding verbs at AFFLICT)

crude *rude, rough, uncouth, raw, callow, green
Ana primitive, primeval (see PRIMARY): *immature, unmatured: *coarse, vulgar, gross
Ant consummate, finished —Con cultivated, refined, cultured (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE): *mature, mellow, adult: matured, developed, ripened (see MATURE)

crueI inhuman, fell, *fierce, trunculent, ferocious, barbarous, savage
Ana atrocious, *outrageous, monstrous, heinous: *brutal, bestial: merciless, relentless, implacable, *grim
Ant pitiful —Con compassionate, *tender, sympathetic: merciful, clement, *forbearing, lenient: humane (see CHARITABLE)

crusIe n voyage, trip, tour, *journey, jaunt, excursion, expedition, pilgrimage

crumble disintegrate, decompose, *decay, rot, putrefy, spoil

crush vb 1 Crush, mash, smash, bruise, squash, macerate are comparable when they mean to reduce or be reduced to a pulp or broken mass. Crush implies a compressing between two hard or resistant surfaces that succeeds, usually, in destroying the shape and integrity of the mass; the result depends on the texture of what is crushed, whether it is permanently deformed and destroyed, broken into fragments, or capable of springing back into shape 〈crushed her fingers between the rollers of a mangle〉 〈[the ostrich] leaveth her eggs in the earth . . . and forgetteth that the foot may crush them—Job 39:14-15〉 〈many persons were crushed to death in the panic〉 〈this hat crushes easily〉 〈the crushed leaves of mint have a strong smell〉 Mash implies the beating or pounding of something, often deliberately, to a soft pulp; in this sense mash may come close to crush in meaning 〈this hand shall . . . mash all his bones—Pope〉 but it is more often used in reference to the preparation of certain vegetables and fruits in the kitchen by similar means 〈mash cooked potatoes〉 〈mash strawberries for jam〉

Smash carries a stronger implication of violence in implying a force that shatters or batters; it also often suggests the uselessness for all purposes of what is smashed 〈smash this witness like a crockery vessel, and shiver his part of the case to useless lumber—Dickens〉 〈his hair was black and close-cut; his skin indurated; and the bridge of his nose smashed level with his face—Shaw〉

Bruise, though more commonly used in reference to an injury of the flesh, also carries a sense related to that of crush, smash, or mash in which it implies the pressing or beating of something so as to break it down with the effect of setting the juices running or of softening the fibers 〈nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hooves of hostile paces—Shak.〉 〈some scartting pot-herbs . . . bruised with vervain—Dryden〉

Squash differs from the preceding words chiefly in its applicability to objects that are very soft (as through overripeness or immaturity) or that require little effort to crush by pressure 〈every pear that fell from the tree was squashed〉 〈he squashed under his foot every beetle he could find〉

Macerate is used chiefly in reference to a process of steeping something in a liquid so as to soften or detach its fibers or to wear away its soft parts; the softening or detachment of fibers is chiefly emphasized, and macerate often refers to a step in an industrial process or to a part of a digestive process 〈macerate rags as the first step in papermaking〉 〈corn is macerated in the gizzard of a fowl〉

The term may, however, imply a wearing away of the soft part from whatever cause; it particularly suggests a wearing away of the body (as through fasting or worry) 〈the fierce unrest, the deathless flame, that slowly macerates my frame—Martin〉

Ana *press, squeeze, crowd, jam: batter, mangle, *maim: *beat, pound

2 Crush, quell, extinguish, suppress, quench, quash are comparable when they mean to bring to an end by destroying or defeating. Crush in this sense carries from its basic meaning the implication of being destroyed or injured severely by pressure from without, but it differs in being more often applied to immaterial than to material things and in implying a force at work that makes for the destruction of effective opposition or operation especially by preventing resistance or by depriving of the freedom necessary for expansion or thriving 〈truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again—Bryant〉 〈the free play of passion and thought, the graces and arts of life . . . were crushed out of existence under this stern and rigid rule—Dickinson〉 〈the mere volume of work was enough to crush the most diligent of rulers—Buchan〉

Quell means to overwhelm completely and reduce wholly to submission, to inactivity, or to passivity; the term may be used in respect to people or animals or to (usually immaterial) things; thus, one may quell a riot or the rioters; quell a mutiny or the mutineers 〈the nation obeyed the call, ralled round the sovereign, and enabled him to quell the disaffected minority—Macaulay〉 had some difficulty in quelling the tumult that arose when the bell was answered—Shaw〈 Extinguish (see also ABOLISH) implies an end as sudden or as complete as the blowing out of a candle or the putting out of a fire with water 〈the sudden and soon extinguished genius of Marlowe—T. S. Eliot〉〈lives that were to be extinguished in Hitler's gas chambers—Deutscher〉

Suppress differs from crush especially in implying conscious action, in more strongly suggesting a power or force that openly quells or extinguishes, and in more often taking as its object a definite objective person or thing 〈suppress a political organization〉 〈one purpose of the purchase was to suppress competition〉 〈little by little the two roads were to come into competition between the two roads—Justice Holmes〉 deeply as the Cistercians disliked and distrusted Abelard, they did not violently suppress him—Henry Adams〈 Quench, which is close to extinguish
cuddle

cry

crutch, rage, *fashion, style, mode, fad, craze, dernier
crusty brusque, gruff, blunt, curt, *bluff

press, throng, *crowd, horde, mob, rout

crush

vb:

puzzling, perplexing, mystifying (see PUZZLE

*destroy, demolish: *ruin, wreck: annihilate, ante:

outstanding, conspicuous (see NOTICEABLE): com-

Ana

C. H. Adams

S. H. Adams

Henry S. Adams

F. M. Fordyce

T. S. Eliot

R. Crothers

Shakespeare

and

T. Steegmuller

Richard Galsworthy

see also ANNULE

implied: a sudden and summary

extinction (quash a rebellion) (he foresaw that the
dreadful woman ... would quash his last chance of life—
Dickens) (the lady, together with her family, was dis-
patched to the safe distance of the Far East. . . . Thus
was quashed an idyll—S. H. Adams

Ana *destroy, demolish: *ruin, wreck: annihilate,

*abolish: obliterate, blot out, efface (see ERASE)

crush

n press, throng, *crowd, horde, mob, rout

*multitude, army, legion, host

crusty

brusque, gruff, blunt, curt, *bluff

*snapping, wapish, *irritable: choleric, splenetic,
cranky, testy, *irascible: crabbed, surly, saturnine, dour

(see SULLEN)

cry

vb

Cry, weep, wail, keen, whimper, blubber mean to show one's grief, pain, or distress by tears and utterances,

usually inarticulate utterances. Cry and weep (the first

the homelier, the second the more formal term) are fre-

quently interchanged. Cry is more apt to stress the audible

utterances. Weep, on the other hand, usually implies expressing grief without restraint, in

mournful and often long-drawn-out cries, moans, and

lamentations ( "Where is my father, and my mother, nurse?" "Weeping and

wailing over Tybalt's corpse"—Shak.) (hear him, o'erwhelmed with sorrow, yet rejoice;

no womanish or

shading of tears has part—Cowper) (soon as

she . . . saw the lifeblood flow . . . weeping loud she clasped him—Shelley)

Keen implies the wailing lamentations or
diges of a professional mourner (keen [means] hideous,
dismal wailing or howling practiced in Ireland among the

humber classes in token of grief, at funerals, and on hear-
ing news of a death or other calamity—Wylde) (kept our

sorrow—Punch) (keene'd like a squaw bereft—M. H.

Moody)

Whimper implies low, whining, broken cries (as made by a baby or puppy) (whimpering in fright)

(he had seen the old general whimper like a whipped dog

—F. M. Ford)

Blubber implies scalding, disfiguring tears and noisy, broken utterances (as of a child who

cannot have his way) (he always blubbers until those who

oppose him give in to him) (tears came easy to him;

he could blubber like a child over a slight or a disappoint-

ment—S. H. Adams

Ana

lament, bewail, bemoan, *deplore: sob, moan,

*sigh, groan

cry

n

vogue, rage, *fashion, style, mode,fad, craze, dernier

crying adj

pressing, urgent, imperative, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant

Ana

outstanding, conspicuous (see NOTICEABLE): comp-
pelling, constraining (see FORCE vb)

cryptic

enigmatic, *obscure, dark, vague, ambiguous, equivocal

Ana

puzzling, perplexing, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb):
occult, esoteric, *recondite: *mysterious, arcane

cuddle

fondle, dandle, pet, cosset, *caress

Ana

analogous words

Ant

an antonym

Con

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
cumulative, accretive, additive, summative are comparable when meaning increasing or produced by the addition of like or assimilable things. Something is cumulative which is constantly increasing or is capable of constant increase (as in size, amount, power, or severity) by successive additions, successive accretions, or successive repetitions; thus, the cumulative effect of a drug may be harmful even though the immediate effect of each dose has, apparently, been beneficial; terror is cumulative because one fear tends to inspire another (groupings of fact and argument and illustration so as to produce a cumulative and mass effect—Cardozo) Something is cumulative which is constantly increasing in amount or bulk through successive additions or which has reached its sum total or magnitude through many such additions (the art of nations is to be cumulative . . . the work of living men not superseding, but building itself upon the work of the past—Ruskin) (such persons cannot understand the force of accumulative proof—Whately) Cumulative is now used more often than accumulative especially where increasing severity or enhancement in influence or power are to be suggested. Something is additive which is of such a nature that it is capable either of assimilation to or incorporation in something else or of growth by additions. An additive detail, element, or factor is one that has such affinity for another thing that it becomes a constituent part of that thing; thus, red, green, and blue-violet are the additive colors and are used in color photography because they blend to form any color (this new hypothesis assigns to the atom properties which are in no way inconsistent with the inverse-square attraction of its electrons and protons; rather they are additive to it—James) (this pluralistic view, of a world of additive constitution, is one that pragmatism is unable to rule out from serious consideration—James) Something is summative which is capable of association or combination with other things so as to produce such a sum total as an additive whole or a cumulative effect (the summative action of a drug and its adjuvant) (if the student could not add up his achievements, if there was nothing summative in his education—Eduational Review)

**Ana** accumulated, amassed (see ACCUMULATE); multiplying, increasing, augmenting (see INCREASE)

**Con** dissipated, dispersed, scattered (see SCATTER)

**cunning adj** 1 ingenious, *clever, adroit
2 crafty, tricky, artful, *sly, fox, insidious, wily, guileful
3 shrewd, astute: knowing, smart (see INTELLIGENT)
4 artless, unsophisticated, naïve (see NATURAL)

**cunning n** 1 skill, *art, craft, artifice
2 dexterity or dexterity, adroitness, deftness (see corresponding adjectives at DEXTEROUS): proficiency, adeptness, expertise (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT): ingenuity or ingenuity, cleverness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEVER)
3 guile, *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation
4 craftiness, insidiousness, wiliness, guilefulness, trickiness or trickery, artfulness, slyness (see corresponding adjectives at SLY): stratagem, ruse, maneuver, feint, *trick, wile, gambit, ploy
5 ingenuousness

**cupidity, greed, rapacity, avarice** are comparable when meaning intense desire for wealth or possessions. Cupidity stresses the intensity and compelling nature of the desire and often suggests covetousness as well (the sight of so much wealth aroused his cupidty) (the vast cupidty of business in preempting the virgin resources of California—Parrington) Greed, more than cupidty, implies a controlling passion; it suggests not strong but inordinate desire, and it commonly connotes meanness as well as covetousness (a low, incessant, gnawing greed . . . for power, for money, for destruction—White) Rapacity implies both cupidty and actual seizing or snatching not only of what one especially desires but of anything that will satisfy one’s greed for money or property; it often suggests extortion, plunder, or oppressive exactions (the rapacity of the conquerors knew no bounds) (the woman’s greed and rapacity . . . disgusted me—Thackeray) (the rapacity of the warlords—Peffer) Avarice, although it involves the idea of cupidty and often carries a strong suggestion of rapacity, stresses that of miserliness and implies both an unwillingness to let go whatever wealth or property one has acquired and an insatiable greed for more (such a stanchless avarice that, were I king, I should cut off the nobles for their lands, desire his jewels and this other’s house: and my more-having would be as a sauce to make me hunger more—Shak) (they scripped and stinted and starved themselves . . . out of avarice and the will-to-power—Mumford)

**cureful, sanative, restorative, remedial, corrective** are comparable when they mean returning or tending to return to a state of normality or health. Curative is applicable to whatever effects or, sometimes, seeks or tends to effect a complete recovery especially from disease of body or of mind (a curative drug) (curative regimens) (most medicines are alleviative in their action and not definitely curative). Rather, they overcome the symptoms of disease and give the patient a chance to recover—Morrison Sanative is a general term applicable to whatever is conducive either to the restoration of or the maintenance of health, whether of body and mind or of spirit or morals; the term often comes close to salutary in meaning (the sanative virtue of action . . . to dispel doubt and despair—Masson) Restorative is occasionally applicable to what restores to health but more often to what revives someone unconscious or renews or refreshes someone or something overstrained or exhausted (the restorative effect of rain on parched fields) (take a restorative drink before dinner) (that voyage proved entirely beneficial and restorative—Ellis) Remedial is much the broadest term of this group and like the related noun (see REMEDY n) and verb (see CURE vb) is applicable not only to whatever alleviates or cures disease or injury of body or mind but to whatever tends to relieve or correct a faulty or evil condition (as of the community, the law, or the body politic). While . . . the teacher's greatest contribution lies in the prevention of maladjustment, he must also assume a major responsibility in remedial work with the student who has become poorly adjusted—C. C. Dunsmoor & L. M. Miller) (whatever action the court takes towards a convicted offender . . . is in fact a punishment; and it does not cease to be so because it may also be used as a form of remedial treatment, adapted to the personality of the offender and directed to his social rehabilitation—Ford) (with power and humility she overcame the world, and cast down the devil with prayer and remedial tears—H. O. Taylor) (the communities affected entered upon a patient course of remedial action and successfully labored to prevent a recurrence of these disorders—Handlin) Corrective (compare CORRECTIVE n) in many of its uses comes close to remedial, but, unlike the latter, it cannot ordinarily re-
place curative; specifically it applies to what is designed to restore something to a norm or standard or bring it up (or down) to a desirable level from which it has deviated. In this relation the term is peculiarly applicable to material objects that supplement or compensate for a defective function or part, but it may be used interchangeably with remedial in most contexts, though the emphasis may be more on making good a defect or deficiency than (as in remedial) on relieving the distress it causes; thus, one would speak of corrective (rather than remedial) shoes for the relief of weak ankles, but one could say that among remedial (or corrective) measures for weak ankles are shoes with special lifts in the soles (constantly called upon their corrective lenses to decipher documents—Ace) such corrective declines need not, necessarily, represent the end of this greatest of all bull markets—Van Loan, there is today special need for the balancing and corrective sanity of not taking ourselves and our time over-seriously—Alain Locke)

**Ana** healing, curing, remedying (see cure vb)

**curb vb** check, bridle, *restrain, inhibit


**Ant** spur —Con *indulge, pamper, humor

**curdle n** coagulate, congeal, set, clot, jelly, jel

**cure vb** Cure, heal, remedy mean to rectify an unhealthy or undesirable condition especially by some specific treatment (as medication). Cure and heal may apply interchangeably to both wounds and diseases (pierced to the soul with slander's venomed spear, the which no balm can cure—Shak.) (physician, heal thyself—Lk 4:23) Often, however, they tend to be differentiated in such applications, cure more frequently implying restoration to health after disease, heal implying restoration to soundness of an affected part after a wound or lesion (the treatment failed to cure his headache) (the salve will heal slight burns) (his fever ... might cure him of his tendency to epilepsy—Byron) (1. I must not break my back to heal his finger—Shak.) In extended use a similar distinction often holds, with cure applicable when a condition (as a state of mind or a habit of behavior) is under discussion and heal when a specific incident or event is involved; thus, one would seek to cure (not heal) mistrust but to heal (rather than cure) a breach between friends (if you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the boys—Eliot) (we have no cure for my name and character—Austen) (we are denied the one thing that might heal us ... that might bring balm to the bruised heart, and peace to the soul in pain—Wilde) **Remedy** (see also remedy n) applies to the using of whatever will correct or relieve an abnormal condition (as of body or mind) whether affecting physical or mental health or causing mere local or occasional discomfort (who ... may likeliest remedy the stricken mind—Southey) (see also curative). 1) remedy is often used in reference to evil conditions corrected, relieved, or counteracted by any means (remedy an abuse) (remedy the breakdown of international prestige—Ascoli)

**curious** 1 Curious, inquisitive, prying, nosy, nosey are comparable when meaning interested in finding out or in a search for facts that are not one's personal concern. Curious need not imply objectionable qualities such as intrusiveness or impertinence, but it suggests an eager desire to learn, especially to learn how or why things have happened or are happening (children are naturally curious about almost everything) (curious onlookers were held back about almost everything) (she never wished to seem curious about her neighbor's affairs) **Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
tained the anathemas—R. M. French] In more general use the term applies to a strong or violent denunciation by one in authority or in a position to judge of something as grossly wrong, as productive of evil, or as accursed (the Pope... has condemned the slave trade—but no more</p>
the cutting or shaping of large, difficult, or resistant objects or material <hew> them to pieces, hack their bones asunder—Shak.> 〈a wall of hewn stones〉 <and now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree . . . which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire—Lk 3:9〉 〈there’s a divinity that shapes our ends, roughhew them how we will—Shak〉 Chop implies a cleaving or dividing by a quick, heavy blow (as of an ax, a cleaver, or a hatchet) or, more often, a dividing into pieces by repeated blows of this character 〈chop off branches of a tree〉 〈chop the trunk of a tree into firewood〉 〈chop meat into small pieces〉 Carve has come to be restricted to two types of cutting. The first requires the use of special tools (as chisels and gouges) and has for its end the artistic shaping, fashioning, or adornment of a material (as stone, ivory, or wood) 〈a sculptor carves a statue out of marble〉 〈the back and legs of the chair were elaborately carved〉 〈an exquisite ivory box carved with figures〉 The second requires a sharp knife and has for its end the cutting up and especially the slicing of meat at table in pieces suitable for serving 〈carve a roast of beef〉 〈the head of the family carves the turkey〉 Slih implies the making of a lengthwise cut; except that it suggests the use of a sharp clean-cutting instrument (as scissors, a scalpel, a sword, or a knife) it carries no clear connotations as to the extent of the cut in depth or in length 〈the surgeon slit the abdominal wall in front of the appendix〉 〈the long skirt was slit to the knee〉 〈slit a sealed envelope〉 Slash also implies a lengthwise cut but usually suggests a sweeping stroke (as with a sharp sword, knife, or machete) that inflicts a deep and long cut or wound: very frequently it connotes repeated cuts and often furious or rough-and-tumble fighting 〈slashing desperately at his circling enemies〉 〈tires slashed by vandals〉

**Ana** split, cleave, rive (see **TEAR**); sever, sunder (see **CUT**); separate vb; curtail (see **SHORTEN**)

**cutthroat** *assassin, gunman, bravoe
cutting *incisive, trenchant, clear-cut, biting, crisp
Ana *sharp, keen, acute: piercing, penetrating, probing (see **ENTER**)
cyclone *whirlwind, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, waterspout, twister
cyclopean *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, titanice, Brobdingnagian
cynical, misanthropic, pessimistic, misogynic are comparable when meaning deeply and often contemptuously distrustful. Cynical implies a sneering disbelief in sincerity and integrity (the case with which she asserted or denied whatever suited her purpose was only equalled by the cynical indifference with which she met the exposure of her lies—J. R. Green) <but people are nowadays so cynical—they sneer at everything that makes life worth living—L. P. Smith> Misanthropic implies a rooted dislike and distrust of one’s fellowmen and aversion to their society (Swift was of an unhappy, misanthropic state of mind) 〈he . . . viewed them not with misanthropic hate—Byron〉 〈his loathing . . . hardened into a misanthropic mania—Powy’s> Pessimistic suggests a distrustful and gloomy view of things in general 〈the pessimistic philosophy of Schopenhauer〉 〈of kindly heart, though of violent speech . . . and of pessimistic temperament—Ellis> Misogynie implies a deep-seated aversion to, and a profound distrust of, women 〈his misogynie soul—Meredith〉 〈a misogynie old bachelor〉 Ana sneering, girding, flouting, scoffing (see **SCOFF**); captious, caustic, carping, censorious, *critical: disbelieving, unbelieving (see corresponding nouns at **UNBELIEF**)

**Con** *hopeful, optimistic, roseate

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**dabbler** tyro, *amateur, dilettante

**Con** adopt, *expert, wizard, artiste
daily, diurnal, quotidian, circadian mean of each or every day. Daily is used with reference to the ordinary concerns and customary happenings of life 〈daily wants〉 〈daily visits〉 (the daily newspaper) Sometimes however it implies an opposition to nightly 〈the daily anodyne, and nightly draught—Pope> Diurnal is commonly either astronomical (with special reference to the movements of the heavenly bodies) or poetic in its use 〈the diurnal revolution of the earth〉 〈rolled round in earth’s diurnal course—Wordsworth〉 Diurnal also implies opposition to nocturnal 〈the diurnal and nocturnal offices of the monks〉 〈hunting dogs are mainly diurnal animals—Stevenson-Hamilton〉 Quotidian adds to daily the implication of recurrence each day 〈a quotidian fever〉 It often suggests also a commonplace, routine, or everyday character or quality 〈that quality of strangeness which puts a new light on all quotidian occupations—Bennett〉 〈he has found in quotidian interests and affections and appetites so complete an escape from the labors and the struggles of the creative spirit—Brooks〉 〈as quotidian as catching the 8:52 from Surbiton to go to business on a Monday morning—Huxley〉 Circadian is a chiefly technical term of recent coinage that differs from daily or quotidian in implying only approximate equation with the twenty-four hour day 〈circadian rhythms in insect behavior〉

**Con** *nightly, nocturnal: periodic, alternate, recurrent, *intermittent: occasional, *infrequent, sporadic
dainty I delicate, exquisite, *choice, elegant, recherché, rare
Ana petite, diminutive, little, *small: pretty, bonny, fair, lovely, *beautiful: *delightful, delectable, delicious
Ant gross — Con *coarse, vulgar: *common, ordinary
2 fastidious, fussy, finicky, finicking, fnical, *nice, particular, fussy, squeamish, persnickety, pernickety
Ana *careful, meticulous, punctilious, scrupulous: discriminating, discerning (see corresponding nouns at **DISCERNMENT**)
daily flirt, coquet, toy, *trifle
Ana *play, sport, frolic, gambol: *caress, fondle, pet

**dam** vb bar, block, obstruct, *hinder, impede
Ana clog, *hamper, tramnel, shakele, fetter, hog-tie: *suppress, repress
Con *advance, forward: *express, vent, utter, air

**damage** n harm, injury, hurt, mischief
Ana impairment, marring (see corresponding verbs at **INJURE**); ruining, dilapidation, wrecking (see corresponding verbs at **RUIN**); detriment, deleteriousness (see corresponding adjectives at **PERNICIOUS**)

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**Ana** analogous words  **Ant** antonyms  **Con** contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1

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**D**
danger

**Danger, peril, jeopardy, hazard, risk** mean either attended by or involving the possibility of loss, evil, injury, harm; however, they are frequently not freely interchangeable in usage. **Dangerous** applies to persons, things, or situations that should be avoided or treated with excessing care because contact with them or use of them is unsafe and exposes one or causes one to expose others at least to danger. **Hazardous** means attended by or involving the possibility of loss, evil, injury, harm; it is often the preferred term when the chances of loss or death, or both, are comparatively great; thus, a hazardous occupation (especially from the point of view of insurability) is one in which the worker must run significantly greater than average risks of accident or loss of life; a hazardous enterprise is one which has as many (if not more) chances of failing as of succeeding; no one should be deluded into believing that we can ever have completely assured lives. Living is a hazardous business at the best—Furnas—(the hazardous game of secret service in enemy country—Alexander Forbes) **Precaution** is often used inaccurately where dangerous or even hazardous would be the better word. The basic meaning of this word is uncertain or insecure: therefore, it may be used without implication of threatened danger or of possible hazards; in strict use precautionary is uncertain health rather than a physical condition threatening death; a precautionary occupation is one that may be neither dangerous nor hazardous but uncertain (as in its tenure or remunerativeness) (whoever supposes that Lady Austen's fortune is precarious is mistaken. . . . It is . . . perfectly safe—Cowper) (a National Church in the early Caroline sense depended upon the precarious harmony of the king, a strong archbishop, and a strong first minister—T. S. Eliot) The term often carries also an implication of attendance by danger or hazards especially as a factor in or source of insecurity or uncertainty; thus, a precautionary hold or footing is one that is so insecure that it involves danger (the precarious track through the morass—Scott) (keeping a precarious and vital balance, like a man walking on high on a tightrope—Montague) **Perilous** carries a stronger implication of the immediacy of a threatened evil than dangerous (after all their intolerable toils, the sounding tumult of battle, and perilous sea-paths, resting there . . . amid the epitaphs and allegorical figures of their tombs—L. P. Smith) (we all know how perilous it is to suggest to the modern woman that she has any "sphere"—Babbit) **Risk** comes close to perilous in suggesting high possibility of harm or loss, but it is usually applied to an action or activity which a person undertakes voluntarily and often with knowledge of the perils or risks to which it exposes him (undertake a risky job) (make a risky investment) (so risky was travel that the Indiana legislature specifically permitted travelers to carry concealed weapons—Sandburg) **Ana** unsafe, insecure (see affirmative adjectives at SAFE): chance, chance, haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
dark, dim, dusky, obscure, murky, gloomy
adj
Daredevil
rash, reckless, daredevil, foolhardy, venturesome
*face, brave, challenge, defy, beard
vb
dare
Dank
damp, humid, moist, *wet
Anadark
soaked, saturated, sopped or soppy, drenched
Anadappled
*variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, freaked
dare
vbFACE, brave, challenge, defy, beard
Anaventure, risk, chance, hazard
daredevil adj
daring, rash, reckless, foolhardy, venturesome
*adventurous
Anaadventure
bold, intrepid, audacious (see BRAVE)
Con	*timid, timorous: *cautious, wary, circumspect,
chary: prudent, sensible, sane, *wise, judicious
dark adj
Darkeither
mean partly or wholly destitute of light.
Dark, the ordinary word and the most general of these terms, implies a lack of the illumination necessary to enable one to see or to identify what is before him. It may imply lack of natural illumination (as by the sun or moon) (a dark forest) (a dark night) or of artificial illumination (as by gas or electricity) (a dark room) or a lack of immaterial light (as cheerfulness) (a dark mood) (a dark countenance) or of moral or spiritual light (a dark deed) or of brilliance—that is, the quality of lightness in color (a dark blue)
Dim suggests just so much darkness that the things before one cannot be seen clearly or in their distinct or characteristic outlines: it may be applied equally to things viewed or to a source of illumination (the light has grown dim) (dim stars) (he could just make out dim figures in the distance) It may designate a usually bright thing that is dulled or softened (a . . . dim and tender red—Hudson) (a dim image of their glorious vitality—Krutch) or a place or time that is nearly dark (scrambled over to join the other ghosts out on the dim common—Galsworthy) (the hazy light . . . reminded him of the dim distances of his own . . . country—Anderson) Dim as applied to eyes, sight, or insight suggests a loss of functional keenness (eyes dim with tears) (dim eyesight)
Dusky suggests the halfway state between light and dark characteristic of twilight: like (see also SULLEN) implies imperfect illumination owing to causes that interfere seriously with the radiation of light (as dense clouds or the heavy shade of many closely set trees): in addition, it often connotes pervading cheerlessness (the day was especially gloomy for June) (the gloomiest part of the forest) (the room was gloomy and depressing with only a dim light from a small candle) (their gloomy pathway tended upward, so that, through a crevice, a little daylight glimmered down upon them—Hawthorne)
Ant light—Con *bright, brilliant, radiant, luminous: illuminated, illuminated, enlightened, lighted (see ILLUMINATE)
2 *obscure, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal
Anacity
obstinate, occult, *recondite, esoteric: *mystical, mystic, anagogic, cabalistic: intricate, complicated, knotty, *complex
Ant lucid—Con *clear, perspicuous: simple, *easy, light, facile
darken
obscure, dim, bedim, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate
Ant illuminate—Con enlighten, illumine (see ILLUMINATE): elucidate, *explain
dart
vbFLY, scud, skim, float, shoot, sail
Ant *speed, precipitate, hasten, hurry
dash
vbRUSH, tear, shoot, charge
Ant dart, *fly, scud
dash n
1 *vigor, vim, spirit, esprit, verve, élan, drive
Ant force, energy, might, *power: vehemence, intensity (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE): impressive—Con (see corresponding adjective at MOVING)
2 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, suspicion, tinge, shade, smack, spice, vein, strain, streak
dashing smart, *stylish, fashionable, modish, chic
date n
*engagement, rendezvous, tryst, appointment, assignation
daunt
apprall, *dismay, horrify
Ant cow, *intimidate, browbeat: discomfit, disconcert, faze (see EMBARRASS): foil, thwart, baffle (see FRUSTRATE): *frighten, alarm, scare, terrify
Con rally, rouse, arouse, *stir, waken, awaken: impel, drive, move, actuate: activate, *vitalize, energize
daulless
*brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, valorous, undaunted, bold, audacious
Ant indomitable, unconquerable, *invincible: heroic, gallant (see corresponding nouns at HEROISM)
dazzle
vb
power, impressive—Con (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE)
date
*clear, perspicuous: simple, *easy, light, facile
daydream n
*daydream, *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, vision, nightmare
Ant imagining or imagination, conceiving or conception, fancying (see corresponding verbs at FANCY): illusion, *delusion, hallucination
daze vb Daze, stun, bemuse, stupify, benumb, paralyze, petrify all mean to dull or deaden the powers of the mind through some disturbing experience or influence. Daze may imply any of numerous causes (as a blow on the head, an excess of light, or a physical or mental shock) which prostrates one’s powers and leaves one confused or bewildered or dazzled (Till I felt I could end myself too with the dagger—so deafened and dazed— . . . with the grief that gnawed at my heart—Tennyson) (the cattle gather and blare, roused by the feet of running men, dazed by the lantern glare—Kipling) Stun usually suggests a sudden deprivation of one’s powers of thought or a loss of consciousness as a result of a heavy blow or a violent fall, but it is also used in an extended and often hyperbolic sense to describe the devastating effect
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
of noise, surprise, or astonishment "stunned" his assailant with the butt of his rifle) "stunned" by the news of his son's drowning) where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around, and Niagara stuns with thundering sound—Goldsmith  "ye little children, stun your grandame's ears with pleasure of your noise!—Wordsworth or has the shock . . . confused . . . and stunned me from my power to think—Tennyson Bemuse implies an adding or muddling of the mind whether through intoxication or through employment, preoccupation, or engrossment that dulls or abstracts the mind "A Prussian was regarded in England as a dull beer-bemused creature—M'Carthy" his senses so bemused in the intensity of calculation —Scott "people with brains and intelligence . . . play cards until they are bemused and stupid—McCler's Mag" Stupefy heights the implication of stupor or stupidity by weakening not only the implication of shock or surprise but that of overwork or fatigue; it therefore usually implies something (as an injury, an illness, a grief or anxiety long-continued, or intoxication) that dulls both the senses and the mind "sun elated them; quiet rain sobered them, weeks of watery tempest stupefied them—Hardly" Benumb is used chiefly of the effect of cold in deadening or immobilizing the muscles, but it is used also of anything that becomes so inert that it seems as if frozen "it is so cold, so dark, my senses are so benumbed—Dickens" Mrs. Ralston drew back a step or two. Charlotte's cold resolution was thoroughly deadened and she could find no immediate reply—Wharton Paralyze is often used figuratively to imply an inability to act or to function, on the part of a thing as well as of a person, that comes as the result of a dire event, a burden too heavy to be borne, or an astounding disclosure "in these wild places . . . a snowstorm . . . does not . . . paralyze traffic as London permits itself to be paralyzed under similar circumstances—Jefferies" a certain helplessness in the presence of what is unfamiliar that fairly paralyzes even Gallic curiosity—Brownell" Petrify (see also Harden) emphasizes the immediate effect of fear, amazement, shock, or awe and suggests complete inability to move, to think, or to act, as though one were turned to stone "the spectators were petrified with horror" or she was too petrified to answer the question More than any other word in this group, petrify is often used hyperbolically "I was too petrified to pay any attention to him" Ana confound, bewild, mystify (see Puzzle): *confuse, muddle, befuddle: dazzle, dizzy (see corresponding adjectives at GIDDY) Dazzled *giddy, dizzy, vertiginous, swimming Ana confused, added, befuddled, muddled (see confuse): confounded, bewildered, puzzled, perplexed (see Puzzle) Dead adj Dead, defunct, deceased, departed, late, lifeless, inanimate all mean devoid of life. Dead applies strictly to anyone or to anything that has been deprived of life and has therefore ceased to grow or to function "a dead person" "a dead animal" "a dead tree" "every plant in the garden is dead as a result of the intensely severe winter" Dead is also applicable to things which have not had life (in its literal sense) but have existed for a time and have been used or accepted or have proved effective or influential; thus, a dead language is no longer in spoken use by anyone; a dead belief no longer has any acceptance; a dead journal no longer is printed and circulated; a dead issue or question no longer arouses interest or debate. Figure 1 the term implies lack or loss of sensation, consciousness, feeling, activity, energy, or any of the qualities associated with life "a dead engine" "a dead cigar" "the dead season in a business" Defunct differs little in its literal sense from dead, except that it is somewhat bookish "Charlotte had entered society in her mother's turned garments, and shed with satin sandals handed down from a defunct aunt—Wharton" The term is more often applied to a thing that by failure or dissolution has ceased to function or to operate (a defunct newspaper) "a defunct corporation" Deceased applies only to a person and especially to one who has died comparatively recently or who, though dead, is at the moment under consideration especially in some legal context "laws prohibiting the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister" "the legal heirs of the deceased millionaire were never found" Departed is distinctly euphemistic (especially in religious use) "pray for the souls of departed relatives and friends" Late is used in place of deceased or departed especially when stressing a relationship to a surviving person or an existent institution "under the terms of his late father's will" "the late chairman of the board of directors" "the late master of the house" Lifeless, unlike the preceding words, does not necessarily imply deprivation of life, for it is applicable not only to something literally dead but also to something which never had life or is incapable of life. In comparison with dead, however, lifeless stresses the absence (sometimes, when loss of consciousness is implied, the apparent absence) of the phenomena characteristic of being alive, that is, of a life man, but a lifeless body (that is, a body that shows no signs of life) "there in the twilight cold and grey, lifeless, but beautiful, he lay—Longfellow" In its extended use lifeless is especially applicable to things (far less often to persons) that have not or never have had vitality, power, or spirit "a lifeless color" "a lifeless poem" "she has been lifeless since her recovery from a prolonged illness" (dull lifeless mechanical systems that treat people as if they were things—Wilde) "monochrome is a starved and lifeless term to express the marvellous range and subtlety of tones of which . . . Chinese ink is capable—Binyon" Inanimate is more consistently used than lifeless in describing something which never had life; it is the preferred term when a contrast between that which is devoid of life and that which possesses life is expressed or implied "objects which consist of inanimate matter—Jeans" "a transition . . . from the inorganic to the organic, from the inanimate to the living—Inge" "harnessing inanimate power to carry us and our burdens—Furnas" But inanimate is also applicable in extended use to that which is spiritless, inactive, or not lively, and therefore dull "an inanimate style" "her inanimate movement when on the stage—Yeats" Ant alive—Con *living Deadlock n *draw, tie, stalemate, standoff Ana situation, condition, *state, posture: *predicament, plight, dilemma, quandary Deadly adj 1 Deadly, mortal, fatal, lethal mean causing or causative of death. Deadly may imply an extremely high degree of probability rather than a certainty of death; the term therefore applies to something with the capacity of or a marked potentiality for causing death; a deadly disease is one usually ending fatally; a deadly weapon is one capable of inflicting death; the seven deadly sins in theology are those sins which must be avoided because they are the source of other sins and are destructive of spiritual life and progress "two brave vessels matched in deadly fight, and fighting to two spans—Wordsworth" (poisons more deadly than a mad dog's tooth—Shak) "the neglect of form—was even deadlier to poetry—Viereck" Mortal implies that death has
**deal**

occurred or is certain to occur; the term therefore is applicable only to that which actually has caused or is about to cause death; a mortal disease is one that ends fatally; a mortal wound is one that caused or will inevitably cause death; a mortal sin (in contrast with a deadly sin) is a grievous sin deliberately committed and actually inflicting spiritual death. Deadly applies to the instrument that deals the wound or blow that proves mortal (a deadly lance) (a mortal stab) (Gigi took off his mask and hid it under a rock; it would be no help to him now, but on the contrary a mortal danger —Upton Sinclair) Fatal stresses inevitability and applies to a potential or actual result of death, destruction, or disaster. The term is often used in place of mortal as applied to wounds, blows, or illnesses especially when some time has intervened between the wounding or sickness and the dying. Fatal rather than mortal is used in predictions (to remove him to the hospital would be fatal) (at her age ... it [diabetes] was not speedily or fatally) Applied to wounds, blows, or illnesses especially when some time has intervened between the wounding or sickness and the dying.

**dearth**

*lack, want, absence, defect, privation*

**Ana** scarcity, infrequency, rarereness, uncommonness (see corresponding adjectives at INFREQUENT); scantiness, meagerness, scantness (see corresponding adjectives at MEAGER)

**Ant** excess

**death, decease, demise, passing** denote the end or the ending of life. Death is the general word and is used for the termination of plants and animals as well as of men and also of inanimate things marked by continuity or development (the death of an enterprise) Decease and demise apply only to human beings except in figurative use. Decease is preferred in legal context but in ordinary use conveys a slightly euphemistic or rhetorical quality. Demise in literal use has become somewhat pompous or affected (the lady's demise had been ascribed to apoplexy—Hynnd) In figurative use it frequently lacks such connotation (organized labor, which promised his political demise if he signed the bill against jurisdictional strikes—Beverly Smith) Passing is a euphemism for the death of a person.

**Ant** life

**deathless** *immortal, undying, unfading*

**Ana** *everlasting, endless: eternal (see INFINITE): enduring, abiding, persisting (see CONTINUE)

**Con** ephemeral, *transient, transitory, evanescent, passing*

**deally** *deadly*

**Ana** *ghastly, macabre, gruesome, grisly

**Ant** lifelike

**debar** *exclude, blackball, disbar, suspend, shut out, eliminate, rule out*

**Ana** preclude, obviate, *prevent: forbid, prohibit, ban, interdict

**Con** invite, court, woo, solicit, bid: permit, allow, *let

**debase** 1 *Debase, vitiate, deprave, corrupt, debauch, pervert mean to cause a person or thing to become impaired and lowered in quality or character and share certain distinctions in implications and connotations with the adjectives (usually participial adjectives) corresponding to the verbs, debased, vitiated, depraved, corrupted (but more often, corrupt), debauched, perverted.

**Debase** (see also ABASE) and debased imply a loss of worth, value, or dignity and are widely applicable (plays that debase the taste of the people) (a debased coinage) (the life-and-death struggle with Hannibal ... had permanently debased the Roman temper and left in it a core of hard inhumanity—Buchan) (success permits him to see life as he has converted distort and debase ... his teaching—Huxley) (the fine old language which has been slowly perfected for centuries, and which is now being ... debased by the rubbishy newspapers which form almost the sole reading of the majority—Inge) (human values cruelly and systematically debased by the Nazis—Dean) Vitiate and vitiated imply impairment through the introduction of a fault, a defect, or anything that destroys the purity, validity, or effectiveness of a thing (a style vitiated by exaggeration) (inappropriate and badly chosen words vitiate thought—Huxley) (the fox ... vitiates his line of scent with the gas fumes on the macadam highway—Heinold) (the vitiated air of a crowded hall) Party jealousies vitiated the whole military organization—Times Lit. Sup.) (a final decree ... vitiated by the judge's assumption that he was bound by the master's findings of fact—Justice Holmes) Deprave and depraved usually imply pronounced moral deterioration; thus, a person who has a debased taste cannot enjoy what is really good or beautiful if it lacks showy surface qualities which catch his attention, but a person with a de-
praved taste finds satisfaction only in what is wholly or partly obscene or prurient (the belief that a witch was a person who leagued herself with the Devil to defy God and deprave man—The Spectator) (the servants, wicked and depraved, corrupt and deprave the children—Henry James) Corrupt (both verb and adjective: for the latter see also Vicious) and corruptly imply a loss of soundness, purity, integrity through forces or influences that break down, pollute, or destroy: the terms are applicable to things which are subject to decay, disintegration, or irreparable contamination of any sort (lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt—Mt 6:19) (we must not so stain our judgment, or corrupt our hope—Shak.) (the idea of beauty has been corrupted by those who would make it purely impressionistic or expressive—Babbit) (our schools teach the morality of feudalism corrupted by commercialism—Shaw) Often also, the terms imply seduction, bribery, or influence as leading to a moral breakdown or to an immoral act (they were not able to corrupt the new legislators) (corrupted courts) (at sixteen the girl was utterly corrupted by a "perverse and wicked" young man—Edmund Wilson) Debauch and debauched imply a moralizing and depraving through such corrupting influences as a life of pleasure, ease, or sensual indulgence: they suggest the weakening, more often than the loss, of such qualities as loyalty to one's allegiance or duties, fitness for responsibility or high endeavor, and moral purity or integrity, and they often also connote dissoluteness or profligacy (to betray their master and debauch his army—Mill) (she takes them to an enchanted isle, where she debauches them with enravishing delights and renders them oblivious to their duty—R. A. Hall) (the gay, debauched, quite inconsequent lad was managed like a puppet—Bellow) Pervert and perverted imply a twisting or distorting of something (sometimes someone) from what it is in fact or in its true nature, so as to debase it completely or make it incapable of proper or correct application; to pervert the meaning of a text is to twist that meaning in interpreting it so that it will serve one's own ends or seem to prove one's thesis; to pervert the facts in a case is to give a distorted and, usually, personally advantageous view of them; to pervert the ends of nature is to use one's appetites or natural desires for other ends than those which are normal and in accordance with nature (subjugation of the eternal to the temporal in a perverted set of values—Times Lit. Sup.) (these things which . . . people are so prone to start a row about, and nurse into hatred from an idle sense of wrong, from perverted ambition—Conrad) (the truth to him . . . is not only not to be spoken at all times, but it is now and then to be perverted—Brownell)

Defile, pollute, taint, contaminates: adulterate, sophisticate, load, weight, doctor: impair, spoil, mar: damage, harm, injure

Ant
elevate (taste, character): amend (morals, way of life)—Con enhance, heighten (see intensify): raise:

lift: improve, better, ameliorate

degrade, demean, *base, humble, humiliate

Ant

weak, undermine, sap, enfeebles, debilitate, cripple, disable

Con

*vitalize, energize, activate: vivify, enliven, *quicken:
renew, restore, refresh, rejuvenate

Debased, vitiated, depraved, corrupted, debauched, perverted (see under DEBASE I)

Ant
degradated, degenerated or degenerate, decadent (see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION)

Con

improved, bettered, ameliorated (see IMPROVE): raised, elevated, lifted (see lift vb)

debased

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Con

improved, bettered, ameliorated (see IMPROVE): raised, elevated, lifted (see lift vb)

debate

n disputation, forensic, argumentation, dialectic

Ant controversy, *argument, dispute: contention, disension (see DISCORD)

debate

vb dispute, argue, *discuss, agitate

Ant

contend, fight, battle, war: wrangle, altercation, quarrel (see under QUARREL n): controvert, refute, confute, rebut, *disprove: *prove, demonstrate

debauch

corrupt, deprave, pervert, *debase, vitiate

Ant

injure, harm, damage, spoil, mar: seduce, inveigle, decoy, tempt, *lure: pollut, defile, taint (see CONTAMINATE)

debauched

corrupted, depraved, perverted, debased, vitiated (see under DEBASE)

Ant

dissolute, reprobate, *abandoned, profligate: licentious, libertine, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, lewd, wanton

debilitate

enfeebles, *weaken, undermine, sap, cripple, disable

Ant

improve, better, ameliorate

debris

*refuse, waste, rubbish, trash, garbage, offal

debt, indebtedness, obligation, liability, debit, arrear mean something, and especially a sum of money, that is owed another. Debt usually implies that the amount is owed in return for goods, property, or services and can be definitely computed or, if something other than money is owed, that it equals in value if not in kind the thing sold or the service given (incurred a heavy debt for repairs to his house) (pay one's social debts) (this debt is now due) (the firm has no debts at present) Indebtedness is applied either to the total amount owed one's creditors or a single creditor (the indebtedness of the city exceeds the legal limit) (his indebtedness to his father fell just short of a thousand dollars) Obligation, which is chiefly a legal term in this sense, implies a formal agreement to pay a certain amount or to do something or an acknowledgment of such an agreement (as by a contract or a bond) (a contract is said to be "performed" . . . when all the obligations have been fulfilled on both sides—Rubinstein) Liability is an accountant's term used chiefly in reference to general balance sheets of a company or corporation and is the opposite of asset. It is also used of the affairs of individuals especially in bankruptcy actions. It applies to any amount which constitutes an item of indebtedness. Liabilities include accounts payable, accrued interest, taxes, such obligations as notes, bonds, and debentures, and even capital stock. Debitt is also a term in accounting for any item shown on the left side of an account; it usually designates a purchase and its price and is opposed to credit, or any entry on the right side (that is, for an article returned or an amount paid on account). Arrear especially in its plural arrears usually implies that some of a debt, but not all, has been paid, but it always implies that the amount owed is overdue (pay off the arrears of one's rent) (the servants found it difficult to obtain the arrears of their wages)

decadence

decay, declension, deterioration, degeneration, devolution

Ant

retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression or regress, retrograding or retrogradation (see corresponding adjectives at backward)

Ant rise: flourishing —Con advance, progress (see under ADVANCE vb): *progress, progression
decamp

escape, flee, fly, abscond

Ant depart, quit, leave, *go: elude, evade, *escape, shun, avoid

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Decay vb Decay, decompose, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, crumble mean to undergo or, in some cases, to cause something to undergo destructive dissolution. Decay implies change, commonly a natural and gradual change, from a state of soundness or perfection; it may or may not suggest the certainty of complete destruction (teeth decaying from lack of care) (infamy, that decays the wise—Shak.) (as winter fruits grow mild ere they decay—PoPE) (nor shall I discuss the causes why science decayed and died under the Roman Empire—InGe) Decompose stresses the idea of breaking down by separation into constituent parts or elements (as by chemical action in the laboratory or, in respect to animal and vegetable matter in nature, by the action of living microorganisms) (whenever molecules combine or decompose or atoms change partners, it is chemistry—Furnas) (the action of bacteria in decomposing the organic products contained and forming gases useful for power and heat—Morrison) (the odor of decomposing meats) (after slaying his colleague, he chemically decomposed the body—Guildy) Rot implies decay and decomposition, usually of or as if of animal or vegetable matter; the term may or may not imply offensiveness or foulness; figuratively it differs from decay in stressing stagnation or corruption rather than decline (blossoms which fall before they wither rather than clinging rotting to the stalk—Binyon) (there shall they rot, ambition's honored fools!—Byron) (it was this garrison life. Half civilian, half military, with all the drawbacks of both. It rotted the soul, robbed a man of ambition, faith—IrwIn Shaw) Putrefy not only suggests the rotting of or as if of animal matter but also stresses its extreme offensiveness to sight and smell (corpses putrefying on the sun-drenched battlefields) (flesh in that long sleep is not putrefied—Donne) Spoil (see also INJURE) is often used in place of decay, rot, or putrefy when foodstuffs, especially in the home or the market, are referred to (roasted pork spoils quickly if not kept in a refrigerator) Disintegrate implies either a breaking down or a breaking apart so that the wholeness or integrity of the thing or the cohesiveness of its particles is destroyed or is in process of destruction (the London atmosphere tends to disintegrate bricks) (Rutherford and Soddy found that radioactive substances disintegrate in a way they described as "spontaneous"—the rate of decay cannot be expedited or retarded by any known physical process—Jeans) (the other great civilizations with which it was once contemporary have passed away or been disintegrated and transformed—Ellis) Crumble implies disintegration of or as if of a substance that breaks into fine particles; neither it nor disintegrate need imply, as the remaining terms almost inevitably do, an alteration at the chemical level (crumbled a piece of bread in his fingers) (winter rains had washed and washed against its . . . old bricks until the plaster between them had crumbled—Deland) (great periods of human culture which flourished at their height just as the substructure crumbled—Krutch) Ana *weaken, undermine, sap, debilitate, enfeeble; taint, *contaminate, defile, pollute; dilapidate, *ruin, wreck; deliquescence (see LIQUEFY) decease *death, demise, passing deceased departed, late, *dead, defunct, lifeless, inanimate deceit 1 Deceit, duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, guile mean the quality, the habit, the art, or the practice of imposing upon the credulity of others by dishonesty, fraud, or trickery. Deceit usually implies the intent to mislead or delude; otherwise, it is the most comprehensive of these terms, for it may imply deliberate mis-representation or falsification, the assumption of a false appearance, the use of fraud or trickery or craft (the fox banks not when he would steal the lamb. No, no, my sovereign! Gloucester is a man unsounded yet and full of deep deceit—Shak.) (not there my husband never used deceit—Browning) (there is an element of sham and deceit in every imitation—Dewey) Duplicity commonly implies double-dealing or bad faith; usually it suggests a pretense of feeling one way and an acting under the influence of another and opposite feeling (I should disdain myself as much as I do him, were I capable of such duplicity as to flatter a man whom I scorn and despise—Burney) The word may sometimes imply no more than the appearance of deceit arising out of a complexity of motives or a lack of singlemindedness (it was chiefly that the simplicity and openness of their lives brought out for him the duplicity that lay at the bottom of ours—Mary Austin) Dissimulation implies deceit by concealing what one truly is or what one actually feels and therefore often suggests duplicity (Archer looked at her perplexedly, wondering if it were lightness or dissimulation that enabled her to touch so easily on the past at the very moment when she was risking her reputation in order to break with it—Wharton) (the levity of Hamlet, his repetition of phrase, his puns, are not part of a deliberate plan of dissimulation, but a form of emotional relief—T. S. Eliot) Cunning implies deceit by the use of trickery, wiles, or stratagems; it often connotes a perverted intelligence and almost vicious shrewdness in attaining one's end (surely the continual habit of dissimulation is but a weak and sluggish cunning, and not greatly politic—BacOn) (he had come to the belief that I was incapable of the cunning and duplicity they practiced . . . to deceive with lies and false seeming was their faculty and not mine—Hudson) Guile carries an even stronger implication of lack of obviousness in the arts practiced or tricks used than does cunning; in strict use it carries a strong implication of insidiousness or treacherousness (we now return to claim our just inheritance of old. . . . by what best way, whether of open war or covert guile, we now debate—Milton) (but Father Vaillant had been plunged into the midst of a great industrial expansion, where guile and trickery and honorable ambition all struggled together—Cather) The word has, however, so long been used in such phrases as "without guile" and "devoid of guile" that it often is used in a very much weaker sense than cunning, sometimes implying little more than artfulness or the use of wiles (her heart innocent of the most pardonable guile—Conrad) (there is a note of unconscious guile, the guile of the peasant, of the sophisticated small boy, in the letter he wrote—Brooks) Ana *deception, fraud, trickery, double-dealing, chicane, chicanery, craft, artifice (see ART); cheating, cozening, defrauding, overreaching (see CHEAT vb) Con honestly, uprightness, scrupulosity (see corresponding adjectives at UPRIGHT); openness, candor, frankness (see corresponding adjectives at FRANK); straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corresponding adjectives at STRAIGHTFORWARD) 2 imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, deception, counterfeiture, humbug Ana ruse, wile, *trick, feint, stratagem, maneuver, artifice, gambit, ploy deceitful *dishonest, mendacious, lying, untruthful Ana crafty, tricky, wily, guileful, foxy, insidious, cunning, sly, artful; underhand, underhanded, stealthy, furtive, clandestine (see SECRET); *crooked, devious, oblique; delusory, deceptive, delusive; *misleading Ant trustworthy —Con *reliable, dependable, trusty
deceive, mislead, delude, beguile, betray, double-cross
mean to lead astray or into evil or to frustrate by underhand-ness or craft. A person or thing deceives one by leading one to take something false as true, something nonexistent as real, something counterfeit as genuine, something injurious as helpful: the term may imply no more than a chance or inadvertent confusing or it may suggest a deliberate ensnaring or entrapping for the agent's own and often evil ends <deceived by a chance resemblance into the belief that he had seen his dead sister's spirit> (<"No woman's safe with him."—Ah, but he hasn't deceived me, Mrs. Berry. He has not pretended he was good”—Meredith> (a person who first subconsciously deceives himself and then imagines that he is being virtuous and truthful—Russell) A person or thing misleads one by causing one to follow a wrong path, way, or course or to fall into error <misled by a confusing traffic signal> (we never find them misled into the conception that such gifts are an end in themselves—Dickinson> (nor is there any safeguard against the nations being misled and deceived by their governments into sanctioning another great war—Inge) (Thrasyllus never told lies but he loved misleading people—Graves> A person or thing deludes one by deceiving or misleading one so completely as to make one a fool, a dupe, or so befuddled as to be incapable of distinguishing the false from the true (I began to wonder whether I, like the spider that chased the shadow, had been deluded, and had seemed to hear a sound that was not a sound—Hudson> (did he, did all the people who said they didn't mind, things, know that they really did? Or were they indeed deluded?—Rose Macaulay> A person or, less often, a thing, beguiles one by using such subtle and usually agreeable or startling devices as to mislead, deceive, or delude one (the male propensity to be beguiled—Mary Austin) (I recalled some of the Indian beliefs, especially that of the . . . man-devouring monster which is said to beguile his victims into the dark forest by mimicking the human voice—Hudson> (marsh-lights to beguile mankind from tangible goods and immediate frictions—Mumford> A person or thing betrays one by using deception or treachery to deliver one into the hands of an enemy or put one in a dangerous or false position (verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me—Mt 26:21) (knowing that nature never did betray the heart that loved her—Wordsworth) (so, times past all number deceived by false shows, deceiving we cumber the road of our foes, for this is our virtue: to track and betray—Kipling> A person double-crosses another and usually a friend, partner, or accomplice by deceiving or betraying him, especially by double-crossing or duplicity (said he had been double-crossed by his partner> (De Valera charged that his own trusted negotiators had double-crossed him by signing an agreement to take the detested oath of loyalty to the British king—Blashard> Ana *cheat, cozen, defraud, overreach: outward, circumvent (see frustrate): *dupe, gull, befool, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle> Ant undeceive: enlighten

decency *decorum, propriety, dignity, etiquette
Ana seemliness, decorousness (see corresponding adjectives at decorous): fitness, suitability, fitnessness, appropriateness (see corresponding adjectives at fit)
decent 1 *decently, seemly, proper, nice
Ana fitting, *fit, appropriate, suitable, meet: conventional, formal, ceremonial (see ceremonial)
Con *awkward, gauche, inept, maladroit, clumsy: crude, rough, *rude, uncouth
2 modest, pure, *chaste
Ana virtuous, *moral, ethical, noble: pleasing, grateful, welcome, agreeable, *pleasant
decception 1 Deception, fraud, double-dealing, trickery, chicane, chicanery mean the act or practice of, or the means used by, one who deliberately deceives in order to accomplish his ends. Deception may or may not imply blame-worthiness, for it may be used not only of cheating, swindling, and tricking but also of many arts or games in which the object is illusion or mystification (he is incapable of deception) (there is, as the conjurers say, no deception about this tale—Kipling> (magicians are adepts in deception) Deception also may be used for the state of being deceived (fall into deception) (he is surely greedy of delusion, and will hardly avoid deception—Browne)
Fraud, on the other hand, except in casual use, always implies guilt, often criminality, in act or practice. Distinctively, it usually suggests the perversion of the truth for the sake of persuading someone to surrender some valuable possession or a legal right (the elder brother gained control of the property by fraud> (he will never stoop to fraud, no matter how much he desires to get rich)
The term may suggest an act or practice involving concealment of truth, violation of trust and confidence, or nonperformance of contracted acts by which one (as an agent, an attorney, an executor, an employer, or an employee) gains an advantage over another to the injury of the latter (according to one legal decision "silence where necessity requires speech may sometimes constitute fraud") (I think that obtaining money by fraud may be made a crime as well as murder or theft; that a false representation, expressed or implied at the time of making a contract of labor, that one intends to perform it and thereby obtaining an advance, may be declared a case of fraudulent obtaining money—Justice Holmes)> Double-dealing usually implies duplicity in character and in actions, for it frequently suggests an act that in its essence is contrary to one's professed attitude (one does not always believe them . . . they often say one thing and mean another, so that we may fairly accuse them of double-dealing—Jernigan> The term may imply secret treating with each of two opposed persons or groups as though one were friendly to that person or group and inimical to the other (Saville . . . by his double-dealing with the King and the Scots, proved himself a political traitor—D'Israelis)
Trickery implies acts or practices that are intended to dupe or befool others; it often implies sharp practice or actual dishonesty (we rely not upon management or trickery, but upon our own hearts and hands—Jowett) (they held that the basest trickery or deceit was not dishonorable if directed against a foe—Amer. Guide Series: R. I.) Chicane and chicanery imply petty or paltry trickery and often subterfuge especially in legal proceedings (to wrest from them by force, or shuffle from them by chicane—Burke) (many scenes of London intrigues and complex chicanery—De Quincey) (making a tremendous fight, chiefly by chicane—whooping for peace while preparing for war, playing mob fear against mob fear—Mencken)
Ana *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, guile: cheating, cozening, defrauding, overreaching (see cheat): duping, gulling, hoaxing, hoodwinking, bamboozling, befooling (see dupe)
2 *imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, counterfeet, deceit
Ana illusion, *delusion, hallucination, mirage
deceptive *misleading, delusory, delusive
Ana specious, *plausible, colorable: *false, wrong
Con genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide: true, *real,
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
decide, determine, settle, rule, resolve mean to come or to cause to come to a conclusion. Decide presupposes previous consideration of a matter causing doubt, wavering, debate, or controversy and implies the arriving at a more or less logical conclusion that brings doubt or debate to an end; the word may take as its subject the person or persons arriving at such a conclusion or the thing or things that bring them to the conclusion (the time for deliberation has then passed. He has decided—John Marshall) (this exordium, and Miss Pross's two hands in quite agazoned entreaty clapping his, decided Mr. Cruncher—Dickens) (the mistress of the household referred to her whether we should have another round or go in to supper. Of course, she always decided as she supposed the hostess wished—Jefferies) (it should disturb the complacency of those network officials who decided . . . that not enough people were watching to justify the expense—Seldes) Determine (see also DISCOVER 2) may mean to set limits or bounds to; when it means basically to decide, this implication of definitely fixing something so that its identity, its character, its scope, its direction is clear and beyond doubt distinguishes it from decide; one decides to give a dinner party but determines the guests to be invited; a legislature decides that the state constitution should be revised and appoints a committee with power to determine what changes shall be made. In a slightly different sense determine implies the arrival at a conclusion that either is a fixed and unalterable purpose or intention (can you weep [i.e., move by weeping] fate from its determined purpose?—Middleton) (she was . . . obviously tormented by shyness, but as obviously determined to conquer it—Mackenzie) or is the inevitable result, outcome, or end of what precedes (what we notice determines what we do; what we do again determines what we experience—James) (their civilization was one of “city-states,” not of kingdoms and empires; and their whole political outlook was necessarily determined by this condition—Dickinson) Settle implies the arrival at a conclusion, often a mental or logical conclusion but sometimes a termination for which no individual is responsible, that brings to an end all doubt, all wavering, all dispute (the Supreme Court of the United States has power to settle all questions of law) (time has settled few or none of the essential points of dispute—Henry Adams) (death settled all their problems) Rule (see also GOVERN) implies a decision or determination by authority, especially by the authority of the court (the judge ruled that the question was inadmissible) Resolve implies an expressed or clear decision or determination to do or refrain from doing something (resolve to get up earlier in the mornings) (resolve to give up smoking) (be was resolved to win through to fortune, but he must first discover his tools—Buchan) 

Con decide, decide are often confused, especially when they mean positive and leaving no room for doubt, uncertainty, or further discussion. In this sense the words are applied chiefly to persons, their natures, their utterances or manner of utterance, their opinions, or their choices. Decided implies a contrast with what is undetermined, indefinite, and neither this nor that; thus, a decided blue raises no question of its greenness or blackness; a decided success so far overpasses the line between success and failure that no one can question its favorable termination; a decided answer leaves no doubt of a person's meaning, wishes, or intentions. When applied to a person's character, expression, or movements decided suggests such qualities or outward signs of qualities as determination, resolution, and lack of all hesitation or vacillation (the mother was a decided person to whom everyone in the family submitted) (he has very decided opinions) (I see too many ways of saying things; a more decided mind hits on the right way at once—Warde) (then with a decided step she turned toward home—Wharton) Decisive, on the other hand, implies an opposition to what is unsettled, uncertain, or wavering between this and that (for this sense as applied to things see CONCLUSIVE). When used in reference to persons it implies ability or intent to settle or success in settling a controverted matter once and for all (this was enough to determine Sir Thomas, and a decisive "Then so it shall be closed that stage of the business—Austen) (she stood up and surveyed herself in the pier glass. The decisive expression of her great florid face satisfied her—Joyce) 

Ana *definite, definitive: determined, resolved (see DECIDE): positive, cocksure, certain, *sure: categorical, *explicit, express Con dubious, *doubtful, questionable, problematic
advertising his willingness to make concessions—Time

In its specific sense, as implying publicity for the sake of gaining patronage or support for an article of merchandise, it implies the use of communication media (as the press, the radio, handbills, or billboards); so used, it is devoid of unfavorable connotation <advertise a new model of automobile> To proclaim is to announce orally, sometimes by means of other sound (as of a trumpet), and loudly in a public place; by extension, to give wide publicity to, often insistently, proudly, boldly, or defiantly <lie is as much a lie, when it is whispered, as when it is proclaimed at the market cross—Wollaston> <you proclaim in the face of Hellas that you are a Sophist—Jowett> To promulgate is to make known to all concerned something that has binding force (as a law of the realm or a dogma of the church) or something for which adherents are sought (as a theory or doctrine) <the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was promulgated in December 1854—Robertson> <that for the training of the young one subject is just as good as another . . . is surely . . . an amazing doctrine to promulgate—Grandgent> To broadcast is to make known (as by radio or television) in all directions over a large area <the doctrine of missionary zeal . . . has been broadcast over Christendom—Isaac Taylor> <the largest . . . wireless station that can broadcast to the world—Daily Mail> <the book he has written to broadcast this conviction—Gordon Harrison>

Ana, inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *communicate: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge
2 *assert, profess, affirm, aver, avouch, avow, protest, predicate, warrant
Ana *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate *inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*decay, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, decline, deterioration, degeneration
*express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

Ana *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*decay, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, decline, deterioration, degeneration

*express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

Ana *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*decay, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate

Ana *inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

Ana *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

*mortify, melt

decorate ornament, embellish, beautify, adorn, deck, bedeck, garnish

Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify
decorous, decent, seemly, proper, nice apply to persons, their utterances, and their behavior, and mean conforming to an accepted standard of what is right or fitting or is regarded as good form. Something is decorous when it is marked by observance of the proprieties; the term usually implies a dignified, sometimes ceremonious, sometimes prim, formality <the decorous plaititudes of the last century—J. R. Lowell> <done something strange and extravagant and broken the monotony of a decorous age—Emerson> <on Sunday mornings the whole school went to church; in the afternoon it had a decorous walk—H. G. Wells> Something is decent (for other sense, see CHASTE) when it keeps within the bounds of what is appropriate or fitting to its kind or class, not only from the points of view of morality or social propriety but also from those of good taste or the exigencies of a situation <to praise a man's self, cannot be decent, except it be in rare cases—Bacon> <he cast only one glance at the dead face on the pillow, which Dolly had smoothed with decorous care—George Eliot> <his decent reticence is branded as hypocrisy—Maugham> Something is seemly when it is not only decorous or decent, but also pleasing to the eye, ear, or mind of the observer <to make a seemly answer—Shak> <a seemly display of enthusiasm> <it was not seemly that one so old should go out of his way to see beauty, especially in a woman—Galsworthy> <the safety of human society lies in the assumption that every individual composing it, in a given situation, will act in a manner hitherto approved as seemly—Mencken> Something is proper when it is exactly what it should be according to accepted ethical or social standards or conventions <Henchard's creed was that proper young girls wrote ladies'-hand—nay, he believed that bristling characters were as innate and inseparable a part of refined womanhood as sex itself—Hardy> <a few pages back I was expressing a proper difference about any conclusions in view, and here I am, almost shouting in favor of one—Montague> Something is nice (see also NICE 1; CORRECT)

declass

his willingness to make concessions—Time

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decorous

(common sense, rejecting with scorn all that can be called mysticism—Inge) Repudiate implies a casting off (as of a wife whom one refuses any longer to recognize or accept); it usually connotes either a disowning or a rejection with scorn as untrue, unauthorized, or unworthy of acceptance <repudiate a son> <the state has repudiated its debts> <repudiate a religious doctrine or a scientific theory> <I do not see how the United States could accept the contract and repudiate the consequence—Justice Holmes> <it is the law of nature that the strong shall rule; a law which everyone recognizes in fact, though everyone repudiates it in theory—Dickinson> Spurn carries an even stronger implication of disdain or contempt in rejection than repudiate <the proposals which she had proudly spurned only four months ago—Austen> <he would be spurned out of doors with a kick—Snaith> <must spurn all ease, all hindering love, all which could hold or bind—Lowell>

Ana *demur, balk, shy, boggle, jib, stick, stickle, scruple

Con accept — Con take, *receive: consent, *assent, acquiesce, accede

decline n declension, decadence, *deterioration, degeneration, devolution

Ana & Con see those at DECLENSION

decorate

blanch, bleach, etiolate, *whiten
decompose *decay, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, crumble

Ana deliquesce, *liquefy, melt
decorate ornament, embellish, beautify, adorn, deck, bedeck, garnish

Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify
decorous, decent, seemly, proper, nice apply to persons, their utterances, and their behavior, and mean conforming to an accepted standard of what is right or fitting or is regarded as good form. Something is decorous when it is marked by observance of the proprieties; the term usually implies a dignified, sometimes ceremonious, sometimes prim, formality <the decorous plaititudes of the last century—J. R. Lowell> <done something strange and extravagant and broken the monotony of a decorous age—Emerson> <on Sunday mornings the whole school went to church; in the afternoon it had a decorous walk—H. G. Wells> Something is decent (for other sense, see CHASTE) when it keeps within the bounds of what is appropriate or fitting to its kind or class, not only from the points of view of morality or social propriety but also from those of good taste or the exigencies of a situation <to praise a man's self, cannot be decent, except it be in rare cases—Bacon> <he cast only one glance at the dead face on the pillow, which Dolly had smoothed with decent care—George Eliot> <his decent reticence is branded as hypocrisy—Maugham> Something is seemly when it is not only decorous or decent, but also pleasing to the eye, ear, or mind of the observer <to make a seemly answer—Shak> <a seemly display of enthusiasm> <it was not seemly that one so old should go out of his way to see beauty, especially in a woman—Galsworthy> <the safety of human society lies in the assumption that every individual composing it, in a given situation, will act in a manner hitherto approved as seemly—Mencken> Something is proper when it is exactly what it should be according to accepted ethical or social standards or conventions <Henchard's creed was that proper young girls wrote ladies'-hand—nay, he believed that bristling characters were as innate and inseparable a part of refined womanhood as sex itself—Hardy> <a few pages back I was expressing a proper difference about any conclusions in view, and here I am, almost shouting in favor of one—Montague> Something is nice (see also NICE 1; CORRECT)
when it satisfies a somewhat fastidious taste in behavior, manners, or speech (his conduct is not always so nice) (it is not enough for the knight of romance that you agree that his lady is a very nice girl—Justice Holmes) (the undergraduate literary club, whose membership included all nice boys with literary pretensions—Marquand)

**Ana** formal, conventional, ceremonial, *ceremonial*: dignified, elegant (see corresponding nouns at ELEGANCE)

**Ant** indecorum: blatant
decorticate *skin, peel, pare, flay
decorum, decency, propriety, dignity, etiquette are comparable either when they mean a code of rules respecting what is right, fitting, or honorable in behavior or, more often, when they mean the quality or character of rightness, fitness, or honorableness in behavior resulting from the observance of such a code. The first three words are somewhat literary; the last two are the most common in speech. Both **decorum** and **decency** imply that the code is based upon the nature of things or the circumstances which attend them, and therefore the rules which it embodies have their basis in nature or sound reason. **Decorum** especially suggests a code of rigid rules or laws governing the behavior of civilized men under given or understood conditions (if gentlemen of that profession [the army] were at least obliged to some external **decorum** in their conduct—Swift) (that continual breach of... **decorum** which, in exposing his wife to the contempt of her own children, was so highly reprehensible—Austen) (he enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the excellence of his sermons, for the conduct of his diocese... and for the **decorum** and devotion of his private life—T. S. Eliot)

The term may suggest also order, moderation, and a high degree of intelligibility as a basis of literary or artistic beauty (that **decorum** and orderliness without which all writing speeches must be ineffective and obscure—Ellis). **Decency** often stresses a freedom from immodesty or obscurity (**decency** in dress) (**decency** in conduct). It may imply a seemliness or appropriateness that is based upon the right relation of one thing to another (as of a person to his profession, rank, or condition in life or of a thing to use or end) (for himself, Father Joseph was scarcely acquiescent to the point of **decency**. He owned nothing in the world but his mule—Cather) (there are those... for whom St. Paul's [in London], in comparison with St. Peter's [in Rome], is not lacking in **decency**—T. S. Eliot) (there were May [his wife], and habit, and honor, and all the old **decencies** that he and his people had always believed in—Wharton) **Propriety** stresses conformity to a standard of what is proper or correct. When used in reference to language, it implies a regard for propriety stresses conformity to a standard of what is proper or correct by either the generality or a particular class of society (my whole life has been at variance with **propriety**, not to say **decency**—Byron) (in the reign of James I the conduct of ladies and gentlemen was not marked by the same prim **propriety** as in the reign of the highly respectable Victoria—Ellis) (with characteristic independence she had made her reception rooms upstairs and established herself (in flagrant violation of all the New York **proprieties**) on the ground floor of her house—Wharton) **Propriety** is sometimes preferred to **decency** when merely seemly or fitting correctness (and not conformity to convention) is implied (the **propriety** and necessity of preventing interference with the course of justice—Justice Holmes) **Dignity** (see also ELEGANCE) seldom applies directly to a code or a rule but it does often denote a state of being that arises from obedience to what one, one's class, or one's profession regards as elevated, noble, or in full accordance with his rank, status, or position, and thereby it implies governance by a code or by forces which often correspond to the decencies or proprieties (lost his **dignity** (not in accord with the **dignity** of man as a son of God) (I had half a mind to save my **dignity** by telling him that—Conrad) (it is of the essence of real **dignity** to be self-sustained, and no man's **dignity** can be asserted without being impaired—Henry Taylor) **Etiquette** is the usual term for the code of manners and behavior governing one's conduct in society or in particular circumstances (as in a court or legislature). It may replace **propriety**, for the conventional observance of these rules (trained in the complex **etiquette** and protocol of the Diplomatic Corps) (unaware of the **etiquette** governing the setting of a table for a formal dinner) (the pompous **etiquette** of the court—Prescott) (Augustus had kept to the strict constitutional **etiquette**, indicating his preference but leaving the choice of his successor to the Senate—Buchan) (the **formality**, ceremony, solemnity, propriety, ceremomiousness, solemnity (see corresponding adjectives at CEREMONIAL):)

**form**, convention, convenance, usage

**Ant** indecorum: license

deceit vb *lure, bait, snare, trap
deceit n *lure, entice, inveigle, tempt, seduce
deceit *form, convention, convenance, usage

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
deep
times of craft "a deep politician" "deep plots" "a little knowledge often estranges men from religion, a deeper knowledge brings them back to it"—Inge "a deep study of the inner meaning of the work—Braithwaite" profound connotes exceedingly great depth "a gulf profound as that Serbonian bog . . . where armies whole fallen—Sat. Review"

Abysmal carries the idea of abyss, infinite depth, and implies fathomless distance downward, backward, or inward from a surface "mountain roads . . . within a few inches of abysmal precipices—W. R. Arnold" It may imply measureless degree and is then used with words denoting a lack of something "abysmal ignorance" "abysmal darkness" "plays of an abysmal foolishness—Brooks"

Con shallow, *superficial: flat, plane, plain, *level

deep-rooted, deep-seated, chronic, confirmed, *inverte-

deface, disfigure mean to mar the appearance of a thing. Deface usually suggests a marring of the face or external appearance of something; it frequently implies the efface-

ment, obliteration, or removal of some part or detail "there has yet a little gilding left, not quite rubbed off, dishonored, and defaced—Hazzitt" A door defaced by innumerable incised inscriptions—Shaw "bad poets deface what they take [from others], and good poets make it into something better—T. S. Eliot" Disfigure, as ap-
plied to a surface, implies deeper or more permanent injury than deface; as applied to figure or configuration, it frequently suggests such impairing of beauty or attrac-
tiveness as results from other than structural injury "a book disfigured by many serious faults" "the smallpox . . . fell foul of poor little Oliver's face . . . and left him scarred and disfigured for his life—Thackeray" "where trees, disfigured by no gaudy lanterns, offered the refreshment of their darkness and serenity—Galsworthy" 

(instead of the midst of the investigations which dis-
figure our time—Sat. Review)

Ana *injure, damage, mar: *deform, distort, contort;
mutilate, batter, mangle (see MAIM)

deface vilify, calumniate, *malign, traduce, asperse, slander, libel

Ana vituperate, revile (see SCOLD): *decy, disparage, detract, derogate

Con *praise, laud, eulogize, extoll, acclaim

default n *failure, neglect, miscarriage, dereliction

Ana absence, *lack, want, privation: *imperfection, 

deficiency, shortcoming, fault

defeat vb beat, *conquer, vanquish, lick, subdue, sub-
jugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout

Ana *frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent, outwit

Con *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, cave, bow, defer

defect 1 *lack, want, dearth, absence, privation

Ana deficiency, definitiveness (see corresponding adjectives at DEFICIENT): *need, necessity, exigency

2 flaw, *blemish

Ana *fault, failing, frailty, foible

Con *excellence, perfection, virtue, merit

defection, desertion, apostasy mean an abandonment that involves the breaking of a moral or legal bond or tie and that is highly culpable from the point of view of the person, cause, or party abandoned. Defection empha-
sizes both the fact of one's falling away and the loss that is sustained by his failure to adhere to his allegiance; in itself as apart from the context it commonly gives no certain indication of motive, though at times disaffection or loss of confidence is connoted (the conversions are probably balanced by the defections and in some countries the Church seems even to be losing ground—Times Lit. Sup.) (the news of the defection of Lepidus caused the Senate to declare him a public enemy—Buchan) a single defection would throw the Senate into a deadlock of 48 to 48—Neuberger

Desertion (see also under ABAN-

Don) presupposes an oath of allegiance or a duty or an obligation to guard, protect, or support, the violation of which constitutes a crime or a distinctly blameworthy act. It also suggests a base motive (as cowardly fear or a desire to shirk) "the penalty for desertion from an army in time of war is usually death" (many persons consi-
dered Wordsworth's defection from the liberal cause a desertion) "the crisis of our times is not such as to justify desertion of basic traditions—Chapman" Apostasy implies a repudiation of something one has formerly and voluntarily confessed; it connotes therefore a retreat (as in weakness) from a position or stand one has taken.

The term is used chiefly with reference to a repudiation of religious beliefs, but it is employed also when moral, philosophical, or other principles are involved "when Raphael . . . had forewarned Adam, by dire example, to beware apostasy—Milton" (marriage is to me apostasy . . . sale of my birthright, shameful surrender—Shaw) "my political apostasy . . . was attended with no diminution of reverence for that great citizen army that defended and saved the Union—Nicholson"

Ana disaffection, alienation, estrangement (see corre-
sponding verbs at ESTRANGE): abandonment, forsaking (see corresponding verbs at ABANDON)

Con faithfulness, loyalty, constancy (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL): allegiance, *fidility, fealty

defective *deficient

Ana impaired, damaged, injured, marred (see INJURE): 
vitiated, corrupted, debased (see under DEBASE): deranged, disordered (see DISORDER)

Ant intact —Con *perfect, entire, whole: complete, *full, plenary: sound, *healthy

defend 1 Defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard mean to keep secure from danger or against attack. Defend im-
plies the use of means to ward off something that actually attacks "raise a large army to defend the country from aggres-

sion" "guns used in defending the explorers against hostile incursions of the natives" (the independence of the Supreme Court of the United States should be defended at all costs—Lippmann) Protect implies the use of a covering as a bar to the admission or impact of what may injure or destroy "protect one's estate from intruders by a high wall" "protect one's eyes from the sun by dark glasses" (protect one's family by ample insurance) "protect tobacco plants by a cheesecloth screen" "the ring of old forts which so far had protected the city suc-
cessfully—P. W. Thompson" Shield differs from protect
especially in its suggestion of a protective intervention comparable to a medieval warrior's shield before one exposed to imminent danger or actual attack (Heavens shield Lysander, if they mean a fray!—Shak.) <i>I could scarcely believe that she would wish to shield her husband's murderer, if he were that—Rose Macaulay</i>

Guard implies a standing watch at or over for the sake of defense; it usually connotes vigilance <i>the entrances to the palace are well guarded</i> <i>(the president is always guarded by secret service men) the accumulation of private wealth in Boston, thriftily guarded by the canny Whigs—Brooks</i> <i>(mates of a fortress are defended by its guns, protected by its walls, and guarded by sentries against surprise) Safeguard, much more strongly than any of the preceding words, implies use of protective measures where merely potential danger exists <i>(safeguard children who play on the streets) (safeguard our shores from attack) (in all this he was more than worldlywise. He was safeguarding his own self-respect—Reppier)</i>

<i>Defer, postpone, intermit, suspend</i> mean to cause a delay in an action, activity, or proceeding. Defer suggests little more than a putting off till a later time; ordinarily it implies an intentional delaying <i>(defer) a discussion of the pace set by its inventions, madness must ensue—(a) moment of her hand—Dickens) (they couldn't stay the flow of her ideas by reminding her how much the alteration would cost—Mary Austin) (when his mind fails to stay the pace set by its inventions, madness must ensue—Day Lewis)

<i>Con</i> hasten, hurry, *speed, accelerate
<i>defer</i> bow, *yield, submit, cave, capitulate, succumb, relent
<i>deference</i> reverence, homage, *honor, obeisance
<i>Ana</i> veneration, worship, adoration (see under REVERE): respect, esteem, admiration, *regard
<i>Ant</i> disrespect <i>—Con</i> disdain, scorn, contempt, despite (see under DESPISE)
<i>Deficiency</i> *imperfection, shortcoming, fault
<i>Ana</i> *lack, want, dearth, defect: flaw, *blemish: *failure, neglect, default, miscarriage, dereliction
<i>Ant</i> excess

<i>Deficient adj</i> Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or efficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally defective when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when by disease or injury the organ of hearing has become defective <i>(defective sympathy) (a defective supply of food) (a defective crystal) (a defective mechanism)</i>

<i>Ana</i> *meager, scanty, scant, sparse, exiguous: scarce, rare, *infrequent, uncommon
<i>Ant</i> sufficient, adequate: excessive—<i>Con</i> *plentiful, plenteous, ample, abundant: *excessive, inordinate, immoderate, extravagant
<i>Defile</i> pollute, taint, *contaminate, taint
<i>Ana</i> *debate, vitiate, deprave, corrupt, pervert, debauch: profane, desecrate (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION)
<i>Ant</i> cleanse: purify —<i>Con</i> hallow, consecrate (see DEVOTE)
<i>Define</i> vb *prescribe, assign
<i>Ana</i> *limit, circumscribe: fix, *set, establish
<i>Con</i> *mix, merge, mingle: *mistake, confuse, confound
<i>Definite</i> 1 Definite, definitive are sometimes confused.
What is definite (see also EXPLICIT) has limits so clearly fixed or defined or so unambiguously stated that there can be no doubt concerning the scope or the meaning of something so qualified <i>(he has very definite opinions on the matter) (definite accomplishments) (appointments are made for definite periods of time) What is definitive (for fuller treatment see CONCLUSIVE) fixes or settles something else and therefore is final or decisive (a definitive statement of a doctrine) (a definitive judicial decision by the highest court of the land) (a definitive biography)
<i>Ana</i> defined, prescribed, assigned (see PRESCRIBE): limited, restricted, circumscribed (see LIMIT vb): determined, settled, decided (see DECIDE)
<i>Ant</i> vague: lose —<i>Con</i> *obscure, ambiguous, equivocal

2 *explicit, express, specific, categorical
<i>Ana</i> clear, plain, distinct (see EVIDENT): *full, complete: downright, *forthright: precise, exact (see CORRECT adj): clear-cut, *incisive
<i>Ant</i> indefinite: equivocal —<i>Con</i> *doubtful, dubious, questionable

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
deflection 1 determinative, decisive, *conclusive

Ana setting, deciding, determining (see DECIDE): final, concluding, *last, terminal, ultimate

Ant tentative, provisional

2 *definite

Ana, Ant see those at DEFINITIVE 1

deflate compress, shrink, *contract, condense, constrict

Ana reduce, *decrease, lessen: exhaust, *deplete, drain: puncture, prick (see PERFORATE): attenuate, extenuate (see THIN)

Ant inflate —Con distend, *expand, dilate, swell

deflect *turn, divert, avert, sheer

Ana deviate, depart, diverge, *swerve, veer, digress: bend, *curve, twist

deflection *deviation, aberration, divergence

Ana bending, curving, twisting (see CURVE): swerving or swerve, veering or veer, departing or departure (see corresponding verbs at SWERVE)

deform, distort, contort, warp mean to mar or spoil a person's or thing's appearance, character, true nature, or development by or as if by twisting. Deform is the least specific of these terms in its implications; sometimes, it carries no significance other than that expressed above; sometimes, however, it suggests a loss of some particular excellence or essence (as comeliness, perfection of line, or attractiveness) <soul-killing witches that deform the body—Shak.> <to deform thy gentle brow with frowns—Rowe> <I suspect Mr. Babbitt at times of an instinctive dread of organized religion, a dread that it should cramp and deform the free operations of his own mind—T. S. Eliot> (with the best intentions in the world, Mr. Imam is incessantly at work to deform and degrade the content of poetry—Times Lit. Sup.) Distort usually carries a clear implication of twisting or wresting away from or out of the natural, regular, or true shape, posture, or direction; the term, however, is used not only in reference to physical or material things, but also in reference to minds, judgments, facts, or statements that may be twisted by conditions, circumstances, or, when a personal agent is involved, a dominating purpose or intent <distorted as a living thing by pain—Wilde> <the upward slant of the candlelight distorted Mary Adeline's mild features, twisting them into a frightened grin—Wharton> <there is an element of truth in what you say, grossly as you may distort it to gratify your malicious humor—Shaw> <some accident of immediate overwhelming interest which appeals to the feelings and distorts the judgment—Justice Holmes> Contort implies a more involved or continuous twisting together or upon itself; it therefore differs from distort in suggesting a grotesque or a painful effect rather than a departure from the natural, the true, or the normal <that most perverse of scowls contorting her brow—Hawthorne> <the baby's face muscles contorted in a manner that only Mammy Clo could have interpreted as an expression of merriment—Roark Bradford> <one generation of fearless women could transform the world, by bringing into it a generation of fearless children, not contorted into unnatural shapes, but straight and candid, generous, affectionate, and free—Russell> Warp denotes a twisting or bending or drawing out of a flat plane by some force (as drying and shrinking) <the covers of the book are warped> <the back of the chair is warped> It often may imply the operation of a force that twists or wrenches a thing so as to give it a bias, a wrong slant, an abnormal direction, or a distorted significance <cares have warped her mind> <warped opinions> <so they [trees] slowly come to full growth, until warped, stunted, or risen to fair and gracious height, they stand open to all the winds—Galsworthy> <to cut me off from all natural and unconstrained relations with the rest of my fellow creatures would narrow and warp me if I submitted to it—Shaw> <I'm sure you are disinterested . . . but, frankly, I think your judgment has been warped, twisted, and soured—Lardner>

Ana *maim, cripple, mutilate, mangle, batter: disfigure, *deface: *injure, mar, damage, impair

defraud swindle, overreach, *cheat, cozen

Ana trick, bamboozle, hoax, gull, *dupe, befoul: outwit, circumvent, foil (see FRUSTRATE)

deft *dexterous, adroit, handy


Ant awkward —Con clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche <see AKWARD>

defunct deceased, departed, late, *dead, lifeless, inanimate

Ant alive: live
defy *face, brave, challenge, dare, beard


Ant recoil from
degenerate adj corrupt, infamous, *vicious, villainous, iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious

Ana degraded, demeaned (see ABASE): debased, deprived, debauched, perverted (see under DEBASE): disolute, *abandoned, reprobate, profligate
degeneration devolution, decadence, *deterioration, decline, declension

Ana retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression (see corresponding adjectives at BACKWARD): debasement, degradation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE)
degradation see under degrade at ABASE
degrade 1 Degrade, denote, reduce, declas, disrate mean to lower in station, rank, or grade. Degrade may be used of any such lowering <babies . . . degrade one to the state of anxious, fawning suppliants for a smile—Wallace> <turkeys not in prime condition are degraded on the market> <that the Duke of York should have concurred in the design of degrading that crown which it was probable that he would himself . . . wear—Macaulay> It usually implies a real or presumed fault in what is acted on and often adds to the basic meaning a suggestion of humiliation (see degrade under ABASE) ridiculed and degraded for his ideas, he maintained his integrity in the prison cell —D. M. Wolfe & E. M. Geyer> <the world is weary of statesmen whom democracy has degraded into politicians—Disraeli> It sometimes denotes a formal or ceremonial stripping (as of a priest or a military officer) of outward evidences of station or rank <Dreyfus is degraded before the Army, January 5, 1895—Guérard> Demote in itself and as distinct from its context does not imply fault to or humiliation of the one demoted <he returns a captain (temporary), is promoted and demoted in the same order, made first lieutenant (permanent)—Mailer> <the secretaryship was demoted to a subordinate bureau in the Department of the Interior—Neill> Reduce (see also DECREASE and CONQUER) never wholly loses its basic sense of make less or smaller; it denotes a lessening in status or dignity whether involving an actual lowering in rank or not <a sergeant reduced to the ranks> <people in reduced circumstances> <an old crusader . . . reduced to menial work—Costain> Declas is typically used with respect to social classes; it may imply a loss of social position especially as a result of one's own actions <even today a woman may declass herself by acts tolerated

Ana analogous words Ana, Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
dehydrate dehalogenate

of or her brothers. Perhaps more frequently it may imply an altering of or a freeing from the restrictions of social status. The growing masses of modern society that stand outside all class-strata. These classed, groups, composed... of individuals from all strata of society. The Dial, members of the classed intelligentsia—Ridgely Cummings. Disregard implies a reduction in military and especially in naval or nautical rank and is used chiefly with reference to petty or noncommissioned officers. The witness had been chief mate... but had been disregarded for drunkenness. Mercantile Marine Mag.

Ana humble, humble, *abase, debase: disbar, rule out (see EXCLUDE)

Ant elevate

2. A degenerate, degenerate, *abase, humble

Ana *debase, deprave, debauch, pervert, corrupt, vitiate

Ant uplift —Con *exalt, magnify, aggrandize

dehydrate vb desiccate, *dry, parch, bake

defy condescend, *stoop

despondence, depression, melancholy, melancholia, gloom, *sadness, blues, dumps

Ana despondency, hopelessness, forlornness, despair, desperation (see under DESPONDENT)

Ant exhilaration: cheer

dejected depressed, dispirited, *downcast, disconsolate, weepbegone

Ana weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS): *despond, forlorn, hopeless: morose, glum, gloomy (see SULEN)

dehydrate vb desiccate, *dry, parch, bake

defy condescend, *stoop

despondency, depression, melancholy, melancholia, gloom, *sadness, blues, dumps

Ana despondency, hopelessness, forlornness, despair, desperation (see under DESPONDENT)

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delay vb Delay, retard, slow, slacken, detain are not always close synonyms, but they carry the same basic meaning: to cause someone or something to be behind in his or her schedule or usual rate of movement or progress. Delay implies the operation, usually the interference, of something that keeps back or impedes, especially from completion or arrival at a set or given time. (A plague upon that villain Somerset, that thus delays my promised supply.) A criminal court judge... delayed a verdict all afternoon—C. G. Jameson. Retard applies especially to motion, movement, or progress and implies something which causes it to reduce its speed. (Retard the revolution of a wheel) the snow retards our progress. (children retarded in development) Mental evolution has perhaps retarded the progress of physical changes—Inge. The rate of decay of radioactive substances cannot be expedited or retarded by any known physical process—Jews. Slow (often followed by up or down) and slacken also imply a reduction in speed or rate of progress, but slow usually implies deliberation or intention and slacken, an easiness or letting up or a relaxation of some sort. The engineer slowed down the train as he approached the city. The doctor administered digitalis to slow up his pulse. (As we turned into Compton Street together he slowed his step—Brace. He slackened his pace to a walk) (having never slackened her... search for your father—Dickens. Detain (see also ARREST 2) implies a holding back beyond an appointed time, often with resulting delay in arrival or departure or in accomplishment of what one has in mind. I had been detained by unexpected business in the neighborhood—Conrad. (Tell him that as I have a headache I won't detain him today—Hardy. You will not thank me for detaining you from the bewitching converse of that young lady—Austen.) I slipped my arm around her slender body to detain her—Hudson. Ana impede, obstruct, *hinder, block: *defer, postpone, stay, suspend, intermit.

Ant expedite: hasten —Con *speed, hasten, hurry, accelerate, quicken, precipitate

2. Delay, procrastinate, lag, loiter, dawdle mean to move or act slowly so that progress is hindered or work remains undone or unfinished. Delay (for transitive sense see DELAY 1) usually carries an implication of putting off something (as departure, initiation of an action or activity, or accomplishment of necessary work) (when he had his instructions, he did not delay an instant) (time and again we were warned of the dykes, time and again we delayed—Kipling). Procrastinate implies blameworthy or inexcusable delay usually resulting from laziness, indifference, hesitation, or the habit of putting off until tomorrow what should be done today (the less one has to do, the less time one finds to do it in. One yawns, one procrastinates, one can do it when one will, and therefore one seldom does it at all—Chesterfield) (a timid, unsystematic procrastinating ministry—Burke) (to fumble, to vacillate, to procrastinate and so let war come creeping upon us almost unawares—White.) Lag implies a failure to maintain a speed or pace, either one set by and therefore in comparison with that of another or one requisite to some end or goal (after an hour's brisk walk, two of the hikers lagged behind the rest) (it was a time of great men, but our learning and scholarship lagged far behind those of Germany—Inge. (military preparation does lag at a shameful rate—Carlyle). The production of certain parts necessary for airplanes is lagging.) Loiter implies delay while in progress, commonly while one is walking but sometimes one is trying to accomplish a piece of work; it also suggests lingering or aimless sauntering or lagging behind (very little remained to be done. Catherine had not loitered; she was almost dressed, and her packing almost finished—Austen.) (the caravan has to go on; to loiter at any distance behind is to court extinction—Montague). The children sauntered down Sloane Street, loitering at the closed shop windows, clicking their shillings in their pockets—Rose Macaulay. Dawdle carries a slighter implication of delay in progress (especially in walking) than loiter but an even stronger connotation of idleness, aimlessness, or of a wandering mind; consequently it usually implies a wasting of time or a taking of more time than is warranted (dawdle through four years of college) (the new maid dawdled over her work) (I did not hurry the rest of the way home; but neither did I dawdle—Heiser) (the sun dawdled intolerably on the threshold like a tedious guest—Jan Struther). Ana linger, tarry, wait (see STAY): *hesitate, falter.

Ant hasten, hurry

deletable *delightful, delicious, luscious

Ana gratifying, grateful, agreeable, pleasing, welcome, *pleasant: exquisite, rare, delicate, dainty, *choice: palatable, savory, sapid, toothsome

Con *offensive, repulsive, revolting, loathsome: repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, abhorrent, obnoxious

deletation enjoyment, delight, *pleasure, joy, fruition

Ana amusement, diversion, entertainment (see under AMUSE): gratifying or gratification, regaling or regale (see corresponding verbs at PLEASE)

delegate n Delegate, deputy, representative designate a person who stands in place of another or others. It is not
always possible to distinguish these words, for they are all used in different places or at different times to designate persons whose offices and functions are much the same. Nevertheless there are broad or general differences in meaning which may be observed, although they will not always afford a clue as to why this person or that is called a delegate, a deputy, or a representative. Delegate applies to a person who is sent or is thought of as being sent with a commission to transact business for another or for others; it often specifically designates a person who is sent by an organized or unorganized body (as a branch of a larger organization or a group of employees) to a meeting where questions pertaining to the welfare of the entire organization or industry will be discussed and voted upon. Delegate usually implies powers that are not plenary but are somewhat modified (as by the delegate’s own power to influence or convince others and by the need of his bowing to the will of the majority) (a lay delegate to a Protestant Episcopal synod) (each branch of the American Legion sends two delegates to the national convention) (the workers and the employers each sent three delegates to the conference) Deputy applies to a person who is given authority to act for another or for others as a substitute or as an agent; it is particularly applicable to a person who has been chosen to perform a part or the whole of an official’s duties (the sheriff of each county appoints one or more deputies) (since he could not be present at the conference, he sent a deputy) Representative applies fundamentally to a person who takes the place of one or more persons in a situation where for some reason the latter cannot be. It may be used of a person engaged to do or to transact business for another or others (the firm’s legal representative) (the king’s representative at the peace conference) However it is more often employed in reference to one who takes the place of a larger group (as the electorate of a particular region) and therefore belongs to a body of men who as a whole are charged with making the laws for the state or nation (even in a democracy the people as a whole cannot make the laws but assign that work to their representatives in Congress or in Parliament) (the elected became true representatives of the electors—Steele) The terms are often used to imply the same or very similar functions in different places; thus, approximately the same body is called the House of Representatives in the United States and the Chamber of Deputies in the Republic of France; there is little difference except in voting powers between a representative from a state in the United States Congress and a delegate from a territory.

delete 223

delete, efface, obliterate, blot out, expunge, *erase

ana  eliminate, *exclude, rule out: omit (see neglect vb)

deleterious  detrimental, *pernicious, baneful, noxious

ana  injuring or injurious, harming or harmful, hurting or hurtful (see corresponding verbs at injure): destroying or destructive (see corresponding verb destroy): ruining or ruinous (see corresponding verb ruin)

ant  salutary  —con  *beneficial, advantageous, profitable: wholesome, *healthful, healthy

Deliberate  adj  willful, intentional, *voluntary, willing

ana  purposeful, intended (see intend): conscious, cognizant, *aware: mortal, *deadly

ant  impulsive  —con  inadvertent, *careless, heedless, thoughtless

2 Deliberate, considered, advised, premeditated, designed, studied are comparable when applied to a person’s acts, words, or accomplishments with the meaning thought out in advance. Deliberate implies full awareness of the nature of what one says or does and often a careful and unhurried calculation of the intended effect or of the probable consequences (a deliberate lie) (a deliberate snub) (Poe’s consummate and deliberate technique—Lowes) (the deliberate insertion into a lyrical context of pieces of slang and “prosaic” words—Day Lewis) (the tone of most comment, whether casual or deliberate, implies that inepitude and inadequacy are the chief characteristics of government—Frankfurter) Considered, unlike deliberate, which it closely resembles in meaning, is seldom applied to questionable acts or practices; it suggests careful study from all angles rather than calculation and often, therefore, connotes soundness or maturity of judgment (there was no time for a considered reply) (the committee had before it many half-baked and a few considered proposals) (it [the press] is against Democrats, so far as I can see, not after a sober and considered review of the alternatives, but automatically, as dogs are against cats—A. E. Stevenson) (he saw no reason to parade his considered and decided loyalty—Wylie) Advised mostly is used with deprecatory or intensifying adverbial modifiers and denotes so well thought out and considered that possible criticisms and objections have been reviewed and answers to them prepared (she felt well advised to visit him before deciding to be his wife—Forster) (the public is well-advised to leave methodological decisions to members of the medical profession—Woodring) Its related adverb advisedly is often used to carry the implications of considered (which has no adverb) (he told them he used the offending word advisedly) (everything in this difficult situation has been done advisedly) (I often say that one must permit oneself, and that quite advisedly and deliberately, a certain margin of misstatement—Cardozo) Premeditated emphasizes forethought and planning but often falls short of deliberate in implying careful calculation and awareness of consequences (certain self-conscious preciosities in his premeditated style—Powys) It is applied especially to things (as crimes or insults) which are morally or socially unacceptable and for which only overwhelming impulse or overmastering passion (as of fear or rage) could reasonably be offered as extenuating circumstances; in such relation, then, premeditated implies wrongdoing unmitigated by circumstances (a premeditated murder) (plain that Thady’s presence on the scene at the moment was accidental and that the attack could not have been premeditated—Trollope) Designed and its adverb designedly are often applied to what has the appearance of being accidental, spontaneous, or natural but which is actually the result of intention (the designed failure of a project) (useless to seek to know whether he has been for years overlooked, or always designedly held prisoner—Dickens) Studied is applied chiefly to effects gained or qualities achieved as a result of painstaking effort or careful attention to detail; it connotes absence of spontaneity (a rather studied performance of a Beethoven symphony) (the studied dignity and anxious courtesy of the actor-manager—Shaw) It is also applied to offensive acts committed with cool deliberation and with attention to their probable effect (treat the opposition with studied discourtesy)

ana  planned, schemed, projected (see corresponding verbs under plan vb): calculated (see calculate): *careful, meticulous, scrupulous

ant  casual  —con  haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss, desultory, happy-go-lucky, chance, chancy

3 leisurely, *slow, dilatory, laggard

ana  *cautious, circumspect, wary, chary, calculating: *cool, collected, composed, imperturbable

ant  precipitate, abrupt —con  impetuous, headlong, sudden, hasty (see precipitate)
deliberate

**vb** reflect, cogitate, *think, reason, speculate

**Ana** *ponder, meditate, ruminate, muse

delicate

exquisite, dainty, rare, *choice, recherché, elegant

**Ana** delicable, —*delightful, delicious: *soft, gentle, mild, lenient, balmy: ethereal, *airy, aerial

**Ant** gross —Con *coarse, vulgar: rank, rancid, *malodorous

delicious

delicate, luscious, *delightful

**Ana** *palatable, sapid, savoury, toothsome, appetizing: delicate, dainty, exquisite, *choice, rare

**Con** distasteful, obnoxious, *repugnant, repellent: *insipid, vapid, flat, wishy-washy, inane, jejunel, banal

delight

*n* pleasure, delectation, enjoyment, joy, fruition

**Ana** glee, *mirth, jollity, hilarity: rapture, transport, *ecstasy: satisfaction, contentment (see corresponding verbs at SATISFY)

**Ant** disappointment: discontent

delight

*vb* gratify, *please, rejoice, gladden, tickle, regale

**Ana** *satisfy, content: divert, *amuse, entertain: charm, enchant, fascinate, allure, *attract

**Ant** distress: bore —Con *trouble: afflict, try: grieve: *annoy, vex, irk, bother

delightful, delicious, delectable, luscious mean extremely pleasing or gratifying to the senses or to aesthetic taste. Delightful, the least restricted in its application of these words, may refer to anything that affords keen, lively pleasure and sensations agreeably, whether the direct appeal is to the mind, the heart, or the senses (a delightful view) (a delightful talk) (a delightful companion) (my ears were never better fed with such delightful pleasing harmony—Shak. (the experience of overcoming fear is extraordinarily delightful—Russell) (the most charming and delightful book I have read in many a day—Canby) Delicious commonly refers to sensuous pleasures, especially those of taste and smell (delicious food) (a delicious sense of warmth) but may be applied to anything which is so delightful that one dwells upon it with sensuous gratification (her gestures delicious in their modest and sensitive grace—Bennett) (I am not staying here, but with the Blankers, in their delightful solitude at Portsmouth—Wharton) (there are people whose society I find delicious—L. P. Smith)

**Delicatable** in its implications is often indistinguishable from delightful and especially from delicious, though it often suggests more refined or discriminating enjoyment (the trees of God, delicable both to behold and taste—Milton) (a delicable tale) (the delicable fragrance of freesia) (its scoring is delicable, with the sublest of balances, mixed colors and shifting sonorities —Musical America) The term is more often used than either delightful or delicious with a humorous or ironical connotation (the spoken word of some delicable Sarah Gamp—Montague) Luscious adds to delicious an implication of richness (as of flavor, fragrance, coloring, or sound) (luscious music) As applied to fruits, it suggests fullness of flavor and rich ripe juiciness (luscious sunwarmed peaches) Like delicable it may be used humorously or ironically, but it then commonly adds the implication of extravagance, exaggeration, or, more specifically, voluptuousness (luscious passages of description) (those Don Juans, those melting beauties . . . those luscious adventuressex—Huxley)

**Ana** enchanting, charming, fascinating, alluring, attractive (see under ATTRACT): lovely, fair, *beautiful: ineffable (see UNUTTERABLE)

**Ant** distressing: boring: horrid —Con *miserable, wretched: distasteful, obnoxious, repellent, *repugnant

delineate

1 trace, outline, *sketch, diagram, draft, plot, blueprint

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
that he is being pursued) (he had hallucinations as a child. Mediaeval figures from the Faerie Queene had walked beside him on his way to school—Brooks) Mirage is comparable with the preceding terms only in its extended sense in which it usually applies to a vision, dream, hope, or aim which one takes as a guide, not realizing that it is merely an illusion (this hope to find your people...is a mirage, a delusion, which will lead to destruction if you will not abandon it—Hudson)

**Ana** *delusion, deceptive, misleading*

**Delusive, delusory** deceptive, misleading

**Anna** fantastic, chimerical, visionary, imaginary, fanciful, quixotic: fallacious, sophistical, casuistical (see under fallacy): illusory, seeming, ostensible, apparent

**Delve** dig, spade, grub, excavate

**Demand** vb Demand, claim, require, exact are comparable not as close synonyms but as sharing the basic meaning to ask or call for something as due or as necessary or as strongly desired. Demand strongly implies peremptoriness or insistency; if the subject is a person or sometimes an expression of his will (as a law), it usually implies that he possesses or believes he possesses the right or the authority not only to issue a peremptory request but also to expect its being regarded as a command (the physician demanded payment of his bill) (the court demands fair treatment of the accused by the prosecutor) (the father demanded knowledge of what had occurred during his absence from home) (can he [the keeper of a public record] refuse a copy thereof to a person demanding it on the terms prescribed by law?—John Marshall) (instincts which the conventions of good manners and the imperatives of morality demand that they should repress—Huxley) If the subject of the verb is a thing, the verb implies the call of necessity or of imperative need (the physician demands the right to tell this genius when and where and why he is best in his plays when he demands it on the terms prescribed by law)

**Demur** vb Demur, scruple, balk, jib, shy, boggle, stick, stickle, strain are comparable when they mean to hesitate or show reluctance because of difficulties in the way. One demurs to or at something when one raises objections to it, casts doubt upon it, or takes exception to it, thereby interposing obstacles which delay action, procedure, or decision (our colleagues in the university who demur on academic grounds to the inclusion of theology—Morberly) In older use the stress was on delay (notwithstanding he hoped that matters would have been long since brought to an issue, the fair one still demurred—Spectator) In modern use the emphasis is commonly on objection (Jerry...proposed that...we stretch a point) (in rank, grade)

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the limit of strength, courage, credulity, or tolerance 〈the horse balked at the leap〉 〈he never balks at any task no matter how difficult it is〉 〈there is the opposite case of the man who yields his poetic faith too readily, who does not balk at any improbability—Babbit〉 〈one rather balks at the idea of synthetic roughage—excelsior, wood chips, or whatever may be at hand—Furnas〉 One jibs (often at something) when he balks like a horse and backs away or out 〈I had settled to finish the review, when, behold ... I jibbed—Scott〉 〈he jibbed at alliance with the Catholic League—Bellloc〉 〈his soldiers, many of whom had served with Antony, jibbed at the attack on their old leader—Buchan〉 One shies at, away from, or off from something when like a suddenly frightened horse he recoils or swerves aside in alarm or distaste or suspicion and is unable to proceed or act 〈shy at the sight of blood〉 〈these turns of speech ... have the old virtue in them; you see the old temperamental of the race still evincing itself; still shying away from the long abstract word—Montague〉 One boggles at, over, or about something from which he by temperament, instinct, or training shies away. In this, boggle often implies scrupuling or fussing 〈when a native begins perjury he recoils perjury he perjures himself thoroughly. He does not boggle over details—Kipling〉 〈we [lovers of poetry] do not balk at the sea-wave washing the rim of the sun, which we know it does not do, any more than we boggle at blackberries that are red when they are green—Lowes〉 〈it was in the essence a snobbish pleasure; why should I boggle at the world?—L. P. Smith〉 One sticks at something to which he demurs because of scruples, especially scruples of conscience; the term is used frequently in the idiom “stick at nothing,” which is another way of saying be absolutely unscrupulous 〈was in a hole and would stick at little to get out of it—Buchan〉 One stickles at, about, over or something to which he demurs or raises objections because it is offensive, distasteful, or contrary to his principles (the purist stickles at using clipped words such as gas for gasoline, phone for telephone, exam for examination) 〈there is no time in a serious emergency to stickle over means if they achieve the desired ends〉 〈presumably that is his method—so the reader, eager to get good things where he can, will not stickle at it—K. D. Burke〉 One strains at something when he demurs to it as beyond his power to believe, accept, understand, or do. This usage is chiefly dependent on the scriptural passage “ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.” The object of at is commonly something which might without real difficulty be believed, accepted, understood, or done 〈persons who strain at the truth yet accept every wild rumor without question〉 〈I do not strain at the position,—it is familiar,—but at the author’s drift—Shak.〉

### define
denotation  connotation 〈see under DENOTE〉

**Ana**  *
- meaning, signification, significance, sense, acception, import

**denote** 1 signify, *mean, import

**Ana** betoken, bespeak, *indicate, attest, argue, prove:
- *intend, mean: *suggest, imply, hint, intimate, insinuate

2 **Denote, connote** and their corresponding nouns denotation, connotation are complementary rather than synonymous. Taken together, the verbs as used in reference to terms equal mean 〈see MEAN vb 2〉. Taken singly, a term denotes or has as its denotation whatever is expressed in its definition: in a noun the thing or the definable class of things or ideas which it names, in a verb the act or state which is affirmed. A term connotes or has as its connotation the ideas or emotions that are added to it and cling to it, often as a result of experience but sometimes as a result of something extraneous (as a poet’s effective use of the term, or its constant association with another term or idea, or a connection between it and some historical event); thus, “home” denotes the place where one lives with one’s family, but it connotes comforts, intimacy, and privacy. What a term denotes (or the denotation of a term) can be definitely fixed; what a term connotes (or its connotation) often depends upon the experience or background of the person using it 〈I have used the term “post-war poets” to denote those who did not begin to write verse till after the war—Day Lewis〉 〈there is no word that has more sinister and terrible connotations in our snobbish society than the word promiscuity—Shaw〉

In logic denote and connote, though still complementary and still predicated of terms, carry very different implications. They are dependent on two highly technical terms, both collective nouns, denotation and connotation. A term denotes (or bears as denotation) the entire number of things or instances covered by it; thus, “plant” denotes the aggregate of all things that come under the definition of that word; the denotation of “plant” is far more inclusive than the denotation of “shrub.” A term connotes (or bears as connotation) the sum total of the qualities or characteristics that are implied by it and are necessarily or commonly associated with it; thus, “plant” connotes (or bears as connotation) life, growth and decay, lack of power of locomotion, and, commonly, roots and cellular structure invested with a cellulose wall.

denounce  condemn, censure, reprobate, reprehend, blame, *criticize

**Ana** accuse, charge, arraign, impeach, incriminate, indict: *decry, disapprove, depreciate: revile, vituperate 〈see SCOLD〉

**Ant** eulogize  —Con *commend, applaud, compliment, recommend: *praise, extol, laud, acclaim

dense 1 compact, *close, thick

**Ana** consolidated, concentrated, compacted 〈see COMPACT vb〉: compressed, condensed 〈see CONTRACT vb〉: massed, heaped, piled, stacked 〈see HEAP vb〉

**Ant** sparse 〈of population, forests〉: tenuous 〈of clouds, air, masses〉 〈Con scattered, dispersed, dissipated 〈see SCATTER〉: *thin, rare: *meager, scanty, scant, exiguous 2 crass, *stupid, slow, dull, dumb

**Ana** obtuse, *dull: stolid, phlegmatic, *impassive

**Ant** subtle: bright 〈Con *intelligent, brilliant, clever, alert, quick-witted

denude  bare, *strip, divest, dismantle

**Ana** clothe
counter to what is true or to the facts as they are. **Deny** commonly implies a refusal and usually a firm or out-spoken refusal to accept as true, to grant or concede, or to acknowledge the existence or claims of **deny** the report that the British ambassador has resigned **he is no vulgar and stupid cynic who denies the existence ... many feel-ings higher than the merely physical—**Huxley** **deny** citizenship to certain applicants **deny** a request for more books **for he's a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny!** the necessities of his own life ... not any longer to be denied—Mary Austin **it would seem that I was denying God—**Meredith **In the reflexive form **deny** usually implies abstinence or renunciation often, but not necessarily, for religious or moral reasons **she denied herself all luxuries** **he resolved to deny himself the pleasure of smoking** (compare self-denial at renun-ciation). **Gainsay** is somewhat formal or literary; it implies opposition, usually by way of disputing the truth of what another has said **facts which cannot be gainsaid** **but she's a fine woman—that nobody can gainsay—Meredith** **his mother, whom he could not gainsay, was unconsciously but inflexibly set against his genius—Brooks** **no one would gainsay the right of anyone, the royal American right, to protest—White** **Contradict** differs from **gainsay** not only in usually implying a more open or a flatter denial of the truth of an assertion but also in commonly suggesting that the contrary of the assertion is true or that the statement is utterly devoid of truth; thus, **" to contradict a rumor"** is a stronger expres-sion than **" to deny a rumor"**; one may **contradict** (never in this sense **deny**) a person, whereas one may **deny or **contradict** (the stronger term) an assertion of his **a report which highly incensed Mrs. Bennet, and which she never failed to **contradict** as a most scandalous falsehood—Austen) **"Nobody contradicts me now,**' wrote Queen Victoria after her husband's death, **"and the salt has gone out of my life"—Ellis** **Contradict** is also used without implication of a spoken or written denial: it then suggests that an assertion, a doctrine, or a teaching runs counter to something else, and therefore either it cannot be true or the other must be false **all the protestations of the employers that they would be ruined by the Factory Acts were **contradicted** by experience—Shaw **they insisted on teaching and enforcing an ideal that **contradicted** the realities—Henry Adams** **Negative** is usually a much milder term than those which precede; often it implies merely a refusal to assent to something (as a suggestion, a proposition, a nomination, or a bill) **the senate nega-tived the proposed taxation** **after a polite request that Elizabeth would lead the way, which the other as politely ... . . . negative—Austen** **Beaufort stood, hat in hand, saying something which his companion seemed to nega-tive—Wharton** **When the idea of going counter to is uppermost, negative usually implies disproof **the omission or infrequency of such recitals does not negative the existence of miracles—Paley** **Traverse** occurs chiefly in legal use and implies a formal denial (as of the truth of an allegation or the justice of an indictment) **it traverses the theory of the Court—Corwin** **Impugn** usually retains much of its basic implication of attacking and carries the strongest suggestion of any of these terms of directly disput-ting or questioning the existence, or full contradiction, of anything stated or proposition, or less often a person; it sometimes connotes prolonged argument in an attempt to refute or confute **the idealists ... took up the challenge, but their reply was to disparage the significance, and even to **impugn** the reality, of the world as known to science—Inge **the morality of our Restoration drama cannot be **impugned**. It assumes orthodox Christian morality, and laughs (in its comedy) at human nature for not living up to it—T. S. Eliot **no one cares to **impugn** a fool; no one dares to **impugn** a captain of industry—Brooks** **Contravene** implies strongly a coming into conflict but less strongly than the other terms an intentional opposition, suggesting rather some inherent incompatibility **no state law may **contravene** the United States Constitution or federal laws enacted under its authority—Fitzsimmons** **steps toward the mitigation of racial segregation and discrimi-nation are often forestalled, since ... these **contravene** the dicta of Southern customs and tradition—R. E. Jackson** **Ana** *decline, refuse, reject, repudiate: controvert, refute, rebut, confute, *disprove

**Ant** confirm: concede —**Con** aver, affirm, **assert:**

*acknowledge

**depart** 1 leave, withdraw, retire, *go, quit

**Arrive** remain, abide —**Con** *stay, tarry, linger, wait: *come

2 digress, deviate, *swerve, diverge, veer

**Ant** forsake, *abandon, desert: reject, repudiate (see **DECLINE** vb): *discard, cast

**departed** deceased, late, *dead, defunct, lifeless, inanimate

**depend** 1 *rely, trust, count, reckon, bank

2 Depend, hinge, hang, turn are comparable when they mean to rest or, especially, to be contingent upon some-thing uncertain or variable or indeterminable. All are normally followed by on or upon. **Depend**, which literally means to hang or be suspended, suggests an element of mental suspense which makes forecasting impossible. It often suggests uncertainty of a thing with reference to circumstances yet to take place, facts not yet known, or a decision yet to be made **our trip depends upon the weather** **his going to college will **depend** on his ability to earn enough money to cover his living expenses** **another motive is the conviction that winning the best satisfaction of later life will **depend** on possessing this power to think—Eliot** It may suggest also a variability that rests upon a difference in attitude or point of view **the sterling morale of strikers. This may mean either a staunch fidelity to law and order, or willingness to over-turn a motor bus in the street. ... It is Leopold on who is speaking—Montague** **Hinge** is sometimes used inter-changeably with **depend**; it may retain much of its literal suggestion of a movable part (as a door or a gate) that opens or closes upon hinges and then usually implies the cardinal (see under ESSENTIAL 2) point upon which a decision, a controversy, or an outcome ultimately rests. In such use it suggests not so much mental suspense as uncertainty tempered by the certainty that the matter will go one way or the other **the outcome of the war hinges on the ability of our forces to outmove every strategic move of the enemy** **the point on which the decision must finally hinge—Thirlwall** **the whole case being built up by Mr. Kennon was going to hinge in large part upon a single issue—was Clifford under the influence of liquor—Basso** **Hang** likewise may interchange with **depend**, but more precisely it suggests a point of support such as is characteristic of the literal action of hanging; the term therefore stresses not so much the uncertainty of the event as the weakness or the strength of what gives validity, authority, or credibility to something (as a doc-trine, a belief, or a course of action) or of what points the way to fulfillment or successful performance **the truth of the testimony hangs on his word only** **the election hangs on a single vote** **a good deal ... hangs on the meaning, if any, of this short word full—T. S. Eliot** **Turn** often comes close to hinge in its meaning **great
dependable 228  dependore
events often **turn** upon very small circumstances—Swift**

It as often differs from **hinge** in suggesting a rotation or pivoting rather than a going one way or the other and, therefore, in implying a dependence upon something that may be variable or casual 〈the action of the play **turns** upon a secret marriage〉 〈his plots **turn** on the vicissitudes of climbing the success-ladder—Fadiman〉 〈the great anxiety of each disputant seemed to **turn** upon striking the first blow—Thorp〉

**dependable** *reliable, trustworthy, trusted, tried **Ana** sure, assured, *confident: *responsible: staunch, steadfast, constant, *faithful **Con** *doubtful, questionable, dubious: capricious, fickle, unstable, *inconstant, mercurial

**dependence** reliance, *trust, confidence, faith

**dependent** adj 1 **Dependent**, contingent, conditional, relative mean having its existence or nature determined by something else. Something is dependent which cannot exist or come into existence by itself quite without aid or support 〈we are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth—Shaw〉 〈the color of the skin is dependent on an adequate supply of blood—Fishbein〉 What is contingent takes its character from something that already exists or may exist and therefore is limited or qualified by something extraneous or is incapable of existence apart from it 〈a person’s conception of love is contingent both on his past experience and on the nature of that experience〉 〈if propriety should die, there could be no impropriety, inasmuch as the continuance of the latter is wholly contingent on the presence of the former—Grandgent〉 〈war is contingent: even dictatorship is contingent. Both depend on ignorance—Pound〉 Something is conditional which depends for its realization, fulfillment, execution, or expression on what may or may not occur or on the performance or observance of certain terms or conditions. Conditional and contingent are often interchangeable, but the former is preferred when eventualities are in the power of the human will 〈the pardon is conditional on his behavior during probation〉 〈while the validity of conditional recognition is a matter of debate, it would be entirely novel . . . if the conditions for recognition were set forth by a new government—I-Kua Chou〉 Something is relative which cannot be known, considered, or determined apart from its reference to something else and which therefore is affected by the limitations, the instability, or the imperfections of the other thing 〈market values are always, relative to the demand〉 〈the idea of civilization is relative . . . any community and any age has its own civilization and its own ideals of civilization—Ellis〉 **Ana** subject, *liable, open, exposed, susceptible **Ant** absolute: infinite: original 〈—Con 〈ultimate, categorical: uncircumscribed, boundless, eternal, illimitable (see infinite): undervield (see affirmative verb at SPRING) 2 subject, tributary, *subordinate, secondary, collateral **Ana** relying, depending, trusting, reckoning, counting (see rely): subsidiary, subservient, *auxiliary: abstracted: humbled, debased (see ABASE)

**depiect** vb *represent, portray, delineate, picture, limn **Ana** describe, narrate, *relate: 〈sketch, draft, outline, trace

deplete vb Deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt are comparable when they mean to deprive a thing in whole or in part of what is essential or necessary to its existence or potency. Deplete is often used as though it implied merely a reduction in numbers, in quantity, or in mass or volume; it may be used specifically to suggest the potential harm of such a reduction or the impossibility of restoring what has been lost before such consequences are evident; thus, bloodletting depletes the system, not only by reducing the quantity of blood but by depriving the system of elements essential to its vitality and vigor; an epidemic depletes an army when it reduces the army not only in size but in effective strength, especially at a time when that strength is needed 〈he would have us fill up our depleted curriculum with subjects whose worth has not even been tried—Grandgent〉 〈cattle herds depleted by the heavy slaughter last year—Time〉 Drain when precisely employed retains its basic implications of slow withdrawal of liquid (as by straining, seepage, or suction) until the substance which is drained becomes dry or the container which holds the liquid is emptied: hence it denotes a gradual depletion and ultimate deprivation of the figurative lifeblood of a thing or the essential element of its existence or well-being 〈the Thirty Years’ War nearly drained Germany of men and materials〉 〈their country’s wealth our mightier misers drain—Pope〉 〈a burden of arms draining the wealth and labor of all peoples—Eisenhower〉 Exhaust (see also tire) is very close to drain, but it stresses emptying or evacuation rather than gradual depletion. Unlike drain, which usually implies loss without compensating gain, exhaust need not suggest ultimate loss of what is removed; thus, a mine is exhausted when all its ore has been removed for refining: a soil is exhausted, or drained of nutrients, by growing crops on it without adequate fertilizing: but, a person is drained of vitality when overwork or illness reduces him to a weak vitality state 〈exhaust a subject by treating it so fully that nothing more can be said about it〉: emptyasses is exhausted when no further sugar can be extracted from it 〈the theme of mother and child has proved a theme which no age has ever exhausted or ever will exhaust—Binyon〉 〈evidently the old ideas had been exhausted and the time was ripe for new ideologies—R. W. Murray〉 〈seven hundred years of glorious and incessant creation seem to have exhausted the constructive genius of Europe—Clive Bell〉 Improvish means a depletion or a draining of something as essential to a thing as money or its equivalent is to a human being; it stresses the deprivation of qualities essential to a thing’s strength, richness, or productiveness 〈improvish the body by too meager a diet〉 〈a brilliant sun scorched the impoverished trees and sucked energy from the frail breezes—Farrell〉 Bankrupt stresses such impoverishment of a thing that it is destitute of qualities essential to its continued existence or productiveness; it connotes a complete or imminent collapse or breaking down 〈argued that science by inattention to immaterial phenomena is bankrupting itself〉 〈dainty bits make rich the ribs, but bankrupt quite the wits—Shak〉 **Ana** undermine, sap, debilitate, *weaken, enfeeble, cripple, disable: reduce, diminish, *decrease, lessen **Ant** augment, *increase, enlarge
deplore, lament, bewail, bemoan mean to manifest grief or sorrow for something. All carry an implication of weeping or crying which is commonly purely figurative. Deplore implies keen and profound regret especially for what is regarded as irreparable, calamitous, or destructive of something good or worth keeping 〈ev’n rival wits did Voiture’s death deplore—Pope〉 〈deplore a quarrel between friends〉 〈they deplore the divorce between the language as spoken and the language as written—T. S. Eliot〉 Lament commonly implies a strong or demonstrative expression of sorrow or mourning. In contrast to deplore, it usually does imply utterance, sometimes passionate, sometimes fulsome 〈yet I lament what long has ceased to be—Shelley〉 〈he made the newly returned actress a tempting offer, instigating some journalist friends

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of his at the same time to lament over the decay of the grand school of acting—Shaw> Bewail and bemoan imply poignant sorrow finding an outlet in words or cries, bewail commonly suggesting the louder, bemoan, the more lugubrious expression of grief or, often, of a mere grievance or a complaint (the valet bewailing the loss of his wages—Alexander) (even at the time when our prose speech was as near to perfection as it is ever likely to be, its critics were bemoaning its corruption—Ellis) (and all wept, and bewailed her—Lk 8:52) (>the silver swans her hapless fate bemoan, in notes more sad than when they sing their own—Pope>

Ana depreciate, *disapprove: *grieve, mourn, sorrow: weep, wail, *cry

Con vaunt, crow, *boast, brag

depert 1 demean, comport, *behave, conduct, acquit, quit

Ana see those at Demean

2 transport, *banish, exile, expatriate, ostracize, extradite

Ana see those at Behaviour

depertment 1 *behavior, conduct

Ana see those at Behaviour

2 demeanor, *bearing, mien, port, presence

Ana *from, formality, ceremony, ceremonial, ritual:

*culture, cultivation, breeding, refinement: dignity, grace, *elegance

deposit n deposit, precipitate, sediment, dregs, lees, grounds mean matter which settles to the bottom of or is let fall from suspension in a fluid (as air or water). Deposit, the most comprehensive term, refers to matter let fall by a natural or mechanical process to remain where it settles until there is a visible layer or accumulation (*a deposit of soot in a chimney) (*a deposit of gravel on the bed of a river) (*rich deposits of coal) (*the walls of the houses are clean and less discolored by the deposit of carbon than usual in most towns—Jefferies) Precipitate denotes a usually solid substance separated from a solution or suspension by some chemical interaction or by some physical force (as heat, cold, or centrifugal force) (*camphor may be obtained as a precipitate from an alcoholic solution by precipitation or by some physical force (as heat, cold, or centrifugal force) (*camphor may be obtained as a precipitate from an alcoholic solution by precipitation or by some physical force) (*camphor may be obtained as a precipitate from an alcoholic solution by precipitation or by some physical force) (*camphor may be obtained as a precipitate from an alcoholic solution by precipitation or by some physical force)

Ana underestimate, undervalue, underrate (see base words at estimate): asperse, *malign

Ant appreciate —Con prize, cherish, treasure, value (see Appreciate): *understand, comprehend
depreciative, depreciatory *derogatory, disparaging, slighting, pejorative

Ana decrying, belittling, minimizing (see decry): aspersing, maligning (see Malign) underrating, underestimating, undervaluing (see base words at estimate)
depress, weigh, oppress mean to put such pressure or such a load upon a thing or person as to cause it or him to sink under the weight. Depression implies a lowering of something by the exertion of pressure or by an overburdening; it most commonly implies a lowering of spirits by physical or mental causes (>the long dull evenings in these dull lodgings when one is weary with work depress one sadly—J. R. Green) (>the mere volume of work was enough to crush the most diligent of rulers and depress the most vital—Buchan) (>he was depressed by his failure—Anderson) It may suggest lowering of bodily vigor or the power of certain organs to function (as by a drug, a disease, or an external condition) (>the drug aconite depresses heart action)

In reference to other things (as market prices or social or cultural states) depress often suggests a lowering in activity, intensity, or vigor (>the first effect of the World War was greatly to depress the prices of stocks) (>a grain market depressed by the existence of a large surplus) (>to depress the culture of the minority below the point at which a full understanding of poetry becomes possible—Day Lewis) Weigh in this relation is used with down, on, or upon and carries a weaker implication of the result or lowering than depress but a stronger implication of the difficulty or burdens imposed upon a person or thing (>he is weighed down with cares) (>the responsibility weighs heavily upon him) (>Walter's mind had cleared itself of the depression which had weighed him so heavily—Cостин) (>a melancholy damp . . . to weigh thy spirits down—Milton) Like weigh, oppress stresses the burden which is borne or is imposed and, like depress, the consequent ill effects (as the lowering of spirits or of power to function) or in its more common sense (see wrong), a trampling down, a harassing, or a subjection to heavy penalties (>the weary world of waters between us oppresses the imagination—Lamb) (>the butler, oppressed by the heat . . . was in a state of abstraction bordering on slumber—Shaw) (>she is so oppressed by fear that she may lose her mind)

Ana distress, *trouble, ail: *afflict, try, torment: *tire, weary, fatigued, exhaust, fag, jade, tucker

Ant elate: cheer —Con gladden, rejoice, delight, gratify, *please

depressed dejected, dispirited, *downcast, disconsolate, woebegone

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
derogatory, depreciatory, depreciative, disparaging, slighting

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
design vb forsake, *abandon

America meed, guerdon, reward (see PREMIUM); punishment, chastisement, chastening, disciplining or discipline (see corresponding verbs at PUNISH)

desert vb leave, quit, depart (see GO)

*Ant stick to, cleave to
deserter see under desert at ABANDON vb

desertion 1 *defection, apostasy

*Ant perfidiousness or perfidy, treacherousness or treachery, disloyalty, faithlessness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

2 see under desert at ABANDON vb

deserve, merit, earn, rate mean to be or become worthy of something as recompense whether by way of reward or punishment. Deserve implies a just claim which entitles one to something good or evil, usually on the ground of actions done or qualities shown; it does not necessarily imply that the claim has been won or recognized (when at your hands did I deserve this scorn?—Shak.) (it should be supported at the public expense as one who had deserved well of his country—Dickinson) (it is largely owing to his insight and enthusiasm, as well as to his editorial toil, that the Tudor translators have become recognized as they deserve—T. S. Eliot) Merit is so close a synonym of deserved and good that it is often used interchangeably with it without loss. Even so, slight differences in meaning may be detected. Merit, although it implies a just claim, seldom suggests that the claim has been urged by oneself or another, a connotation that is not essential to but may often be found in deserve; merit also more often implies qualities of character, of life, or of action that entitle one to reward or punishment (give him the words of praise that he merits) (he merited a reproof, but he did not deserve dismissal) (a compliment . . . to the grandeur of the family, merited by the manner in which the family has sustained its grandeur—Dickens) Earn may suggest a due correspondence between the efforts exerted or the time or energy spent and the recompense that ensues; it fundamentally implies a deserving or meritizing as well as a getting and therefore may suggest a return in evil as well as in good ("Indeed, he hath an excellent good name." "His excellence did earn it, ere he had it"—Shak.) (an active, ardent mind . . . a generous spirit, and a body strong . . . had earned for him sure welcome—Wordsworth) (his devotion to self-interest has earned him nothing but contempt) Rate implies recognition of deserts or merits usually upon a carefully calculated basis, but it does not carry any suggestion of whether what is deserved or merited has been given (he rates a promotion) (the magazine rates our support)

desiccate vb *dry, dehydrate, parch, bake

design vb 1 mean, *intend, propose, purpose

*Ant aim, aspire

2 plan, plot, scheme, project (see under PLAN n)

*Ant sketch, outline, diagram, delineate, blueprint, draft: *invent, create

Con execute, fulfill, effect, accomplish, achieve, *perform

design n 1 plan, plot, scheme, project

*Ant delineation, sketch, draft, outline, tracing, diagram (see under SKETCH vb): conception, *idea

Con execution, fulfillment, accomplishment, achievement, performance (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM)

2 *intention, intent, purpose, aim, end, object, objective, goal

*Ant will, volition, conation: deliberation, reflection, thinking or thought (see corresponding verbs at THINK): intrigue, machination, *plot

character, of life, or of action that entitle one to reward or punishment (give him the words of praise that he merits) (he merited a reproof, but he did not deserve dismissal) (a compliment . . . to the grandeur of the family, merited by the manner in which the family has sustained its grandeur—Dickens) Earn may suggest a due correspondence between the efforts exerted or the time or energy spent and the recompense that ensues; it fundamentally implies a deserving or meritizing as well as a getting and therefore may suggest a return in evil as well as in good

effect implies selection by the person or body having the power. Elect, as distinguished from nominate, implies a final selection (as by the electorate) from the candidates who have been previously nominated (all the liberal candidates were elected) (not one person on the nominating committee's slate was elected at today's meeting) Appoint always implies that the selection is determined without a general vote (as of an electorate) and represents the choice of the person or the body in whom such power is legally vested. Appoint may be used even when confirmation (as by the U. S. Senate) has been necessary to make the designation valid (three justices of the Supreme Court have been appointed by the president within twelve months) (he [the president] shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoit ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court—U. S. Constitution)

*Ant accident —Con impulse (see MOTIVE)

3 *figure, pattern, motif, device
designate, name, nominate, elect, appoint are comparable in the sense to declare a person one's choice for incumbency of an office, position, post, or benefice. Designate implies selection by the person or body having the power to choose an incumbent or to detail a person to a certain post; it often connotes selection well in advance of incumbency (Harold contended that he had been designated by Edward the Confessor as the latter's successor to the English throne) (a clergyman who has been designated by the proper ecclesiastical authority as the incumbent of an episcopacy is usually called bishop-designate until he has been consecrated or has been installed) Name varies little in meaning from designate except that it stresses announcement rather than selection; it is more informal, however, and is usually preferred when the reference is to a political or government office within the gift of an executive or of an executive body (the mayor has not yet named the commissioner of public safety) (only one member of the incoming president's cabinet remains to be named) Nominate, though etymologically the equivalent of name, is rarely used as its equivalent in meaning (the House of Commons was crowded with members nominated by the Royal Council—J. R. Green) Usually it implies merely the presentation of the name of one's choice for an office for approval or rejection by others who have the final say; thus, a person from the floor at a convention may nominate his choice for a particular office; a state convention of a political party meets to nominate the party's candidates for governor and other state officers. Either nominate or name may be used when the executive's choice must be confirmed by a body having that power. Elect, as distinguished from nominate, implies a final selection (as by the electorate) from the candidates who have been previously nominated (all the liberal candidates were elected) (not one person on the nominating committee's slate was elected at today's meeting) Appoint always implies that the selection is determined without a general vote (as of an electorate) and represents the choice of the person or the body in whom such power is legally vested. Appoint may be used even when confirmation (as by the U. S. Senate) has been necessary to make the designation valid (three justices of the Supreme Court have been appointed by the president within twelve months) (he [the president] shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court—U. S. Constitution)

*Ant choose, select, single, opt, pick
designation *name, denomination, appellation, title, style

*Ant identification, *recognition: classification, pigeonholing or pigeonhole (see corresponding verbs at ASSORT)
designed premeditated, *deliberate, considered, advised, studied

*Ant intentional, *voluntary, willful, deliberate, willing: purposed, intended (see INTEND): resolved, determined, decided (see DECIDE)

desire vb Desire, wish, want, crave, covet mean having a longing for something. Desire, wish, and want are often used with identical intent though in such situations (usually everyday ones) that the degree of intensity of longing or need is not at issue (help wanted) (we can order whichever model you wish) In such use desire is often felt as more formal and dignified, and it may
even be decidedly pompous in effect (〈cleaning lady desires situation〉 Desire in more general use, however, emphasizes the strength or ardor of feeling and often implies strong intention or aim (〈more than any other thing on earth desired to fight for his country—White〉〈unions which desired to avail themselves of the benefits of the law—Collier's Yr. BK〉 Wish is less strong, often suggesting a not usually intense longing for an object unattained, unattainable, or questionably attainable (〈Newton's law of gravitation could not be wished into existence—Overstreet〉 〈not to have property, if one wished it, was almost a certain sign of shiftlessness—Brooks〉 Want (see also LACK) is a less formal term than wish and so is often interchangeable with it in situations where dignity of the subject or respectfulness is not at issue, though generally want implies that the longing is for something the attainment of which would fill a real need and which is actively hoped for (〈those who wanted to live long—Fishbein〉 (〈the French wanted European unity—N. Y. Times〉 Crave implies strongly the force of physical or mental appetite or need (as of hunger, thirst, love, or ambition) (〈crave peace and security after war—That eternal craving for amusement—Donn Byrne〉 (what he craved was books of poetry and chivalry—Weeks〉 Covet implies a strong, eager desire, often inordinate and envious and often for what belongs to another (〈where water is the most coveted essential resource because its supply is limited—Amer. Guide Series: Texas〉 〈we hate no people, and covet no people's land—Willkie〉

**Ana** *long, yearn, hanker, pine, hunger, thirst: aspire, pant, *aim

**Con** abhor, abominate, loathe, detest, *hate: spurn, repudiate, reject, refuse, *decline

**desire** n Desire, appetite, lust, passion, urge are comparable as meaning a longing for something regarded as essential to one's well-being or happiness or as meaning an impulse originating in a man's nature and driving him toward the object or the experience which promises him enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment. Desire may be used of every conceivable longing that stirs one emotionally, whether that longing originates in man's physical or in his spiritual nature, whether it is natural and normal or unnatural and perverted, whether it is generally regarded as low or high in the scale of moral or spiritual values (〈the desire for food〉 (〈the desire for an education〉 (〈a desire for change〉 (〈the desire for peace〉 (〈his physical desire to sit in the sun and do nothing—Anderson〉 (〈the keen desire . . . to pay their debts—Repplier〉 (nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself—T. S. Eliot) (〈Congreve's characters have inclinations, not desires; habits, not ecstasies—J. M. Brown〉 It may be used specifically to denote sexual longing, but it does not always convey derogatory connotations when so used meaning (〈like the flesh of animals distended by fear or desire—Cather〉 Desire is often used in implicit contrast to will or volition, for in itself it carries no implication of a determination or effort to possess or attain (〈she had the desire to do something which she objected to doing—Bennett〉 (guiltless even of a desire for any private possession or advantage of their own—Dickinson〉 Appetite is almost as extensive in its range of application as desire, and it invariably implies an imperative demand for satisfaction. It is specifically applied to the longings (as hunger, thirst, and sexual desire) which arise out of man's physical nature and which may be thwarted only by circumstances beyond one's control or by deliberate self-control (〈a slave to his appetite for drink〉 (the child is losing his appetite and only picks at his food) (〈impose restraints upon one's physical appetites〉 (he collected guns and women and his sexual appetite was awesome—E. D. Radin〉 The word may be applied also to equally exacting longings which drive one to their satisfaction, whether they originate in his nature or are acquired (man's distinguishing characteristic is the appetite for happiness) (〈an insatiable appetite for news〉 (almost pathological in his appetite for activity—Mencken) Lust combines the specific denotation of desire as a longing that stirs emotion and that of appetite as a longing that exacts satisfaction; often it implies domination by the emotion or insatiable longing (〈the lust of knowing〉 and ambition (the lust of power)—Preserved Smith) (<whose ruling passion was the lust of praise—Pope) When used specifically to denote sexual longing, lust unlike desire automatically carries derogatory connotations (in his morning litany he could pray to be kept from lasciviousness, but when night came lust might come with it—Van Doren) Passion is applied to any intense and preoccupying emotion which gives one a certain special bent or which serves as an outlet for and gives direction to one's energies. Though it comes close to lust in suggesting the energizing of desire by the vehemence of the emotions, passion is the better choice when personal predilection is implied; thus, he, too, knew the lust (better than passion) for power; but, his work reveals a passion (better than lust) for perfection (〈avarice, he assured them, was the one passion that grew stronger and sweeter in old age. He had the lust for money as Martinez had for women—Cather〉 (the dream, the ambition, the passion of Mr. Raycie's life was (as his son knew) to found a Family—Wharton) Urge, which basically means a force or motive which drives one to action, often more specifically denotes a strong, persistent, and compelling desire that has its origin in one's physical nature or one's peculiar temperament. The word is sometimes applied to the physical appetites (the sexual appetite is often called "the biological urge"), but it is more often used of a desire so strong and insistent that it must be satisfied or a sense of frustration ensues (〈an urge to travel〉 (an urge to marry) (〈that almost mystic urge to climb can dominate your whole life—Vaughan-Thomas〉

**Ana** longing, yearning, hankering, pining, hungering or hunger or thirsting or thirst (see long vb): *cupidity, greed, avarice, rapacity

**Ant** distaste —Con repugnance, repellency or repulsion, abhorrence (see corresponding adjectives at repugnant)

**desist** 〈discontinue, cease, *stop, quit

**Ana** *refrain, abstain, forbear: *relinquish, yield, abandon

**Ant** persist —Con *continue: *persevere

**desolate** 〈forlorn, torn, lonesome, lone, solitary, lonely, *alone

**Ana** deserted, forsaken, abandoned (see abandOn): *miserable, wretched

**Con** cheerful, lighthearted, joyful, joyous, happy, *glad 2 *dismal, dreary, cheerless, dispiriting, bleak

**Ana** *bare, barren, bald: destitute, poverty-stricken, *poor

**despair** n hopelessness, desperation, despondency, forlornness (see under despondent adj)

**Ana** dejection, melancholy, *sadness, gloom, depression

**Ant** hope: optimism: beatitude —Con rapture, trans-
despairing 233
despondent

port, *ecstasy

despairing adj  hopeful, desperate, *despondent, forlorn
Ana melancholy, *melancholic, attributive: pessimistic, misanthropic, *cynical: depressed, weighed down (see DEPRESS)
Ant hopeful —Con optimistic, roseate, rose-colored (see HOPEFUL): sanguine, *confident, assured, sure
desperate hopeless, despairing, *despondent, forlorn
Ana reckless, rash, foolhardy, venturesome (see ADVENTUROUS): precipitate, headlong: thwarted, foiled, frustrated, outwitted, circumvented, baffled, balked (see FRUSTRATE)
Con *cool, collected, composed, nonchalant: sanguine, assured, *confident, sure
desperation hopelessness, despair, despondency, forlornness (see under DESPONDENT adj)
Ana fury, frenzy (see INSPIRATION): grit, pluck, guts, sand, *fortitude: recklessness, rashness, foolhardiness (see corresponding adjectives at ADVENTUROUS): temerity, audacity
Con *confidence, assurance, aplomb: *equanimity, composure, sangfroid, phlegm
despicable *contemptible, pitiable, sorry, scurrvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby
Ana *base, low, vile: ignominious, infamous, disgraceful (see corresponding nouns at DISGRACE): ignoble, *mean, abject, sordid
Ant praiseworthy, laudable
despise, contemn, scorn, disdain, scout mean to regard a person or thing as beneath one's notice or as unworthy of one's attention or interest. The same differences in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns despite, contempt, scorn, disdain when they denote such an attitude toward or such treatment of a person or thing. Despise and despise may imply an emotional reaction from strong disfavor to loathing, but in precise use it stresses a looking down upon a thing and its evaluation as mean, petty, weak, or worthless
<he must learn, however, to despise petty adversaries.
No good sportsman ought to shoot at crows—Scott
<br bird and beast despised my snares, which took me so many waking hours at night to invent—Hudson
<receive thy friend, who, scorning flight, goes to meet danger with despise—Longfellow
<the despise in which runners are held is a convention—Yale Review

Con and contempt imply even a harsher judgment than despise or despite, for despise and despondency may connote mere derision, whereas contemn and especially contempt usually suggest vehement, though not necessarily vocal, condemnation of the person or thing as low or vile, feeble, or ignominious
<contemn their low images of love—Bennett
<accept an early drawings of moss roses and picturesque castles—things that he now mercilessly contemned—Bennett
<and in contempt of hell and heaven, dies rather than bear some yoke of priests or kings—Masefield
<it was to proclaim their utter contempt for the public and popular conceptions of art, that the Dadaists launched into a series of outrageous practical jokes—Day Lewis

Scorn implies quick, indignant, or profound contempt <instructed from her early years to scorn the art of female tears—Swift
<I knew he'd scorn me. He hates frumps—Meredith
<Voltaire, with his quick intellectual scorn and eager malice of the brain—Downen
<common sense, rejecting with scorn all that can be called mysticism—Inge

Disdain suggests a visible manifestation of pride and arrogance or of aversion to what is base <a great mind disdains to hold anything by courtesy—Johnson
<the psychiatric patient is disdained and ridiculed by his fellow inmates—Banay
<his disdain of affection and prudery was magnificent—Mencken

Scout stresses not only derision but a refusal to consider the person or thing concerned as of any value, efficacy, or truth. It therefore suggests rejection or dismissal
<many great philosophers have not only been scouted while they were living, but forgotten as soon as they were dead—Hazlitt
(Alice would have scouted ... any suggestion that her parent was more selfish than saintly—Shaw

Ana abominate, loathe, abhor, detest, *hate: spurn, repudiate (see DECLINE)
Ant appreciate —Con admire, esteem, respect (see under REGARD n): value, prize, cherish, treasure (see APPRECIATE)
despite n 1 spite, ill will, malevolence, spleen, grudge, *malice, malignity, malignity
<contempt, scorn, disdain (see under DESPISE): abhorrence, loathing, detestation, hatred, fate (see under HATE vb)
Ant appreciation: regard —Con admiration, esteem, respect (see REGARD n): *reverence, awe, fear
<2 contempt, scorn, disdain (see DESPISE)
despite prep in spite of, *notwithstanding
despoil *ravage, devastate, waste, sack, pillage, spoliage—Con plunder, *rob, rifle, loot: *strip, bare, denude

Despacency despair, despiration, hopelessness, forlornness (see under DESPONDENT adj)
Ana dejection, depression, melancholy, melancholia, *sadness, blues, dumps
Ant light-heartedness —Con cheerfulness, gladness, happiness, joyfulness, joyousness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD)
despendant adj Despondent, despairing, desperate, hopeless, forlorn mean having lost all or practically all hope. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are to be found in their corresponding nouns despondency, despair, despiration, hopelessness, forlornness when they denote the state or feeling of a person who has lost hope.

Despondent and despondency imply dishheartenment or deep dejection arising out of a conviction that there is no longer any justification of hope or that further efforts are useless (a despondent lover) <whenever ... the repressed spirit of the artist ... perceived ... the full extent of its debacle, Mark Twain was filled with a despondent desire, a momentary purpose even, to stop writing altogether—Brooks
<we poets in our youth begin in gladness; but therefrom come in the end despondency and madness—Wordsworth

(England, they said, was wont to take her defeats without despondency, and her victories without elation—Repliery

Despairing and despair imply sometimes the passing of hope, sometimes the utter loss of hope, and often accompanying despondency 
<the author ... ended with a despairing appeal to the democracy when his jeremiads evoked no response from the upper class ... or from the middle class—Inge
<to fortify ourselves against the ultimate disaster—which is despair—Times Lit. Sup.
<despair of her ever understanding either the terms of a contract or the nature of working conditions—Mary Austin
<the bitter weariness of a fathomless resignation and despair—Wolf

Desperate and desperation imply despair but not the cessation of effort; rather, they often suggest violence and recklessness as a last resource especially in the face of anticipated defeat or frustration
<the bitter, desperate striving unto death of the oppressed race, the damned desperation of the rebel—Rose Macaulay
<a desperate determination that nothing should interfere with her marriage with Hugh had taken possession of her—Anderson
<he was fighting a fight of desperation, and knew it—Meredith
<not knowing ... how near my
pursuer might be, I turned in desperation to meet him—

_Hudson> Hopeless and hopelessness imply both the complete loss of hope and the cessation of effort (the hopeless look in the faces of the doomed men) The words do not necessarily suggest despondency, dejection, or gloom, for sometimes they imply acceptance or resignation ("Why should you say such desperate things?") "No, they are not desperate. They are only hopeless"—Hardy> not that Dr. Lavendar was hopeless; he was never hopeless of anybody... but he was wise; so he was deeply discouraged—Delaney> (the little hopeless community of beaten men and yellow defeated women—Anderson) Forlorn (see also ALONE 1) and forlornness stress utter hopelessness, but they differ from hopeless and hopelessness in implying hopelessness even in the act of undertaking something because its failure is all but certain (we sit down in a forlorn skepticism—Berkeley> poor prince, forlorn he steps... and proud in his despair—Keats> Desperate, hopeless, and forlorn and their corresponding nouns are applicable not only to men, their moods, words, and acts, but to the things which make men despairing or hopeless (desperate straits) (the hopeless situation of a beleaguered garrison) (desperate grime and greasiness—McFee> all the high arid and formidable force which the Celt has ever thrown into a forlorn and failing cause—Cyril Robinson>

_Ana mourning, mourning, sorrowing (see GRIEVE): depressed, dejected, melancholy, sad (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS) Ant> lighthearted—Con cheerful, joyful, joyous, happy, *glad: buoyant, volatile, resiliant, *elastic
despotict tyrannical, tyrannous, arbitrary, autocratic, *absolute

_Ana domineering, imperious, *masterful, imperiative: *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial
destiny *fate, lot, doom, portion

_Ana *end, termination, terminus, ending: goal, objective (see INTENTION)
destitute 1 *devoid, void

_Ana lacking, wanting (see LACK vb): *deficient: empty: barren, *bare: depleted, drained, exhausted, bankrupted or bankrupt (see corresponding verbs at DEplete)

Con> *full, replete, complete

2 *poor, indigent, needy, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous

Ant> opulent
destitution want, indigence, *poverty, penury, privation

_Ana *need, necessity, exigency: *lack, absence, want, privation, dearth: adversity, *misfortune: strait (see JUNCTURE)

Ant> opulence
destroy, demolish, raze mean to pull or tear down. Destroy is so general in its application that it may imply the operation of any force that wrecks, kills, crushes, or annihilates (destroy a nest of caterpillars) (destroy affection) (a building destroyed by fire) (grinding poverty that destroys vitality) Its opposition to construct is often apparent (it is proverbially easier to destroy than to construct—T. S. Eliot> very few well established institutions, governments and constitutions... are ever destroyed by their enemies until they have been corrupted and weakened by their friends—Lippmann> Demolish implies a pulling or smashing to pieces; when used in reference to buildings or other complex structures (as of wood, stone, or steel), it implies complete wreckage and often a heap of ruins (houses demolished by a hurricane) (the automobile was demolished in a collision with the train) The term implies the destruction of all coherency or integrity in a nonmaterial thing and, consequently, of all its usefulness (demolish an opponent's argument) people are inclined to believe that what Bradley did was to demolish the logic of Mill and the psychology of Bain—T. S. Eliot> his research has been painstaking, and he demolishes a good many legends—Pratt> Raze implies a bringing to the level of the ground; it may or may not imply an orderly process with no destruction of usable parts (several buildings were razed to make room for the new city hall) (in 1865 a Gulf hurricane razed the town—Amer. Guide Series: Texas) The term may imply obliteration or effacement, more, however, with reference to the implication of scraping than to the sense of pulling or tearing down (canst thou not minister to a mind diseased... raze out the written troubles of the brain...—Shak>

_Ana *ruin, wreck, dilapidate: *abolish, extinguish, annihilate: *ravage, devastate, sack

Con> *found, establish, institute, organize: *make, form, shape, fashion, fabricate, forge, manufacture: preserve, conserve, *save

destruction *ruin, hovac, devastation

_Ana demolishing or demolition, razing (see corresponding verbs at DESTROY): annihilation, extinction (see corresponding verbs at ABOLISH)
desultory casual, hit-or-miss, haphazard, *random, happy-go-lucky, chance, chance

_Ana* fitful, spasmodic: unsystematic, unmethodical, disorderly (see affirmative adjectives at ORDERLY): capricious, mercurial, *inconstant, fickle

Ant> assiduous (study, search, or other activity): methodical (something designed, planned, constructed)
detach, disengage, abstract mean to remove one thing from another with which it is in union or association. One detaches something when one breaks a literal or figurative connection, tie, or bond and thereby isolates it or makes it independent (detach sheets from a loose-leaf book) (detach a ship from a fleet) (detach oneself from one's prejudices) (the mature critic whose loyalties quietly detached themselves from the gods of his generation—Parrington) One disengages something that is held by or involved with something else and thereby sets it free (she disengaged her hand) (it is hard for the mind to disengage itself from depressing thoughts) (I could not rest satisfied until I... had disengaged... his good work from the inferior work joined with it—Arnold) One abstracts something by withdrawing it from the place where it belongs or by separating it from a mass of like things so as to put it in another place or another relation (a vast cigar-shaped body of gas was raised and eventually abstracted from the surface of the sun—Swinton) (abstract papers from a file) _Abstract_ may imply furtiveness and theft (abstract eggs from a nest) (abstract money from a till) It may imply an intention of shortening (abstract the essential points from an argument) or of concentrating elsewhere (abstract one's attention from one's surroundings) (see also ABSTRACT adj)

Ant> attach, affix—Con* fasten, fix: *tie, bind: *unite, combine, conjoin
detached aloof, uninterested, disinterested, *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious

_Ana impartial, dispassionate, objective, unbiased, *fair: altruistic (see CHARITABLE)

_Ant_ interested: selfish—Con* mercenary: concerned (see under CARE)
detail n 1* item, particular

Con> *structure, framework, anatomy, skeleton: whole, aggregate, total, *sum: mass, *bulk: design, scheme, *plan, plot
deterioration, arrest, apprehension, attachment (see under *detention* *dissuade, discourage, divert*)
detain 1 *arrest, apprehend, attach*
detain 2 itemized, particularized, *circumstantial, minute,* detailed

[paragraph with technical terms related to deterioration and decline]

Detest *disdaze, disgust, divert* 
detest *prevent (sense 2): *hinder, impede, obstruct, block: debar, shut out (see EXCLUDE): *frighten, scare: *restrain, inhibit*
detester *abet: actuate, motivate —Con *incite, instigate: stimulate, excite, *provoke*

deterioration, degeneration, devolution, decadence, decline, declension are comparable as meaning either the process of falling from a higher to a lower level or the state of a thing when such a falling has occurred. Degeneration is the least specific of these terms and applies to any process or condition in which there are signs of impairment in quality, in character, or in value (chemicals that reduce the deterioration of rubber in aging) (the deterioration of his memory is marked in recent years) (man the toolmaker has made "inanimate instruments" ... do his manual work for him; he is now trying to make them do his mental work ...). The price may be the progressive deterioration of our faculties—inge

to promise that warfare will be nuclear ... is to assure the further deterioration of our position throughout Asia—straight Degeneration usually implies retrogression and a return to a simpler or more primitive state or condition; when used in reference to plants, animals, or their parts, it usually suggests changes in physical structure, but it may imply a progressive degeneration in structure and function resulting from disease (the sea squirt in its adult stage evidences degeneration through the loss of the vertebrate characters apparent in its larval stage) (fatty degeneration of the heart) When applied to persons in groups or as individuals or to states or empires, it suggests physical, intellectual, and often moral degradation and a reversion toward barbarism or, in the case of individuals, bestiality (the degeneration of the American Indians confined to reservations) (the degeneration of the ancient Roman Empire) (of all the dangers that confront a nation at war, this degeneration of national purpose ... is the greatest—new republic) Devolution in technical use may take the place of degeneration (the devolution of the sea squirt) but in general use it carries even a stronger implication of opposition to evolution (the process of human evolution is nothing more than a process of sifting, and where that sifting ceases evolution ceases, becomes, indeed, devolution—Ellis) Decadence presupposes a previous maturing and usually a high degree of excellence; it implies that the falling takes place after a thing (as a people, a literature or other form of art, or a branch of knowledge) has reached the peak of its development (there seems to be no more pronounced mark of the decadence of a people and its literature than a servile and rigid subserviency to rule—Ellis) (a sharply falling rate of population growth, an abnormally high death rate, extensive illness and the like, are an indication of social decadence and ample cause for alarm on the part of political leaders—Roucek) In reference to matters of art decadence may imply no more than excessive refinement and studied attention to esthetic detail (at the turn of the century we all thought we knew what decadence meant—overpensiveness, overcivilization, a preoccupation with refined sensations ... the essence of decadence is an excessive subjectivism—Times Lit. Sup.) (Van Vechten produced a kind of mock decadence unique in American literature. His novels are hyperesthetic, perverse, and often devoted to esoteric or archaic lore—Lueders) Decline is often interchangeable with decadence because it, too, suggests a falling after the peak has been reached in power, prosperity, excellence, or achievement, but it usually suggests more momentum, more obvious evidences of deterioration, and less hope of a return to the earlier state (the rise and decline of the imperial power) (he is in the decline of life) (the association so often noted between the flowering of the intellect and the decline of national vigor—Krutch) Declension differs from decline only in connoting less precipitancy or a slower or more gradual falling toward extinction or destruction (seems to mark a declension in his career as an illustrator—Mather) (the moral change, the sad declension from the ancient proud spirit ... was painfully depressing—Bennett) 

Ana impairment, spoiling (see corresponding verbs at INJURE): decaying or decay, decomposition, disintegration, rotting, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY): debasement, degradation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE)

Ant improvement, amelioration determinant antecedent, *cause, reason, occasion* 
determinant *conclusive, decisive, definitive* 
determinative *determining, deciding, settling (see DECIDE): influencing, affecting (see AFFECT): shaping, fashioning, forming or formative (see corresponding verbs at MAKE) *

determine 1 settle, rule. *decide, resolve* 
determine 2 ascertain, *discover, unearth, learn* 
detest *hate, abhor, abominate, loathe* 
detest *disipse, contemn, scorn, disdain: spurn, repudiate, reject (see DECLINE vb)*

detract 1 belittle, minimize, disparage, derogate, *decray, depreciate* 
detract 2 asperse, *malign, traduce, defame, vilify, calumn—

Ant analogous words  
Ant antonyms  
Con contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
detrimental, deleterious, noxious, *pernicious, baneful
waste, *ravage, sack, pillage, despoil, spoliate
*disadvantage, handicap, drawback
detriment

calamity, slander, scandal are comparable when they denote either the offense of one who defames another or casts aspersions upon him or what is uttered by way of defamation or aspersion. Detraction stresses the injurious effect of what is said and the loss through it of something (as the esteem of others or his credit, his deserts, or even his good name) precious to the person affected (bring candid eyes unto the perusal of men's works, and let not . . .

Anachronism, slander, calumny are

*disadvantage, handicap, drawback
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applicable of these terms; it may be used of a thing that serves as a tool or instrument or as an effective part of a machine, especially one which shows some ingenuity in invention (a device for controlling the speed of a car) (he invented several handy household devices including one for whipping cream and one for hulling strawberries). It may be used also of an artifice or stratagem concocted as a means of accomplishing an end (her device for keeping the children quiet) (he will . . . entrap thee by some treacherous device—Shak.) or of a pattern or design that shows the play of fancy, especially of one that proves useful to the less inventive (first-person narrative is a common literary device) (that old stale and dull device [in painting] of a rustic bridge spanning a shallow stream—Jeffries) Contrivance stresses skill and dexterity in the adaptation of means and especially of the means at hand to an end; it sometimes carries a suggestion of crudity of or of contempt for the resulting device or system (a contrivance for frightening birds that were eating his corn) (all sorts of contrivances for saving more time and labor—Shaw) (he would look at none of the contrivances for his comfort—Conrad) Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy) (their new car has all the latest gadgets) Contraction is usually more deprecative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio) (her husband's little perch-in-the-sun . . . is a simple enough contraption—a wooden stump with the seat of an old kitchen chair nailed across the top of it—Glover) It also may denote something viewed with skepticism or mistrust primarily because new, unfamiliar, or unintended (the contraction ran so well that the Detroit Common Council was forced to pass the city's first motor traffic regulation—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (a seventy-two-foot-long, eleven-ton finless rocket . . . . In the nose of this contraption—Daniel Lang) Ana instrument, tool, *implement, appliance, utensil: apparatus, *machine, mechanism: expedient, *resource, shift, makeshift, resort: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): artifice, ruse, *trick, gambit, ploy 2 *figure, design, motif, pattern Ana *symbol, emblem, attribute, type devilish diabolical, diabolic, *fiendish, demoniac, demonic Ana *infernal, hellish: nefarious, iniquitous, villainous, *vicious Ana angelic devious *crooked, oblique Ana deviating, diverging, digressing (see SWERVE): aberrant, *abnormal: tricky, crafty, artful, cunning, foxy, insidious, *sly Ana straightforward—Con downright, *forthright devise 1 *contribute, invent, frame, concoct Ana create, discover (see INVENT): fashion, forge, fabricate, shape, form, *make: design, plan, scheme, plot (see under PLAN n) 2 *will, bequeath, leave, legate devoid, void, destitute are comparable when they are followed by of and mean showing entire want or lack. Devoid stresses the absence or the nonpossession of a particular quality, character, or tendency (I was not devoid of capacity or application—Gibbon) *they will steal from you before your very face, so devoid are they of all shame—Hudson (a human being devoid of hope is the most terrible object in the world—Heiser) Void (see also EMPTY 1) usually implies freedom from the slightest trace, vestige, tinge, or taint of something (a man void of honor) (a conscience void of offence—Acts 24:16) (a drama which, with all its preoccupation with sex, is really void of sexual interest—Shaw) Destitute stresses deprivation or privation; it therefore is seldom used with reference to what is evil or undesirable (a domestic life destitute of any hallowing charm—George Eliot) *men of genius . . . wholly destitute of any proper sense of form—J. R. Lowell) (no woman . . . so totally destitute of the sentiment of religion—J. R. Green) Ana barren, *bare: lacking, wanting (see LACK vb): *empty devolution decadence, decline, declension, *deterioration, degeneration Ana retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression (see corresponding adjectives at BACKWARD): receding or recession, retrograding or retrogradation (see corresponding verbs at RECEDE) Con *development: *progress, progression devote 1 Devote, dedicate, consecrate, hallow mean to set apart something or less often someone for a particular use or end. Devote often implies a giving up or setting apart because of motives almost as impelling as those that demand a vow (devotes her full time to the care of the unfortunate) (the administrative work . . . deprived him of the time and energy which he longed to devote to historical research—Callender) (eloquence, erudition, and philosophy . . . were humbly devoted to the service of religion—Gibbon) (he cared too little for diplomacy to devote himself to it—Commins) Dedicate implies solemn and exclusive devotion and often a ceremonial setting apart for a serious and often a sacred use (dedicate a memorial) (I will dedicate all the actions of my life to that one end—Belloe) (I had devoted the labor of my whole life, and had dedicated my intellect . . . to the slow and elaborate toil of constructing one single work—De Quincey) Consecrate implies the giving of a sacred or exalted character (his effect was to consecrate the Prussian State and to enshrine bureaucratic absolutism—Dewey) especially by rites (as those by which a building is set apart for the service or worship of God or by which a bishop or king is elevated to his throne or by which ground is set apart as a burial place of the dead) (kings of England are consecrated in Westminster Abbey) (the right of burial in consecrated ground) In more general applications consecrate while not implying such rites does carry a stronger connotation of almost religious devotion than dedicate (a night of memories and of sighs I consecrate to thee—Landor) Hallow is a still stronger term, partly because of its use in the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name") and partly because it often implies an ascription of intrinsic sanctity. Unlike the foregoing terms hallow is not normally used of oneself; thus, one may devote or dedicate or occasionally consecrate oneself to something (as a duty, a responsibility, or an interest), but one hallows something or more rarely someone (his marriage was hallowed and made permanent by the Church—Barry) (but in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground—Lincoln) Hallow may also be used to imply a mere respecting or making respectable (as by reason of age or custom) without suggesting a sacred character (you justify everything, hallow everything—Elizabeth Taylor)
devoted, pious, religious, pietistic, sanctimonious apply

devour

devotion

devotee

devoted

Ana *commit, consign, confide, entrust: assign, *allot: *sentence, doom

2 apply, *direct, address

Ana endeavor, strive, struggle, try, *attempt

devoted *loving, affectionate, fond, doting

Ana *faithful, loyal, true, constant: attentive, considerate, *thoughtful

devotee *votary, *addict, habitué

Ana *enthusiast, zealot, fanatic

devotion loyalty, fealty, *fidelity, piety, allegiance

Ana fervor, ardent, zeal, enthusiasm, *passion: love, affection, *attachment: dedication, consecration (see corresponding verbs at DEVOTE)

devour *eat, swallow, ingest, consume

Ana *waste, squander, dissipate: *destroy, demolish: *wreck, *ruin

devout, pious, religious, pietistic, sanctimonious apply mainly to persons, their acts, and their words and mean showing fervor and reverence in the practice of religion. Devout stresses an attitude of mind or a feeling that leads one to such fervor and reverence (a devout man, and one that feared God—Acts 10:2) all those various “offices” which, in Pontifical, Missal, and Breviary, devout imagination had elaborated from age to age—Pater

Pious emphaizes rather the faithful and dutiful performance of one’s religious obligations; although often used interchangeably with devout it tends to suggest outward acts which imply faithfulness and fervor rather than, as does devout, an attitude or feeling which can only be inferred (pious churchmen) happy, as a pious man is happy when after a long illness, he goes once more to church—Hichens

were pious Christians, taking their Faith devoutly. But such religious emotion as was theirs, was reflected rather than spontaneous—H. O. Taylor’s The term often, however, carries a hint of depreciation, sometimes of hypocrisy (the saying that we are members one of another is not a mere pious formula to be repeated in church without any meaning—Shaw) a hypocrite—a thing all pious words and uncharitable deeds—Reade

Religious may and usually does imply both devoutness and piety, but it stresses faith in a God or gods and adherence to a way of life believed in consonance with that faith (a man may be moral without being religious, but he cannot be religious without being moral—Myers) they are not religious: they are only pew renters—Shaw In its basic meaning pietistic stresses the emotional rather than the intellectual aspects of religion (in the Catholic Church it [use of the Bible] is threefold, doctrinal, liturgical, and pietistic—New Catholic Dict.) while probably a very late psalm, it brings to a kind of spiritual climax the pietistic utterances found in earlier parts of the Bible—Bach an emotional person with pietistic inclinations that nearly carried him over at different times to the Plymouth Brethren—H. G. Wells

Often this opposition of the emotional to the intellectual is overlooked and pietistic is used derogatorily of someone or something felt to display overly sentimental or unduly emotional piety (Gibbon’s analysis of the causes of the growth of Christianity was very valuable, because he recognized the balance against a heavy weight of pietistic flapdoodle that passed for ecclesiastical history—Trevelyan) Sanctimonious has entirely lost its original connotation of a holy or sacred character and implies a mere pretension to or appearance of holiness or piety a sanctimonious hypocrite sanctimonious phrases

Often it connotes a hypocritical aloofness or superiority of manner (if it only takes some of the sanctimonious

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
dialect

1 Dialect, vernacular, patois, linggo, jargon, cant, argot, slang denote a form of language or a style of speech which varies from that accepted as the literary standard. Dialect (see also LANGUAGE 1) is applied ordinarily to a form of a language that is confined to a locality or to a group, that differs from the standard form of the same language in peculiarities of vocabulary, pronunciation, usage, and morphology, and that persists for generations or even centuries. It may represent an independent development from the same origin as the standard form (as the Sussex dialect) or a survival (as the dialect of the Kentucky mountaineers). It is sometimes applied to any form of language differing from the standard (a Babylonish dialect which learned pedants much affect—Butler d. 1680) Vernacular (usually the vernacular) has several applications, though it always denotes the form of language spoken by the people in contrast that employed by learned or literary men. In the Middle Ages when the language of the church, of the universities, and of learned writings was Latin, the vernacular was the native language of the people whatever it might be in the locality in question (translate the Bible into the vernacular) (the first Christian missionaries from Rome did not teach their converts to pray and give praise in the vernacular—Quiller-Couch) When a contrast with the literary language rather than with Latin is implied, the vernacular is an underdatory designation for the spoken language, that language which represents the speech of the people as a whole, that is colloquial but not inherently vulgar, and that is marked chiefly by the spontaneous choice of familiar, often native as opposed to exotic words and phrases (Pope ... is absoleute master of the raciest, most familiar, most cogent and telling elements of the vernacular—Lowes) Vernacular often implies a contrast with scientific nomenclature (taxonomic and vernacular names for flowers) Patois is often used as if it were the equivalent of dialect. It tends, however, to be restricted especially in North America to designating a form of speech used by the uneducated people in a bilingual section or country; the word often specifically refers to the hybrid language (of mingled English and Canadian French) spoken in some parts of Canada. Lingo is a term of contempt applied to any language that is not easily or readily understood. It is applicable to a strange foreign language, a dialect, or a patois or to the peculiar speech of a class, cult, or group (I have often warned you not to talk the court gibberish to me. I tell you, I don't understand the lingo—Fielding) Jargon, which may be applied to an unintelligible or meaningless speech (as in a foreign tongue or a patois), is used chiefly in reference to the technical or esoteric language of a subject, a class, a profession, or a cult and usually expresses the point of view of one unfamiliar with it and confused or baffled by it (jocket, and docket, and drawbacks, and other jargon words of the customhouse—Swift) Whitman ... has a somwhat vulgar inclination for technical talk and the jargon of philosophy—Stevenson) Cant, related to chant, seems to have been applied first to the whining speech of beggars. It has been applied more or less specifically to several different forms of language (as the secret language of gypsies and thieves, the technical language of a trade or profession, and the peculiar phraseology of a religious sect or of its preachers). From the last of these applications a new sense has been developed (see HYPOCRISY). When referring to the peculiar language of a subject or profession cant usually suggests the hackneyed use of set words or phrases, often in a specialized sense, and, unlike jargon, does not usually imply unintelligibility; thus, the language of sportwriters is a cant rather than a jargon; the scientific nomenclature used by physicians in official reports may be called medical jargon rather than cant by those who do not understand it; a person who repeatedly calls an investigation a "probe," a large book a "tome," a preacher a "parson," or his wife "my better half" may be said to be given to cant. Argot is applicable chiefly to the cant of the underworld; it is now sometimes used of any form of peculiar language adopted by a clique, a set, or other closely knit group. Slang does not as often denote a form of language or a type of speech as it does a class of recently coined words or phrases or the type of word which belongs to that class (in the slang of college students a drudge is a "grind") (the characteristic differences between American slang and British slang) Slang implies comparatively recent invention, the appeal of the words or phrases to popular fancy because of their aptness, picturesqueness, grotesqueness, or humorousness, and usually an ephemeral character. 2 *language, tongue, speech, idiom
dialectic *argumentation, dissertation, debate, forensic
diaphanous limpid, pellicul, transparent, translucent, *clear, lucid
distract n *tirade, jeremiad, philippic

dictate vb Dictate, prescribe, ordain, decree, impose mean to lay down expressly something to be followed, observed, obeyed, or accepted. Dictate implies an authoritative direction by or as if by the spoken word which serves in governing or guiding one's course of action (they dictated the conditions of peace—Gibbon) (a man and woman who love each other and their children ought to be able to act spontaneously as the heart dictates—Russell) (all the other papers had traditions; their past principles dictated their future policy—Rose Macaulay) Prescribe (see also PRESCRIBE) implies a formulated rule, law, or order; it suggests an authoritative pronunciation which is clear, definite, and cannot be gainsaid (my teachers should have prescribed to me, 1st, sincerity; 2d, sincerity; 3d, sincerity—Thoreau) establishments maintained by general taxation and filled with children whose presence is prescribed by law—Grandgent) Ordain implies institution, establish ment, or enactment by a supreme or unquestioned authority or power; usually it suggests an inalterable settlement of a problem or question (we still accept, in theory at all events, the Mosaic conception of morality as a code of rigid and inflexible rules, arbitrarily ordained, and to be blindly obeyed—Ellis) (a blessed custom of my infancy ordained that every living room should be dominated by a good-sized center table—Rephrler) (nature inexcorably ordsins that the human race shall perish of famine if it stops working—Shaw) Decree implies a decision made and formally pronounced by absolute authority or by a power whose edicts are received with the same attention. It is used particularly of ecclesiastical, civil, or judicial power, whether absolute or limited in its scope, or more broadly of anything whose authoritative pronouncements are blindly obeyed (the king decreed that all foreigners should be excluded from the state) (fashion decrees that skirts be shorter and jackets somewhat longer than last year) (if statues were decreed in Britain, as in ancient Greece and Rome, to public benefactors—Dickens)
old man was used to the order of his monastery, and though he slept on the ground, as the Rule decrees, preferred a decency in these things—Kipling. Impose implies a subjecting to what must be borne, endured, or submitted to. It may suggest infliction by a paramount authority (each time I attempted to speak he imposed silence—Hudson). 

The ever more stringent regulations we found it necessary to impose—Heiser More often it suggests limitations intended to make for order, beauty, or efficiency (patience and industry . . . could only be secured . . . by the enforcement of good habits imposed by external authority—Russell). When the language, the stresses, the very structure of the sentences are imposed upon the writer by the special mood of the piece—Cather

*Ana* direct, control, manage (see conduct): *guide,* lead: *govern,* rule: tell, utter, *say*

**dictate** n. behest, bidding, injunction, *command,* order, mandate

Ana *law,* rule, precept, canon, ordinance, statute, regulation

**dictatorial,** magisterial, authoritarian, dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular are comparable in the sense of imposing or having the manner or disposition of one who imposes his will or his opinions upon others. Dictatorial implies the powers of a dictator, but it has acquired so strong an implication of the assumption of such power that it often stresses an authoritative or high-handed methods and a domineering, overbearing temper (a captain who has been entrusted with dictatorial power—Macaoaly). *He* is . . . very learned, very dictatorial, very knock-me-down—Mitford.

Magisterial derives its chief implications from its reference to a magistrate or, more often, to a schoolmaster. It seldom implies an assumption of power, high-handedness, or a bad temper but does suggest excessive use or display of the powers or prerogatives associated with the offices of a magistrate or schoolmaster (as in controlling and disciplining or in enforcing the acceptance of one’s opinions) (we are not magisterial in opinions, nor . . . obtrude our notions on any man—Browne). Magisterial is applied also to opinions, especially when ideas which are so deeply impressed on the mind, or opinions, or ideas which are so deeply impressed on the mind, that they cannot easily be eradicated (the “possible,” as something less than the actual and more than the wholly unreal, is another of these magisterial notions of common sense—James).

Authoritarian is used chiefly in reference to states or governments (for this use see totalitarian), to churches, to bodies, persons, or their policies or attitudes. It implies assumption of one’s own (or another’s) power to exact obedience or of the right to determine what others should believe or do; often it suggests an opposition to liberal or libertarian and sometimes to anarchic or anarchistic (authoritarian system of education) (the authoritarian type of mind) (the decline of authoritarian control and the rapid changes in our ways of living have made changes in our education imperative—Christian Century) (in an authoritarian regime, on the other hand, it is usual to impose stringent tests of partisanship—Robson). Dogmatic implies the attitude of an authoritative or authoritarian teacher or preacher and the laying down of principles or dogmas as true and beyond dispute (art is never dogmatic; holds no brief for itself—you may take it or you may leave it—Galsworthy). (now physics is, or should be, undogmatic; mathematics is, and must be, dogmatic. No mathematician is infallible; he may make mistakes; but he must not hedges. Even in this age which dislikes dogma, there is no demand for an undogmatic edition of Euclid—Eddington). Dogmatic may imply overspecificity, an assertive and sometimes an arrogant attitude that discourages if it does not inhibit debate (Mr. Rayce made no pretence to book-learning. . . . But on matters of art he was dogmatic and explicit, prepared to justify his opinions—Wharton).

**Doctrinaire** usually implies a dogmatic disposition; it typically suggests an opposition to practical, for it emphasizes a disposition to be guided by one’s theories or the doctrines of one’s school of thought in teaching, in framing laws, or in policies or decisions, especially those affecting others (the rationalist mind . . . is of a doctrinaire and authoritative complexion: the phrase “must be” is ever on its lips—James). The most profound contribution to political thought in America, namely, the Federalist, was not the work of doctrinaire thinkers but of men of affairs—Frankfurter). Oracular, with its implied reference to an ancient oracle, suggests the possession of hidden knowledge and the manner of one who delivers his opinions or views in cryptic phrases or with pompous dogmatism (his habit of oracular utterance when and possibly whenever he had a conviction—Pound).

*Ana* *masterful,* domineering, imperative, imperious, peremptory: despotic, tyrannical, arbitrary, autocratic, *absolute*.

**diction** *language, vocabulary, phraseology, phrasing, style* Ana speech, tongue, idiom, *language: enunciation, pronunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at articulate)*

dido *prank, caper, antic, monkeyshine*

**differ,** vary, disagree, dissent mean to be unlike or out of harmony. Differ stresses the fact of unlikeness in kind or nature or in opinion but does not indicate except through the context the extent or degree of divergence (the houses in the row differ only in small details) (minds differ, as rivers differ—Macaoaly). They differed sharply about the college to which their son should be sent. Vary (see also change) though often interchangeable with differ may call attention to readily apparent differences and sometimes suggests a range of differences. The term commonly introduces a statement of the points, the ways, or the degree in which the things or the persons under discussion differ (the two editions vary only in small particulars) (the northern and southern races vary chiefly in size) (the strength and direction of sea currents vary considerably at different times of the year—Dowdeswell). Disagree emphasizes lack of agreement and not only may imply differences between things or variance between persons or opinions, but often may suggest incompatibility, unfitness, or disharmony (the two accounts disagree in important details) (the verb should not disagree with the subject noun either in person or number) (who shall decide when Doctors disagree—Pope) (one can disagree with his views, but one can’t refuse them—Henry Miller). Of the words here compared only disagree is used in reference to lack of harmony between a thing and a person that results in mental or physical disorder of the latter (the climate disagreed with him) (fried foods disagree with many people). Dissent denotes a difference in opinion between persons or groups; it may imply refusal to assent to or the withholding of consent from something that is proposed or offered (dissenting to the most outrageous invasion of private right ever set forth as a decision of the court—Boyd) (it has . . . taken on the worst intolerance of ignorance and stupidity . . . . All who dissent from its orthodox doctrines are scoundrels—Mencken) or it may imply the expression of a difference in opinion from a person or persons holding an opposite view (a great number of people in England would dissent from that judgment—C. L. R. James).

*Ana* diverge, deviate, depart (see swerve)

Ant agree

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**difference**

1. unlikeness, *dissimilarity, divergence, diversity, distinction*
2. discrepancy, inconsistency, inconsonance, discordance (see corresponding adjectives at *INCONSONANT*); variation, modification (see under *CHANGE* vb); disparity, diversity (see corresponding adjectives at *DIFFERENT*)

**Ant** resemblance — *Con* similarity, *likeness, similitude, analogy, affinity*

2. *discord, strife, conflict, contention, dissension, variance*

**distinguish, discriminate, demarcate**

**Hard, arduous**

**Difficulty, hardship, rigor**

*Difficulty, hardship, rigor, vicissitude* are synonyms only

*Difficulty, the most widely applicable of these terms, applies to a hardship that is imposed upon one, sometimes by oneself (as through asceticism or ambition) but more often by an austere religion, a tyrannical government or other power, a trying climate, or an extremely exacting enterprise or undertaking (to undergo much pain, many hardships, and other rigors—*Burnett*)

*The rigors of an explorer’s life* (a vast deal of sympathy has been lavished upon the Puritan settlers because of the rigors of their religion—*Repperd*)

*An European custom which nowhere survived the rigors of the frontier—W. P. Webb*

*The rigors of an arctic winter* (Vicissitude (see also *CHANGE n 2*) applies to a difficulty or hardship incident to a way of life especially as it is subjected to extraneous influences, to a career, or to a course of action; it usually suggests reference to something that demands effort and endurance if it is to be overcome (the fierce vicissitudes of earthly combat—*Leckey*)

*It is the work he performed during these years, often in illness, danger, and vicissitudes, that should earn him particular gratitude from his Church—T. S. Eliot* (the dwarfing vicissitudes of poverty—*Hackett*)

*Ana* *obstacle, impediment, snag, obstruction: predicament, dilemma, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle: pinch, strait, emergency, exigency, pass (see *JUNCTURE*)

*dig* vb

*Dig, delve, spade, grub, excavate mean to use a spade to dig a burrow in the field) or a bringing to the surface of something which demands effort and endurance if it is to be overcome (the work he performed during these years, often in illness, danger, and vicissitudes, that should earn him particular gratitude from his Church—T. S. Eliot)*
the reading room of the British Museum—Rose Macaulay> Spade is often interchangeable with dig but even more frequently than the latter is applied to a turning of the earth in manual (as opposed to mechanical) preparation of soil for planting <spade up a garden> <she had spaded a pit in the backyard for barbecues—Joseph Mitchell> <has spent her writing career (28 years, eleven books) spading up the New England past—Time> Grub may denote a digging and turning of soil but more often implies a clearing of soil by digging out something (as roots, stumps, and stones); often it suggests the hard, dirty, exhausting nature of such work and with this feeling may be used of various tasks, labors, or duties <women and children helped to grub the land—Collier> <surviving on roots he grabbed from the soil> <shuffled among the ruins of their cities, and grabbed in the countryside for food and fuel—The Lamp> <fortunes were made in a day of grubbing and lost in a night of faro or red dog—Bilington> In some cases grub reflects the disorder of the land-clearing process and denotes a haphazard and laborious rummaging <I grabbed in the dark alone, groping among shoes and boots> . . . painfully garnering the scattered pictures—Phelan> <grubbers . . . grubbing about among a pile of human refuse—Times Lit. Sup.> <grubbing around cemeteries> Excavate suggests making a hollow in or through something (as the ground, a mass of rock, or a mountainside) by or as if by means of a spade or shovel or a machine which performs the operations of spading and shoveling <excavate the ground for a cellar> <excavate a tomb> <excavate a tunnel> <archaeologists engaged in excavating the site of an ancient city> Ana pierce, penetrate, probe, *enter

digest n *compendium, syllabus, pandect, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu

Ana collection, assemblage, gathering (see under GATHER-ER): *abridgment, conspectus, abstract, brief, synopsis, epitome

digit n *number, numeral, figure, integer

dignify, ennable, honor, glorify mean to invest a person or thing with something that elevates or uplifts his or its character or raises him or it in human estimation. Dignify distinctively implies the addition of something that adds to the worth of a person or thing or, more often, to the estimation in which he or it is held or should be held <from lowest place when virtuous things proceed, the place is dignified by the doer's deed—Shak.> <this true, no turbots dignify my boards, but gudgeons, flounders, what my Thames affords—Pope> <dignify crude verses by calling them poetry> (this "tea-party" diplomacy, if it may be dignified with that name—Salisbury) Ennoble, though closely akin to dignify, does not so much suggest an added grace or dignity as a grace or dignity that comes as a natural result; literally it denotes a raising to the nobility <the activities of the merely rich or the merely ennobled—Huxley> but typically it implies a raising in moral character or in moral esteem or in qualities that rid the person or thing of all suspicion of pettiness, mean-ness, or selfishness and exalt him or it above ordinary status <the Christian religion ennobled the mind—Berkeley> <a confirmed realist who ennobled his prose by his breadth of style and dignity—Mereness> Honor may imply the giving of reverence or of deep respect to that to which it is due <honour thy father and thy mother—Exod 20:12> <honour a man for his steadfastness of principle> It may imply also the giving of something to a person or sometimes a thing that increases the distinction or the esteem in which he or it is held: in neither sense, however, is there any suggestion of an effect that touches the one honored except in externals

<our feast shall be much honored in your marriage—Shak.> <several soldiers were honored by the president when he presented them with medals for bravery> <we that had loved him so, followed him, honored him—Browning> Glorify rarely except in religious use carries its basic implication of exalting a man to heavenly beatitude or of advancing the glory of God through prayer or good works <Jesus was not yet glorified—Jn 7:39> but it retains the suggestions of casting a transfiguring light upon or of honoring in such a way as to increase a person's or thing's glory. In general, it implies investing with a splendor or with a glory that lifts above the ugly, the commonplace, the ordinary, or, often, the true <in old days it was possible to glorify it [war] as a school of chivalry, courage, and self-sacrifice—Inge> <poetical truth becoming here . . . the servant of common honesty . . . so far from being cramped and degraded, is enlarged and glorified—Day Lewis> <knowing that the talent that had made them rich is but a secondary talent . . . they employ men to glorify it—Anderson> Ana elevate, raise, *lift: *exalt, magnify, aggrandize: heighten, enhance, *intensify

Con disparage, depreciate, belittle, minimize, detract, *decry, derogate: demean, *abase, debase

dignity 1 *decoration, decency, propriety, etiquette

Ana *excellence, virtue, merit, perfection; nobleness or morality, ethicalness or ethics (see corresponding adjectives at BEAUTIFUL): grandness or grandeur, magnificence, stateliness, nobleness or nobility, majesty, augustness (see corresponding adjectives at GRAND

digress deviate, diverge, depart, *swerve, veer

Ana *wander, stray

digression, episode, excursus, divagation are comparable when they denote a departure from the main course of development, especially of a narrative, a drama, or an exposition. Digression applies to a deviation, especially if at the expense of unity of effect, from the main subject of a discourse; it may or may not suggest intention or design <in this long digression which I was accidentally led into—Sterne> <a word of digression may be pardoned, however, for the two subjects are allied—Cardozo>

Episode (see also OCCURRENCE) usually applies to an incidental narrative which, though separable from the main subject, arises naturally from it; sometimes an episode is definitely a purposeful digression (as for giving variety to the narration, heightening the illusion of reality, or elucidating a motive); thus, in Paradise Lost Raphael's account of the war in heaven is in this sense an episode because it breaks the chronological order of the poem and reverts to events which occurred prior to those told in the first book <descriptive poetry . . . may be interspersed with dramatic episodes—Alexander> Episode is used not only of a literary work but of other art forms or of life in reference to something that seems apart from the main subject or course of a thing <delight in the virginal beauty of fresh blossoms, in the dewy green of water-meadows . . . is evident in numberless pictures of the earlier schools of Europe; but there these amenities of nature are but an episode—Binyon> <Miss Dix's biographer . . . considers her war work an episode, not equal in quality to her lifework—Baker> Excursus applies to an avowed and usually formal digression elucidating at some length an incidental point <this started an ethnological excursus on swineherds, and drew from Pinecoffin long tables showing the proportion per thousand of the caste in the Derajat>
—Kipling> Divagation is often used in preference to digression when aimless wandering from the main course or inattentiveness to logic is implied (<Froissart’s style of poetry invites the widest . . . liberty of divagation, of dragging in anything that really interested him—Saintsbury>) (<the author of it would need to keep an extremely clear head, reject stuffing and divagation—Swinnerton>)

dilapidate *ruin, wreck
Ana *decay, disintegrate, crumble, decompose: *neglect, ignore, disregard, forget, slight, overlook
Con repair, rebuild, *mend: *renew, restore, renovate, rejuvenate

dilapidated *shabby, dingy, faded, seedy, threadbare
Ana damaged, injured, impaired, marred (see INJURE): ruined, wrecked (see RUIN vb)
dilate 1 *discourse, expatiate, descant
Ana *relate, recount, rehearse, recite, narrate, describe: expound, *explain: *discuss, argue
2 *expand, distend, swell, amplify, inflate
Ana enlarge, *increase, augment: *extend, protract, prolong, lengthen: widen, broaden (see corresponding adjectives at BROAD)
Ant constrict: circumscribe: attenuate —Con *contract, shrink, compress, condense
dilatory *slow, laggard, deliberate, leisurely
Ana procrastinating, delaying, dawdling (see DELAY): *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss
Ant diligent —Con *busy, assiduous, industrious: *quick, prompt, ready
dilemma *predicament, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle
Ana perplexity, bewilderment, mystification (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE): *difficulty, vicissitude
dilettante 1 *amateur, dabbler, tyro
Con artist, *expert, adept
2 *aesthete, connoisseur
Con *artist, artificer, architect: *writer, composer, author: craftsman, workman (see WORKER)
diligent assiduous, sedulous, industrious, *busy
Ana persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): *indefatigable, tireless, untiring, unwearied, unflagging
Ant dilatory —Con *slow, laggard, deliberate, leisurely: desultory, casual, happy-go-lucky (see RANDOM)
dilute vb attenuate, *thin, rarely
Ana temper, *moderate, qualify: *weaken, enfeeble:*liquefy, deliquesce: *adulterate, sophisticate
Ant condense: concentrate (in chemistry, especially in past participial form)
dim adj dusky, *dark, obscure, murky, gloomy
Ant bright: distinct —Con brilliant, radiant, luminous, effulgent (see BRIGHT): manifest, patent, *evident, plain, clear
dim vb *obscure, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate
Ana screen, conceal, *hide: cloak, mask, camouflage, *disguise
Ant illustrate
dimensions extent, *size, area, magnitude, volume
diminish reduce, *decrease, lessen, abate, dwindle
Ana wane, ebb, *abate, subside: *moderate, temper: lighten, alleviate, mitigate (see RELIEVE): attenuate, extenuate (see THIN)
Con enlarge, augment, *increase: *extend: *intensify, enhance, heighten, aggravate

diminutive adj little, *small, wee, tiny, minute, miniture
Con *large, big, great: enormous, immense, *huge, vast, colossal, mammoth

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1

din n 1 Din, uproar, pandemonium, hulla-baloo, babel, hub-bub, clamor, racket mean a disturbing or confusing wave of sound or a scene or situation marked by such a welter of sounds. Din emphasizes the distress suffered by the ears and the completely distracting effect of the noise as a whole; it often suggests prolonged and deadening clangor or insistent ear-splitting metallic sounds (see the din of a machine shop) (<escape the din of heavy traffic> (<the din of a New Year’s Eve party>) (<think you a little din can daunt mine ears? . . . Have I not heard great ord-ine in the field, and heaven’s artillery thunder in the skies?—Shak>) (<the general had forbidden the tolling of funeral bells so that the incessant mournful din might not pound perpetually at our ears—Kenneth Roberts>)

Uproar and pandemonium both imply tumult or wild disorder, typically of a crowd of persons but often among wild animals or in the elements; when the reference is to men, uproar usually suggests the sound of a multi-tude vociferously, sometimes riotously, protesting, arguing, or defying and pandemonium, the din produced when a group or crowd usually under discipline breaks bounds and runs riot or becomes uncontrollably boister-ous (<often throw the parliamentary debates into an uproar—Blanshard>) (<pandemonium followed the announce-ment of the armistice>) (<draw not the sword; 'twould make an uproar. Duke, you would not hear the end of—Keats>) (<the modern parent . . . does not want a ficitious Sabbath calm while he is watching, succeeded by pandemonium as soon as he turns his back—Russell>)

Hulla-baloo is often interchangeable with din or uproar especially in a construction following make, but it seldom carries the suggestions of piercing, ear-splitting noise or of vociferation and turmoil which are respectively so strong in din and uproar. When it refers to a welter of sounds, it suggests great excitement and an interruption of peace or quiet (<the hulla-baloo was made by hunters and hounds in the chase>) (<the children are making a great hulla-baloo at their party>) When it refers to a situation, it suggests a storm of protest, an outburst of passion or wrath, or a torrent of comment or sensational gossip (<the current political hulla-baloo—New Republic>) (<the project was not again brought before the public until the hulla-baloo about it had died down>) (<the music stopped and the familiar hulla-baloo was reestablished in the room—Stafford>)

Babel stresses the confusion of sounds that results from a mingling of languages and vocal qualities and the seeming meaningless or purposeless quality of the sound (<young and old, fat and thin, all laughed and shouted in a babel of tongues—Bambrick>) (<must we fall into the din of heavy traffic> (<must we fall into the din of heavy traffic> (<must we fall into the din of heavy traffic>) (<the modern parent . . . does not want a fictitious Sabbath calm while he is watching, succeeded by pandemonium as soon as he turns his back—Russell>)

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Hubbub denotes the confusing mixture of sounds charac-teristic of activities and business; it implies incessant movement or bustle rather than turmoil (<a sound heard above the hubbub of the city streets>) (<strollers on the common could hear, at certain hours, a hubbub of voices and racing footsteps from within the boundary wall—Shaw>)<Clamor and racket, like din, stress the psychologi-cal effect of noises more than their origin or character. They usually imply annoyance or disturbance rather than distress and distraction and are applicable to any combina-tion of sounds or any scene that strikes one as excessively or inordinately noisy (see CLAMOR)>)
dip vb 1 Dip, immerse, submerge, duck, souse, dunk are comparable when meaning to plunge a person or thing into or as if into liquid. Dip implies a momentary or partial plunging into a liquid or a slight or cursory entrance into a subject (the priest shall dip his finger in the blood—Lev 4:6) (dip a dress in cleansing fluid) (dip into a book) (she had dipped in the wells of bliss—Keats) (to share our marriage—father's club gave a banquet at the hotel—Britannia & Eve) (her [a boat] out—Dana) Scoop, ladle, spoon throw the emphasis on the kind of implement employed in an operation consisting usually of dipping, conveying, and pouring. Scoop suggests a shovellike implement, either a small kitchen utensil for dipping out loose dry material (as flour, sugar, or coffee beans) or for gouging out pieces of a soft substance (as cheese) or a much larger and heavier implement used in digging or excavating operations or in the removal of a heap of things from one place to another (scoop out three cups of sugar) (scoop up the catch of fish into barrels) (scooping gravel from the pit into waiting trucks) Ladle implies the use of a ladle, or long-handled implement with a bowl-shaped end and often a pouring lip; it is especially used of substances which are liable to be spilled (ladle soup into bowls) (ladle out the punch) The term sometimes implies the use of a mechanical device for removing and conveying liquid (as molten metal) from one container to another. Spoon implies the use of a spoon in lifting and depositing something (as food or medicine) (the girl who spoons out vegetables in the cafeteria) (slowly spooning up the hot soup) Dish implies transference to the individual plate or dish of a portion of food (as by ladling or spooning) (dish out the vegetables) (dish up the ice cream)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group. A dipper is a spoon or ladle with a narrow end used for sifting or for scooping fine substances which are liable to be spilled. *Souse implies the use of a spoon in lifting and depositing something (as food or medicine) (the girl who spoons out vegetables in the cafeteria) (slowly spooning up the hot soup) Dish implies transference to the individual plate or dish of a portion of food (as by ladling or spooning) (dish out the vegetables) (dish up the ice cream)
dipsomaniac 245 dirty
civil): artful, wily, guileful, crafty (see sly): tactful, posed (see corresponding nouns at tact)
dipsomaniac alcoholic, inebriate, *drunkard, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
direct vb 1 Direct, address, devote, apply are comparable
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dipsomaniac alcoholic, inebriate, *drunkard, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
direct vb 1 Direct, address, devote, apply are comparable

Dirty, filthy, foul, nasty, squalid mean conspicuously or unpleasantly offensive or noxious. Dirty suggests a condition in which dirt or filth is deposited, as in people and articles that are stained or defiled by dirt or blood. Filthy suggests a condition in which dirt or filth is deposited, as in people and articles that are stained or defiled by dirt or blood. Foul suggests a condition in which a foul or noxious substance is emitted or is in a container, as in a septic tank or a bathroom.

Con: immaculate, spotless, unsoiled, untrammeled, unvarnished.
dirty

fall) ⟨a nasty temper⟩ ⟨be nasty to someone⟩ Squalid adds to the idea of dirtiness or filth that of extreme slovenliness or neglect ⟨squalid poverty⟩ ⟨the East, so squalid and splendid, so pestilent and so poetic—Wharton⟩

All of these terms may imply moral uncleanness or base-ness or obscenity. Dirty, however, stresses meanness or despicability ⟨the creature's at his dirty work again—PoPe⟩ Filthy and foul imply disgusting obscenity, filthy stressing the presence of obscenity and foul, its ugliness ⟨filthy talk⟩ ⟨a foul jest⟩ Nasty implies a peculiarly offensive unpleasantness ⟨a nasty mind⟩ ⟨he hated it as a gentleman hates to hear a nasty story—E. E. Hale⟩ ⟨squadroned all their virile energy on greasy slave girls and nasty Asiatic-Greek prostitutes—Graves⟩ Squalid implies sordidness as well as baseness ⟨the squalid scenes and situations through which Thackeray portrays the malignant motives and unclean soul of Becky Sharp—Eliot⟩ The first four terms are used also of weather, meaning the opposite of clear and thereby implying rainy, snowy, stormy, or foggy weather.

Ant clean
dirty vb *soil, sully, tarnish, foul, befoul, smear, besmirch, grime, begrime
Ana pollute, defile, *contaminate; *spot, satter

disability *inability

disable *cripple, undermine, *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, sap
Ana *injure, damage, harm, hurt, impair, mar, spoil; *maim, mutilate, mangle, batter; *ruin, wreck
Ant rehabilitate (a disabled person)
disabuse *rid, clear, unburden, purge
Ana *free, liberate, release: enlighten, *illuminate
Con mislead, delude, *deceive: *dupe, gull

disadvantage n Disadvantage, detriment, handicap, drawback mean something which interferes with the success or well-being of a person or thing. Disadvantage often implies an act, circumstance, or condition which threatens to affect or does actually affect a person or thing unfavorably or injuriously ⟨the best-known area of disadvantage is the transitional zone, or deteriorated area, adjacent to the main business district of growing American cities—Carr⟩ It may therefore suggest a mere deprival of advantage ⟨working at a disadvantage because the narrow space prevented complete freedom of movement⟩ ⟨I was brought here under the disadvantage of being unknown by sight to any of you—Burke⟩ or, more positively, an appreciable loss or injury ⟨his attempts to reach his enemy's face were greatly to the disadvantage of his own—Shaw⟩ ⟨spread rumors to a candidate's disadvantage⟩ Detriment usually implies a suffering of harm or a sustaining of damage or a cause of harm or damage but carries no direct indication of the extent of actual or probable harm or damage; it is therefore often used in the negative phrase "without detriment" assuring safety with regard either to the past or to the future ⟨the physiological machinery of the body is so adjusted that great variations of atmospheric temperature can be supported without detriment—Heiser⟩ ⟨rotation of farm crops .... may very well be a benefit rather than a drawback—Furnas⟩ ⟨it is not unfashionable to pit one form against another—holding up the naturalistic to the disadvantage of the epic .... the fantastic to the detriment of the naturalistic—Galsworthy⟩ Handicap retains a suggestion of its application to a competitive struggle (see advantage) but greatly extends that application to include various struggles into which an ordinary individual may be pushed by inclination or circumstances; it also refers to a disadvantage under which the person so placed must live or work (his lame-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm are comparable when they denote an event or situation that is regarded as a terrible misfortune. A disaster is an unforeseen mishance or misadventure (as a shipwreck, a serious railroad accident, or the failure of a great enterprise) which happens either through culpable lack of foresight or through adverse external agency and brings with it destruction (as of life and property) or ruin (as of projects, careers, or great hopes) <such a war would be the final and supreme disaster to the world—MacLeish> Calamity is a grievous misfortune, particularly one which involves a great or far-reaching personal or public loss or which produces profound, often widespread distress; thus, the rout at Bull Run was a disaster for the North but the assassination of President Lincoln was a calamity; the wreck of the Don Juan was a disaster and, as involving the loss of Shelley, it was a calamity <we have heard of his decision . . . It is a disaster—for me a calamity—Galworthy> <Hamlet's bloody stage is now our world, and we are beginning to trace our own calamity back to its sources—Battenhouse> Catastrophe is used of a disastrous conclusion; it often emphasizes the idea of finality <the captain's folly hastened the catastrophe> <what had become of them [the inhabitants of a deserted village]? What catastrophe had overwhelmed them?—Cather> Cataclysm is often used of an event or situation that brings with it an overwhelming of the old order or a violent social or political upheaval <in the general upheaval of doctrine . . . during the Reformation cataclysm—Blunt> <a thought so impossibly phrased that it sums up not only the cataclysm of a world, but also the stoic and indomitable temper that endures it—Lowes> Ana mishap, accident, casualty: adversity, misfortune, mischance disastrous *unlucky, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless, hapless Ana malign, sinister, baleful: unpropitious, inauspicious, ominous, portentous, fateful dissavow *disclaim, repudiate, disown, disallow Ana *deny, gainsay, traverse: disapprove, deprecate: reject, refuse (see decline) Anc avow —Con *maintain, assert, justify: express, voice: declare, proclaim disbark shut out, eliminate, rule out, suspend, debar, novel: *exclude, blackball disbelief *unbelief, incredulity Ana atheism, deism (compare nouns at atheist): rejection, repudiation, spurning (see corresponding verbs at decline) Anc belief —Con faith, credence, credit (see belief) disburse *spend, expend Ana *distribute, dispense: apportion, *allot, allocate: pay discard vb Discard, cast, shed, molten, slough, scrap, junk meant to get rid of as of no further use, value, or service. Discard literally denotes the getting rid of a card from one's hand in a card game, usually because they are worthless or can be replaced by better cards; in its more common general sense, it implies a getting rid of something which one can no longer use to advantage or which has become a burden, an annoyance, or an interference <he sorted and re-sorted his cargo, always finding a more necessary article for which a less necessary had to be discarded—Cather> <modern research, which discards obsolete hypotheses without scruple or sentiment—Inge> <in portrait painting, where a painter discards many trivial points of exactness, in order to heighten the truth of a few fundamentals—Montague> Cast (see also throw) may imply a seasonal process of discarding (as the throwing off of skin by a reptile) <creatures that cast their skin are the snake, the viper—Bacon> Especially when followed by off, away, or out, it more frequently implies a discarding, a rejection, a discharging, or a repudiation <his wife was casting him off, half regretfully, but relentlessly—D. H. Lawrence> <an Englishman like an Ethiopian cannot change his skin any more than a leopard can cast off his spots—Cloete> Shed is the ordinary, general term for the seasonal or periodic casting of skin, hair, antlers, or leaves <deciduous trees shed their leaves every autumn> <male deer shed their antlers annually> The term is used also to imply a throwing off or discarding of anything that is a burden to carry, that represents a past stage in one's development, or that is no longer useful or comfortable <found it warm enough to shed his overcoat> <statesmen may try to shed their responsibility by treating the situation as a natural phenomenon—Hobson> <James, who was acquiring new subtleties, complexities, and comprehensions, and shedding crudities—Rose Macaulay> Molt is the specific term for the periodic shedding of feathers, skin, shells, hair, or horns by various animals and the growth of new corresponding parts. It often suggests a process of a change in plumage including the shedding of feathers and their renewal <the eagle when he molts is sickly—Carlyle> <while hens are molting they do not lay eggs> In general use molt even more often than shed implies change, flux, or transition <England is molting. Opinions . . . are . . . in a state of flux—Goldwin Smith> <belief . . . that society can molt its outer covering and become new in shape and spirit—J. D. Hart> Slough implies the shedding of tissue (as the skin by a reptile or, especially in intransitive use, of necrotic or cicatricial tissue from the surface of a sore or wound) <the snake often sloughs its skin in mid-September> <the scab is sloughing off from the sore> The term is also common in the sense of to discard or throw off what has become objectionable, burdensome, or useless <slough a bad habit> <this talented author has sloughed off most of her more irritating sentimentalities—Times Lit. Sup.> <as though her gaunt and worldly air had been only a mockery she began to slough it off—Bromfield> The last two words, scrap and junk, have literal reference to the throwing away of fragments, parts, or pieces that are useless to the owner or can no longer be used by him. Scrap suggests a discarding as rubbish or refuse, but it may carry an implication of some use to another (as a processor or a dealer in parts or accessories) <scrap out-of-date machinery> <scrap a plan as impractical> <all the old ideas of combat have to be scrapped> <the English language that Shakespeare was born to had used up and scrapped a good deal of the English of Chaucer—Montague> Junk differs little from scrap except in stressing a throwing away and in carrying little implication of value to a second-hand dealer or to a processor of waste <junk all their old furniture before moving into their new home> <in its astonishing quest for perfection, can junk an entire system of ideas almost overnight—Davidson> Ana abandon, forsake, desert: reject, repudiate, spurn (see decline vb): dismiss, eject, out Con *adopt, embrace, espouse: utilize, employ, *use: retain, *keep, hold, hold back discern perceive, descry, observe, notice, remark, note, esp, behold, *see, view, survey, contemplate Ana *discover, ascertain: divine, apprehend, anticipate, *foresee: pierce, penetrate, probe (see enter)
discrepancy, discrimination, perception, penetration, insight, acumen are comparable when they denote keen intellectual vision. All imply power to see below the surface and to understand what is not evident to the average mind. Discernment stresses accuracy (as in reading character or motives or in appreciation of art) (she had not had the discernment to discover the caliber of this young favorite—Bellow). Discrimination emphasizes the power to distinguish and select the excellent, the appropriate, or the true (there was a time when schools attempted . . . to cultivate discrimination and to furnish the material on which selection can be founded—Grandgent) (nobody should reproach them for reading indiscriminately. Only by so doing can they learn discrimination—Times Lit. Sup.). Perception implies quick discernment and delicate feeling (of a temperament to feel keenly the presence of subtleties; a man of clumsier perceptions would not have felt as he did—George Eliot) (persecutors were ordinary, reasonably well-intentioned people lacking in keen perception—Sykes). Penetration implies a searching mind and power to enter deeply into something beyond the reach of the senses (it did not require any great penetration to discover that what they wished was that their letters should be as kind as was consistent with proper maidenly pride—De Quincey) (good little novels, full of Gallic irony and penetration—Time). Insight emphasizes depth of discernment or of sympathetic understanding (throughout the years he has used . . . techniques or insights provided by abstract art, to express better his statements about men and the world—Current Biog.). Acumen suggests characteristic penetration and keenness and soundness of judgment (a paradox which your natural acumen, sharpened by habits of logical attention, will enable you to reconcile in a moment—Cowper).

Ana intuition, understanding, *reason: perspicaciousness or perspicacity, sagaciousness or sagacity, shrewdness, astuteness (see corresponding adjectives at shrewd). Con stupidity, slowness, dullness, density, crassness (see corresponding adjectives at stupid): blindness (see corresponding adjective blind).

discharge vb 1 *free, release, liberate, deliver, emancipate, manumit, enfranchise

Ana *eject, expel, oust, dismiss: eliminate, *exclude

2 *dismiss, cashier, drop, sack, fire, bounce

Ana *displace, supplant, supersede, *replace

3 *perform, execute, accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill

Ana *finish, complete, *close, end, terminate

disciple adherent, *follower, henchman, satellite, sectary, partisan

Ana votary, devotee (see addict n): *enthusiast, zealot, fanatic

discipline n *morale, esprit de corps

Ana self-control, self-command (see base words at power): self-confidence, self-possession (see confidence): nerving, steeling (see encourage).

Ant anxiety, lawlessness—Con enervation (see corresponding verb at unnerve): disorder, disorder (see corresponding verbs at disorder).

discipline vb 1 train, educate, *teach, instruct, school

Ana lead, *guide: control, manage, direct, *conduct: drill, exercise, *practice

2 *punish, chastise, castigate, chasten, correct

Ana subdue, overcome, reduce, subjugate (see conquer): *restrain, curb, bridge, check, inhibit

disclaim, disavow, repudiate, disown, disallow mean to refuse to admit, accept, or approve. Disclaim implies refusal to accept a claim, but it may apply specifically to a legal claim one has upon property or to a title (the son disclaimed all right to his father's small estate) or to the claim or imputation of something evil made by another to one's chagrin or dismay (this court disclaims all pretensions to such a power—John Marshall) (i entirely disclaim the hatred and hostility to Turks . . . which you ascribe to me—Gladstone) or, even more frequently, to the implied or expressed praise of oneself by another (Mark was embarrassed by the Rector's talking like this; but if he disclaimed the virtues attributed to him he should . . . give an impression of false modesty—Mackenzie). Disavow often comes close to disclaim in meaning, but it much less often implies reference to a legal claim and fastens the attention upon a vigorous denial either of personal responsibility for something or personal acceptance or approval of something (Melford never disavowed these papers—Macaulay) (the boys disavowed any intention to set the stable on fire) (this Court always had disavowed the right to intrude its judgment upon questions of policy or morals—Justice Holmes). Repudiate originally applied to a casting away of one's wife (see also repudiate under decline); it may also imply a casting off or a denial of responsibility for something that has been previously acknowledged, recognized, or accepted (they repudiated their heresies) (the state has repudiated its debts) (a law which everyone recognizes in fact, though everyone repudiates it in theory—Dickinson) (the liberal mind . . . had repudiated the doctrine of original sin—Straight). Disown usually stresses a repudiation or renunciation and often applies to something that has stood in close relationship to the person disowning; it may specifically imply disinheritance or abjuration (disowned his son) (disowned his allegiance to the country of his birth) (the prince . . . was . . . required to disown . . . the obligations contracted in his name—Froude). Disallow implies the withholding of sanction or approval and sometimes suggests complete rejection or condemnation (disallowed the jockey's claim of a foul) (disallow a bill for the entertainment of the officers) (it was known that the most eminent of those who professed his own principles, publicly disallowed his proceedings—Swift) (your claim upon her hand is already disallowed—G. P. R. James).

Ana *deny, gainsay, traverse, contradict: reject, refuse, spurn (see decline); deprecate (see disapprove): belittle, minimize, disparage (see decry).

Ant claim

disclose *reveal, divulge, tell, discover, betray

Ana confess, admit, own, *acknowledge, avow: *declare, proclaim, announce, publish, broadcast, advertise

Con conceal, *hide: cloak, mask, disseble, *disguise, camouflage

discomfit disconcert, *embarrass, faze, abash, rattle

Ana *annoy, vex, irk, bother: perturb, *discompose, disturb, *discompose:

2 *disturb, perturb, upset, fluster, flurry, *discompose: check, *arrest, interrupt

discommodo inconvenience, trouble

Ana disturb, perturb, upset, fluster, flurry, *discompose: vex, irk, bother (see annoy).

discompose, disquiet, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset, fluster, flurry are comparable when they mean to excite one so as to destroy one's capacity for clear or collected thought or prompt action. Discompose is sometimes only slightly more suggestive of mental confusion than disconcert or discomfit; usually, however, it implies greater emotional stress and an actual loss of self-control or self-confidence (he was still discomposed by the girl's bitter and sudden retort. It had cast a gloom over him—Joyce). Disquiet stresses the loss, not of composure, but of something deeper (as one's sense of security or of well-being or one's peace of mind) (why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?—Ps 42:11) (he was indubitably not happy at bottom, restless and
disquiet. his disquietude sometimes amounting to agony—Arnold) why should we disquiet ourselves in vain in the attempt to direct our destiny—Crothers Disturb, unlike the preceding words, carries no implication of a loss of one’s balance or of an excess of emotion; usually it implies marked interference with one’s mental processes (as by worry, perplexity, disappointment, or interruption) (profundely disturbed) by the prospective dissolution of a bond which dated from the seventies—Bennett} no thing is more disturbing than the upsetting of a preconceived idea—Conrad Perturb implies deep disturbance and unset tlement of mind; it usually connotes a cause for disquiet or alarm (in this perturbed state of mind, with thoughts that could rest on nothing, she walked on—Austen) (perturbed by excursions into verbal coquetry, and later into political arguments—Hillyer) Agitate emphasizes the loss of calmness and self-control and implies obvious signs of nervous or emotional excitement. It does not, however, always suggest distress of mind or a cause of worry (so agitated that she was incoherent—Deland) (growing more and more irritated, more and more agitated—Woolf) (it was a happiness that agitated rather than soothed her—Crothers) Upset, like agitate, implies a nervous reaction, but it usually presupposes a cause that brings disappointment or distress or sorrow (they wouldn’t have believed they could be so upset by a hurt woodpecker—Cather) (what upset me in the . . . trial was not the conviction, but the methods of the defense—Laski) Fluster may carry a suggestion of the excitement and confusion induced by drinking intoxicants (flustered with new wine—Tennyson) but it usually suggests the agitation, bewilderment, and sometimes fright induced by sudden and often unexpected demands, commands, needs, or crises (the aged housekeeper was no less flustered and hurried in obeying the numerous . . . commands of her mistress—Scott) Flurry suggests the excitement, commotion, and confusion induced by great haste or alarm (they reached the station, hot and flurried, just as the train pulled out) (thoughts, with their attendant visions, which . . . flurried her too much to leave her any power of observation—Austen) (he recognized her and sat down immediately, flurried and confused by his display of excitement—O’Flaherty) Ana discomfit, disconcert, racket, faze, *embarrass: vex, irk, bother, *annoy: *worry, harass, plague, pester Con appease, *pacify, conciliate, mollify, placate, propitiate disconcert racket, faze, discomfit, *embarrass, abash Ana bewilder, nonplus, perplex, *puzzle: *discompose, fluster, flurry, disturb, perturb disconsolate woebegone, *downcast, dejected, depressed, dispirited Ana inconsolable, comfortless (see affirmative verbs at comfort): sorrowful, woeful (see corresponding nouns at sorrow): *melancholy, doleful Con alleviate, appease, pacify, soothe, sympathize, suit, accommodate, comfort discontinue desist, cease, *stop, quit Ana suspend, intermit, stay (see Defer): *arrest, check, interrupt Ant continue discord n Discord, strife, conflict, contention, dissension, difference, variance mean a state or condition marked by disagreement and lack of harmony or the acts or circum stances which manifest such a state or condition. Discord implies not only a want of harmony or of concord between persons or between things but also, usually, a positive clashing which manifests itself in personal relations by quarreling, factiousness, or antagonism, in relations between sounds by a resulting dissonance or unpleasant noise, and in relations between other things that are incon gruous or incompatible by creating unpleasant impressions or mental disturbance (they were firm and understanding friends. I know of but one approach to discord in their relations—Reppplier) (in this state of enlightenment there is no more discord between the will, the intellect, and the feelings, and the objects of our reverence—Inge) (the seeker after truth . . . must disclaim responsibility for the way in which his discoveries fit into the general scheme of things. For the moment they may seem to produce discord rather than harmony—Crothers Strife throws the empha sis on a struggle for superiority rather than on the incongruity or incompatibility of the persons or things that disagree. It applies chiefly to relations between persons, and when used in reference to things it is nearly always figurative. Also, the term may imply any of widely differ ent motives for the struggle (as rivalry, emulation, difference in opinion, disagreement, deep antagonism, or violent hostility) (domestic fury and fierce civil strife—Shak.) (yet live in hatred, enmity, and strife among themselves—Milton) (I strove with none, for none was worth my strife—Landor) (a face in which a strange strife of wishes, for and against, was apparent—Hardy) (the crowd swells, laughing and pushing toward the quays in friendly strife—Lowell) Conflict (see also Contest) implies a clashing and a struggle, but it stresses not the aim or end but the process, the uncertainty of the outcome, or the trials, difficulties, or torments it involves. In this sense the term may apply to actual battles or wars, but usually it applies to a mental, moral, or spiritual state of a person or group of persons or to its outward manifestations (with pale conflict of contending hopes and fears—Cowper) (no more for him life’s stormy conflicts—Whitman) (the conflict of passion, temper, or appetite with the external duties—T. S. Eliot) The term is also used in a milder sense to imply an incompatibility between or the impossibility of reconciling two things which come together at the same time or upon the one person (a conflict of engagements) (a conflict of duties) Contention may be used in place of strife in any of the senses of the latter word; more often it applies to strife that manifests itself in quarreling, disputing, or controversy; it may even be applied to a condition of affairs marked by altercations or brawls (cast out the scorners, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease—Prov 22:10) (let the long contention cease! Geese are swans, and swans are geese, let them have it how they will—Arnold) (we were never friends. There was always a certain contention between us—Max Peacock) Dissension may imply discord or strife between persons or parties, but it lays greater stress on a breach between them than do any of the preceding words; thus, to say that there is dissension in a church or political party is to imply that it is broken up into contentious or discordant factions (France, torn by religious dissensions, was never a formidable opponent—Macaulay) (left the seeds of philosophic dissension vigorous in French soil—Belloch) Difference (often in the plural) and variance usually imply a clash between persons or things owing to dissimilarity in opinion, character, or nature that makes for discord or strife. The terms may also sug gest apparent or actual incompatibility or impossibility of reconciliation (nationalists have always used force to settle their differences—Fowler) (I might very possibly have quarreled and skirmished with anyone of less unvarying kindness and good temper. As it is, we have never had a word of thought of difference—Henley) (to remain at variance with his wife seemed to him . . . almost a disaster—Conrad) (I never saw a child with such an instinct for preventing variance, or so full of tact—Yonge) (sectarian variances in the town had delayed the erection of a house
of worship—<i>Amer. Guide Series: V1</i>.

**Ana**

incompatibility, incongruity, inconsonance, inconsistence, uncongeniality, discrepancy (see corresponding adjectives at <i>INCONSONANT</i>): antagonism, hostility, *enmity, rancor, animosity, antipathy

**Con**

*harmony, consonance, accord

**discordant**

*inconsonant, incongruous, uncongenial, unsympathetic, incompatible, inconsistent, discrepant

**Con**

*consonant, congruous, congenial, sympathetic, compatible: harmonizing or harmonious, according or accordant, agreeing (see corresponding verbs at <i>AGREE</i>)

**discount**

*deduction, rebate, abatement

**discourse**

vb 1. *Discourage, dishearten, dispirit, deject

mean to weaken in qualities that maintain interest, zeal, activity, or power to continue or to resist. Discourage implies not only the loss of courage and confidence but the entrance of fear and the marked diminution of all power to summon up one’s forces (the long winter and the lack of fuel discouraged the settlers) (his failure had completely discouraged his wife) Dishearten differs little from discoursed, but it stresses not so much a mood or a state of mind as a loss of heart or will to accomplish a purpose or to achieve an end (the slight response to their appeal disheartened the promoters of the fund) (his answers were at the same time so vague and equivocal, that her mother, though often disheartened, had never yet despaired of succeeding at last—Austen) Dispirit distinctively implies the loss of cheerfulness or hopefulness; it often suggests a prevailing gloom that casts a blight upon a gathering, a project, or whatever depends for its success upon the spirits of those who enter into it. It may also, more strongly than discourage, suggest the way an individual or group affects others (in quelling a local Armentian revolt he was badly wounded. Sick and dispirited, he gave up his Arabian plan—Buchan) (dispirited by their futile efforts—Grandgent) (the shabby, dispiriting spectacle of Versailles, with its base greeds and timidities—Montague) Deject, even more strongly than dispirit, implies a casting down, with resulting loss of cheerfulness or hopefulness, but, unlike dispirit, it refers usually to the individual alone (she has been much dejected lately) (nothing dejects a trader like the interruption of his profits—Johnson)

**Ana**

*depress, weigh: try, *afflict: vex, bother, irk (see ENCOURAGE)

Con

*depress, weigh: try, *afflict: vex, bother, irk (see ENCOURAGE)

**discourse**

typically economic—T. S. Eliot)**

**Monograph** implies a learned treatise on a single topic (as a particular biological species, a clearly restricted literary genre, or an author). It typically refers to a work of this character published in a learned journal or as a pamphlet or small book (<i>a monograph on ‘The Ballade in England’</i> (<i>a monograph on the catfishes of the Great Lakes region</i>)

**Ana**

paper, article, *essay: *speech, lecture, talk, sermon

**discourse**

vb **Discourse, expatiate, dilate, dilate, dissect** are com-

parable when meaning to talk or sometimes write more or less formally and at length upon a subject. Discourse frequently implies the manner or attitude of the lecturer, the monologist, or the preacher; it may suggest detailed or logical and sometimes profound, witty, or brilliant discussion (Jonson is a real figure—our imagination plays about him discoursing at the Mermaid, or laying down the law to Drummond of Hawthornden—T. S. Eliot) (<i>we talk in the bosom of our family in a way different from that in which we discourse on state occasions—Lowes</i>)**

**Expatiate** implies ranging without restraint or wandering at will over a subject; it connotes more copiousness than discourse and often carries a hint of long-windedness (<i>we will expatiate freely over the wide and varied field before us—Landon</i>) (<i>the promoter of the raffle ... was expatiating upon the value of the fabric as material for a summer dress—Hardy</i>) (<i>in another lecture I shall expatiate on the idea—James</i>)

**Dilate** implies a discoursing that enlarges the possibilities of a subject (as by dwelling on each small detail) (<i>she proceeded to dilate upon the transformations of Miss Nickleby—Dickens</i>) (<i>those joys on which Steenson dillates in that famous little essay in Virginibus Puerisque—Quiller-Couch</i>) (<i>he reverted to his conversation of the night before, and dilated upon the same subject with an easy mastery of his theme—Wylie</i>)

**Descant** stresses free comment, but it often also connotes delight or pleasure in this free expression of one’s opinions or observations (<i>to praise his stable, and descant upon his claret and cookery—Goldsmith</i>) (<i>he descanted to his heart’s content on his favorite topic of the [prize] ring—Shaw</i>)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
discourteous

Ana *discuss, argue, dispute: converse, talk, *speak: lecture, harangue, orate, sermonize (see corresponding nouns at SPEECH)

discourteous impolite, uncivil, ungracious, *rude, ill-mannered

Ana brusque, curt, crusty, gruff, blunt (see BLUFF): boorish, churlish (see under BOOR)

Ant courteous —Con *civil, polite, courteously, gallant, chivalrous

discover 1 *reveal, disclose, divulge, tell, betray

Ana impart, *communicate: *declare, announce, publish, advertise, proclaim

2 Discover, ascertain, determine, unearth, learn mean to find out something not previously known to one.

Discover may presuppose investigation or exploration, or it may presuppose accident, but it always implies that the thing existed, either actually or potentially, in fact or in principle but had not been hitherto seen or known or brought into view, action, use, or actual existence (discover an island) (discover a new writer) (discover uses for a weed) (discover the laws of heredity) (those rules of old discovered, not devised—Pope) (the historian of our times . . . will surely discover that the word reality is of central importance in his understanding of us—Trilling) (he was fifteen and beginning to become solid. This fall he'd discovered football—La Farge) Ascertain seldom if ever implies accidental discovery; it usually presupposes an awareness of one’s ignorance or uncertainty and conscious efforts (as by study, investigation, observation, and experiment) to find the truth or discover the facts (old paintings were compared to ascertain the dresses of the period—Shaw) (it has been ascertained by test borings that salt extends for 2200 feet below the surface—Amer. Guide Series: La.) Determine (see also DECIDE) differs from ascertain only in its greater emphasis upon the intent to establish the facts or the truth or to decide a dispute or controversy. Its use is largely legal and scientific (experts were called to determine the presence or absence of poison in the vital organs) (if the site of his birthplace can be determined, the memorial will be erected there) (determine the degree of reaction when ragweed pollen is injected beneath the skin) (the executor must assemble all available records to determine the decedent’s assets and liabilities—Gehman) Unearth is freely used in the sense of to bring to light or out into the open something that has been hidden, forgotten, or lost or that is exceedingly difficult to trace. Frequently it also suggests intensive or prolonged investigation preceding discovery (unearth old records) (unearth the evidence necessary for a conviction) (accurate scholarship can unearth the whole offense from Luther until now that has driven a culture mad—Audén) (an early-nineteenth-century globe that Dinah had unearthed in one of the basement rooms—Basso) Learn implies acquisition of knowledge; it commonly suggests little or no effort on the part of the one who discovers (it was only today that I learned his name) (Judy learned that the ayah must be left behind—Kipling) (they have not yet even learnt that “science” is not the accumulation of knowledge . . . but the active organization of knowledge—Ellis)

Ana discern, observe, perceive, espie (see SEE) 3 *invent, create
discreet prudent, thoughtfulness, foresighted, provident (see under PRUDENCE)

Ana *cautious, circumspect, wary: politic, diplomatic (see SUAVE)

Ant indiscreet —Con rash, reckless, foolhardy (see

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
dissaprove, disfavor (see DECLINE vb)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
### disfigure

**disfigure** *deface*

**Ana** mangle, batter, *main*, mutilate: *deform, distort, contort, warp: injure, damage, mar, impair

**Ant** adorn — *Con* embellish, beautify (see ADORN)

**disgorge** *belch, burp, vomit, regurgitate, spew, throw up*

**disguise** *n* Disgrace, dishonor, disrepute, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloqui, odium mean the state, condition, character, or less often the cause of suffering disesteem and of enduring reproach or severe censure. Disgrace may imply no more than a loss of the favor or esteem one has enjoyed; Queen Elizabeth's favorites were constantly in danger of disgrace if they offended her in the slightest degree. *Con* he was shut up in an attic . . . and forbidden to speak to his sisters, who were told that he was in disgrace—Russell

The term, however, often implies complete humiliation and, sometimes, ostracism; *Shaw* Dishonor may imply no more than a loss of the favor or esteem one has enjoyed; the loss of one's good name or the loss of the honor that one has enjoyed or the loss of one's self-respect or self-esteem (prefer death to dishonor). *Byron* But now mischance hath trod my title down, and with dishonor laid me on the ground—Shak.

**disrepute** *often attaches itself to the term of widespread or universal hatred or intense dislike of whatever odium or loss her maneuvers incurred she flung upon her counselors—J. R. Green* (as a preliminary Augustus . . . revised the senatorial roll. This was always an invidious task . . . in the end he was compelled to make the nominations himself and face the odium—Buchan) *many materialists . . . seek to eliminate the odium attaching to the word materialism, and even to eliminate the word itself—James*

**Anna** degradation, debasement, abasement, humbling, humiliation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): * stigma, brand, blot, stain*

**Ant** respect, esteem — *Con* admiration, *regard: reverence, awe, fear: honor, repute, glory, renown, *fame*

**disguise** *vb Disguise, cloak, mask, disguise, camouflage are comparable when meaning to assume a dress, an appearance, or an expression that conceals one's identity, intention, or true feeling. Disguise, which basically implies an alteration in one's dress and appearance, frequently retains this implication with the added suggestion either of concealment of identity or of the assumption (as on the stage) of another identity (escape captivity disguised as a woman) (they disguise themselves as Turks for a joke)*

The term, however, may apply to a feeling, an intention, or a motive when one's words, expression, or acts imply a contrary reaction (I disguised my impatience and suspicion of him and waited—Hudson) *however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes* (our author, disguised as Jonathan Oldstyle, contributed a series of letters . . . protesting with admirable chivalry against jesting at maiden ladies—Commins)

**cloak** implies the assumption of something which covers and conceals identity or nature (the appearance of goodwill cloaked a sinister intention) (intolerance and public irresponsibility cannot be cloaked in the shining armor of rectitude and righteousness—A. E. Stevenson) **Mask** implies a disguise, comparable to a covering for the face or head, which prevents recognition of a thing's true character, quality, or presence (icy spots masked by newly fallen snow) (masking with a smile the vain regrets that in their hearts arose—Morris) *his pessimism . . . became an obvious pose, an attempt to mask his porky complacency—Hicks*

**dissemble** stresses simulation for the purpose of deceiving as well as disguising; it, therefore, is the preferred term when actual deception is achieved (Ross bears, or dissembles, his disappointment better than I expected of him—Gray) (the Scripture moveth us . . . to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God—Book of Common Prayer) **Camouflage** in its basic military use implies a disguising (as with paint, garnished nets, or foliage) that reduces the visibility or conceals the nature or location of a potential target (as a ship, a factory, or an airfield), and in its common extended use tends to imply a comparable disguising quality or element, often specifically one that tends to minimize some undesirable aspect (as of a person or his acts or attributes) (Soule is five feet five inches tall and . . . inclines to stoutness, but his erect bearing and quick movements tend to camouflage this—Wechsberg) *the absolute character of these dictators was camouflaged somewhat by an elaborate parliamentary system—C. E. Black & E. C. Helmreich*

**Ana** conceal, *hide: misrepresent, belive, falsify, garble: assume, pretend, feign, counterfeit, sham, simulate, affect

**Con** expose, exhibit, display, parade, flaunt (see show

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**Analogous Words**

**Disfigure**

*deface*

**Antonyms**

*mangle, batter, *main*, mutilate: *deform, distort, contort, warp: injure, damage, mar, impair*

**Contrasted Words**

*See also explanatory notes facing page 1*
disgust vb: *reveal, disclose, discover, betray
disgust vb Disgust, sicken, nauseate are comparable when meaning to arouse an extreme distaste in. Disgust implies a stomach that is revolted by food offered or taken; in its extended use it implies sensibilities which are revolted by something seen, heard, or otherwise known that creates strong repugnance or aversion (a disgusting medicine) (a disgusting smell) (disgusted by the vulgarity of men who ate noisily and greedily) (the very thought of such an occupation disgusted his fastidious nature) (the majority of women that he meets offend him, repel him, disgust him—Mencken) Sicken usually implies not only the existing of distaste but of actual physical distress (as faintness or a turning of the stomach); often, however, it is used merely as a more emphatic word for disgust, or it may suggest a disgust born of weariness or exhaustion (the smell of certain flowers is sicken'g in its sweetness) (mine eyes did sicken at the sight, and could not endure a further view—Shak.) (she was sicken'g by the girl's affectations) (for a few evenings it had interested the sisters ... but they had soon sicken'd of it and loathed it—Benett) (his uncanny morality, which sicken's later ages—Lewis & Maude) Nauseate carries a stronger implication than disgust or sicken of loathsome'sness (as to the taste, sight, or mind), and often suggests retching or vomiting (he always finds castor oil nauseating) (just now, even the thought of food nauseates the patient) (they were all nauseated by the foul odor) (nauseating behavior) (we also cannot bring ourselves to deny him that famous, if dangerous, charm of his, nauseased as we may be by the excesses into which it so often misled him—J. M. Brown)

Ana revolt, repulse, offend (see corresponding adjectives at OFFENSIVE)

Ant charm —Con tempt, en'tice (see LURE): gratify, delight, rejoice, *please
dish vb ladle, spoon, *dip, bail, scoop
dishhearten *discourage, dispirit, deject

Ana *depress, weigh: despair, despond (see corresponding adjectives at DESPONDENT)

Ant hearten —Con *encourage, inspire, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel
dishveled unkempt, sloppy, *slipshod, slovenly

Ana *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss: *slatternly, blowsy, frowzy, dowdy
dishonest, deceitful, mendacious, lying, untruthful are comparable especially when applying to persons, their utterances, and their acts and meaning deficient in honesty and unworthy of trust or belief. Dishonesty may apply to any breach of honesty or trust (as by lying, deceiving, stealing, cheating, or defrauding) (a dishonest statement) (a dishonest employee) (while it would be dishonest to gloss over this weakness, one must understand it in terms of the circumstances that conspired to produce it—Mumford) (years ago a few dishonest men traveled about the country, saying that they could make rain—Craig & Urban) Deceitful usually implies the intent to mislead or to impose upon another in order to obscure one's real nature or actual purpose or intention, or the true character of something offered, given, or sold; it therefore usually suggests a false or specious appearance, indulgence in falsehoods, cheating, defrauding, or double-dealing (deceitful propaganda) (deceitful testimony) (she was a deceitful, scheming little thing—Zangwill) Mendacious is typically more formal than, often less derogatory than, but otherwise closely equivalent to lying, the ordinary, direct, unequivocal word (sly newspapers and magazines for the circulation of lying advertisements—Shaw) (a lying account of the accident) (go aboard the ships that caught his interest where the masters ... set out wine and told him mendacious tales of their trade—Wheelwright) (while the communication was deceptive and so intended, it was not technically mendacious—S. H. Adams) As applied to persons mendacious more often suggests the habitude of deceit while lying suggests guilt in respect to a particular instance: thus, one might describe a person as mendacious with primary reference to his character or habit but would ordinarily prefer lying when a particular instance is in view (a mendacious child is doubted even when telling the truth) (only a lying scoundrel would tell such a tale) Untruthful is often used in place of mendacious or lying as a slightly less brutal word: however, the term distinctively implies lack of correspondence between what is said or represented and the facts of the case or the reality, and is often applied to statements, accounts, reports, or descriptions with little stress on dishonesty or intent to deceive (an untruthful account of an incident) (the artist's representation of the scene at Versailles was untruthful in many of its details)

Ana *crooked, devious, oblique: false, faithless, perfidious: cheating, cozening, defrauding, swindling (see CHEAT vb)

Ant honest —Con *upright, honorable, scrupulous, conscientious, just: *straightforward, forthright, above-board: candid, open, *frank, plain
dishonor n *disgrace, disrepute, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloquy, odium

Ana humiliation, humbling, debasement, degradation, abasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): * stigma, brand, blot, stain

Ant honor —Con glory, renown, repute, *fame: reverence, veneration (see under REVERE): prestige, *influence, credit, authority, weight: esteem, respect, *regard, admiration

dissillusioned *sophisticated, worldly-wise, worldly, blasé

Ana unendeavored (see corresponding affirmative verb at DECEIVE): disenchanted (see corresponding affirmative verb at ATTRACT)
disinclined adj Disinclined, indisposed, hesitant, reluctant, loath, aversive mean neither the will nor the desire to do or to have anything to do with something indicated or understood. Disinclined implies a lack of taste or inclination for something for which one has no natural bent or which meets one's disapproval (I should not be disinclined to go to London, did I know anybody there—Richardson) Disinclined to come to real grips with the vexed question of public control in industry—Cohen (he was preoccupied and disinclined for sociability) Indisposed implies an unfavorable or often a hostile or unsympathetic attitude (unfit to rule and indisposed to please—Crabbe) (indisposed to take part in the feasting and dancing—Hardy) Hesitant suggests a holding back through fear, distaste, uncertainty, or irresolution (she was hesitant to accept the invitation) (hesitant in seeking advice) (a hesitant suitor) (hesitant about spending the money required to build an experimental plant—Griffin) Reluctant adds to hesitant a definite resistance or sense of unwillingness (I was simply persuading a frightened and reluctant girl to do the straight and decent and difficult thing—Rose Macaulay) (people were reluctant to charge a dead man with an offense from which he could not clear himself—Wharton) (reluctant to expose those silent and beautiful places to vulgar curiosity—Cather) Reluctant is also applied directly to the thing which is done reluctantly or to a thing which seems reluctant (the constant strain of bringing back a reluctant and bored attention—Russell) (they wring from reluctant soil food enough to keep ... alive—Reppie) Loath stresses the lack of
disinfect

harmony between something one anticipates doing and his likes or dislikes, tastes or distastes, or sympathies or antipathies; thus, a tender person may be loath to punish a refractory child but a strict disciplinarian would be loath to allow that child to go unpunished; one may be loath to believe a well-founded report that discards a friend and equally loath to disbelieve a rumor that confirms his bad opinion of a person <loath to publish translations of anything except our surefire sex-and-mayhem fiction—Whyte> Averse suggests a turning away from something distasteful or repugnant <averse to all advice> <his impulses were generous, trustful, aversely from cruelty—J. R. Greeny>

Ana *antipathetic, unsympathetic: opposing, resisting (see RESIST): balking, shying, boggling, stickling, stickling (see DEMUR): objecting, protesting (see OBJECT vb)

Con *eager, keen, anxious: inclined, disposed, predisposed (see INCLINE vb)

disinfect *sterilize, sanitize, fumigate

Ant infect
disinfectant n *antiseptic, germicide, bactericide
disinfectant adj antiseptic, germicidal, bactericidal (see antiseptic n)
disintegrate crumble, decompose, *decay, rot, putrefy, spoil

Ana deliquesce (see LIQUEFY): *scatter, disperse, dissipate; break down, resolve, *analyze, dissect

Ant: integrate, combine, link, associate, *join, connect

disinterested uninterested, detached, aloof, unconcerned, indifferent, incurious

Ana dispositionless, unbiased, impartial, *fair, just; *neutral, negative

Ant interested: prejudiced, biased

dislike n Dislike, dislike, aversion, disfavor mean the state of mind of one who is not drawn to or turns from or avoids a person or thing; often these terms imply the manifestation of the state of mind. Dislike normally suggests the finding of something unpleasant or repugnant or of a kind one is unwilling to meet or to face; an aristocratic disdain and dislike of the bourgeoisie—Inge <differentiating between mere aversion and dislike and morbid unreasonable fear or dread—Armstrong> In itself dislike is rather neutral but it is readily intensified by context to the point of suggesting complete detestation 〈I was on fire with the dislike and contempt that burned in Hobart towards me—Rose Macaulay〉 Distaste, which implies a lack of taste for, usually stresses a squeamishness or a repugnance but allows a good deal of range in intensity to this squeamishness or repugnance; it may imply such other feelings as fear occasioned by the difficulties involved (a pronounced distaste for mathematics) or rebellion at constraint or confinement (for sheer pity of the repressed . . . distaste on Nettie’s face, you . . . drove her down to the movies—Mary Austin) or simply an unexplained reluctance (great as was his need of shelter, the Bishop . . . was struck by a reluctance, an extreme aversion for the place—Cather> Aversion suggests a disinclination for someone or something which manifests itself especially in attempts to avoid, evade, or escape. An aversion may be tempestuous or it may be the result of training; it may or may not suggest an accompanying feeling, but it consistently implies a definite reaction on the part of one manifesting it (he tried to take hold of her feet with his hands, but she shrank from him with aversion—Hudson) <unless we can give them an aversion from science, they will not abstain from it—Russell> (the natural human aversion to cold, noise, vibration, . . . and the unfriendly and lonesome environment at high altitude—Armstrong> Disfavor, the weakest of these words, usually suggests no more than a lack of liking or approval but it may imply contempt, lack of confidence, or disdain as motives (the proposal met with general disfavor) (the young prince had fallen into open disfavor at court) <Punch . . . eyed the house with disfavor—Kipling>

Ana hate, hatred, detestation (see under HATE vb): disapproval, depreciation (see corresponding verbs at DISAPPROVE)

Ant liking —Con affection, *attachment, love: *preference, partiality
disloyal *faithless, false, pernicious, traitorous, treacherous

Ana disaffected, estranged, alienated (see estrange): *inconstant, fickle, unstable

Ant loyal —Con *faithful, constant, true, staunch, steadfast, resolute
dismal, dreary, cheerless, dispiriting, bleak, desolate are comparable when they mean devoid of all that makes for cheer or comfort. Dismal and dreary are often interchangeable. Dismal may indicate extreme gloominess or somberness utterly depressing and dejecting (dismal acres of weed-filled cellars and gaping foundations—Felix Morley) <rain dripped . . . with a dismal insistence—Costain> (the most dismal prophets of calamity—Krutich> Dreary may differ in indicating what discourages or enervates through sustained gloom, dullness, terrorsomeness, or futility, and wants any cheering or enlivening characteristic (the most dreary solitary desert waste I had ever beheld—Bartram> (It was a hard dreary winter, and the old minister's heart was often heavy—Delany) <had the strength been there, the equipment was lacking. Harding's dreary appreciation of this was part of his tragedy—S. H. Adams> Cheerless stresses absence of anything cheering and is less explicit than but as forceful as the others in suggesting a pervasive disheartening joylessness or hopelessness (he would like to have done with life and its vanity altogether . . . so cheerless and dreary the prospect seemed to him—Thackeray> Dispiriting refers to anything that disheartens or takes away morale or resolution of spirit (it was such dispiriting effort. To throw one's whole strength and weight on the oars, and to feel the boat checked in its forward lunge—London> Bleak is likely to suggest chill, dull, barren characteristics that dishearten and militate against any notions of cheer, shelter, warmth, comfort, brightness, or ease (the bleak upland, still famous as a sheepwalk, though a scant herbage scarce veils the whinstone rock—J. R. Greeny> (the sawmill workers of the bleak mountain shack towns—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.) <the bleak years of the depression—J. D. Hicks> Desolate applies to what disheartens by being utterly barren, lifeless, uninhabitable or abandoned, and remote from anything cheering, comforting, or pleasant (a semibarren, rather desolate region, whose long dry seasons stunted its vegetation—Marvel) <some desolate polar region of the mind, where woman, even as an ideal, could not hope to survive—Glasgow> Ana murky, gloomy, *dark: forlorn, hopeless (see DEPONENT); barren, bare

Con gay, *lively, animated: cheerful, joyous (see GLAD)
dismantle divest, *strip, denude, bare

Con *furnish, equip, outfit, appoint
dismay vb Dismay, appall, horrify, daunt mean to unnerv and check or deter by causing fear, apprehension, or aversion. Dismay suggests a loss of power to proceed either because a prospect is terrifying or disheartening, or, more often, because one is balked and perplexed or at a loss concerning how to deal with a situation (be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for
the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go ye down against them—2 Chron 20:15-16} {here was an opponent that more than once puzzled Roosevelt, and in the end flatly dismayed him—Mencken} {who in one lifetime sees all causes lost, herself dismayed and helpless—Rukeseyr} Appall, in its most forceful use, implies an overwhelming and paralyzing dread or terror {the sight appalled the stoutest hearts} {"Are you a man?" "Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that which might appall the devil"—Shak.} The word more often implies the sense of impotence aroused when one is confronted by something that perturbs, confounds, or shocks, yet is beyond one's power to alter {an appalling waste of human life} {appalled by the magnitude of the tragedy—Bowers} Horrify may emphasize a reaction of horror or of shuddering revulsion from what is ghastly or hideously offensive {to developed sensibilities the facts of war are revolting and horrifying—Huxley} {this theme—a man ready to prostitute his sister as payment for a debt of honor—is too grotesque even to horrify us—T. S. Eliot} Often horrify comes close to shock in meaning and implies momentary agitation occasioned by a surprising breach of the proprieties or decencies {they were horrified by his playing golf on Sunday} {she horrified London society by pouring hot tea on a gentleman who displeased her—Amer. Guide Series: Va.} Daunt presupposes an attempt to do something that requires courage and implies therefore a checking or scaring off by someone or something that crows or subdues {he had been completely daunted by what he had found} {the Revolution} {had been something against which self-assertion had been of no avail—Mary Austin} Daunt perhaps most often occurs in negative constructions {nothing can daunt the man whose last concern is for his own safety} {no adventure daunted her and risks stimulated her—Ellis} Ana perplex, confound, bewildcr, nonplus, dumbfound, mystify, *puzzle: disconcert, rattle, faze, abash, discomfit, *embarrass: alarm, *frighten, terrify Ant cheer—Con assure, secure, *ensure: pique, quicken, stimulate, galvanize, excite, *provoke dismay n alarm, consternation, panic, *fear, dread, fright, terror, horror, trepidation Ana perturbing or perturbation, agitation, disquieting or disquietude, discomposing or discompose, upsetting or upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): *apprehension, foreboding Con *confidence, assurance, aplomb, self-possession: *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution dismiss 1 †Dismiss, discharge, cashier, drop, sack, fire, bounce are comparable when they mean to let go from one's employ or service. †Dismiss basically denotes a giving permission to go {he dismissed the assembly—Acts 19:41} †dismissed the night-watchers from the room, and remained with her alone—Meredith} When used in respect to employment it carries apart from the context no suggestion of the reason for the act and is, therefore, often preferred as the softer or as the more comprehensive term {with the upset in business, thousands of employees were dismissed} {the new governor dismissed the staff that served his predecessor and appointed members of his own party in their places} Discharge is usually a harsher term, implying dismissal for cause and little or no likelihood of being called back {discharge an employee for insubordination} {she has the habit of discharging her servants without notice} {a rich man can discharge anyone in his employment who displeases him—Shaw} Only in military and court use does it, when unqualified, carry no implication of dissatisfaction on the part of the employer {the enlisted man will be discharged after three years' service} {the three convicted soldiers were honorably discharged} {the judge discharged the jury with thanks} Cashier implies a summary or ignominious discharge from a position of trust or from a position that is high in the scale {cashier a suspected official} {many a duteous and knee-crooking knave ... wears out his time, much like his master's ass, for nought but provender, and when he's old, cashiered—Shak.} {the few sentimental fanatics who ... proceeded upon the assumption that academic freedom was yet inviolable, and so got themselves cashiered—Mencken} Drop, sack, fire, and bounce are all rather informal. Drop is a common and colorless synonym of dismiss {many employees were dropped when business slackened} Sack stresses a being discarded or thrown out of employ {he was sacked after long years of service} Blum had sacked him because he wore blue undershirts—Bennett} while fire stresses a dismissal as sudden and peremptory as the action of firing a gun {he fired his clerk one day in a fit of anger, but the next day he called him back} and bounce, a kicking out {he bounced the boy after one day of unsatisfactory service} 2 *eject, oust, expel, evict Ana *discard, cast, shed, slough: spurn, repudiate, reject, refuse (see decline vb): scorn, scout (see DESPISE) Con accept, *receive: admit: entertain, *harbor dismount alight, *descend Ant mount disorder vb Disorder, derange, disarrange, disorganize, unsettle, disturb are comparable when they mean to undo the fixed or proper order of something. Disorder is commonly used in reference to something that depends for its proper functioning or effectiveness upon being properly ordered (see ORDER vb 1) or in good order or array {tresses all disordered—Milton} {too rich a diet will disorder his digestive system} Derange implies a throwing out of proper arrangement of the parts, or of an important part, of something in which all the parts or elements are ordered with reference to each other or are so carefully adjusted or so closely related to each other that they work together as a unit. The term usually carries a strong implication of resulting confusion or a destruction of normal or healthy conditions {war deranges the life of a nation} {fear has deranged his mind} {within the power of man irreparably to derange the combinations of inorganic matter and organic life—Lord} Disarrange often implies little more than the changing of a fixed, neat, or perfect order of arrangement and may carry no suggestion of confusion {she ... would not let his chamber be disarranged just at present—Martineau} {someone had disarranged the papers on his desk} {the wind disarranged her hair} Disorganize implies usually the destruction of order and functioning in a body or whole all the parts of which have an organic connection with each other or have been so ordered with reference to each other that what affects one part affects every other part; the term therefore usually suggests a disordering that impedes the functioning or impairs the effectiveness of the affected system {subversive methods intended to disorganize the internal communications of the enemy's country} {the Whigs though defeated, disheartened, and disorganized, did not yield without an effort—Macaulay} {an expenditure which would disorganize his whole scheme of finance—Buchan} Unsettle implies a disordering or disarrangement that causes instability, unrest, inability to concentrate, or turbulence {the cold war has
disparaging

disparate

*decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle, disturb, unsettle, disorder, derange, disorganize

disclaim, disavow, repudiate, disallow

disown

dispel
dissipate, disperse, scatter

n 1 speed, expedition, *haste, hurry

dispatch

disparage

disorganize
disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange

Ant order — Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systematize (see order vb); array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorder n 1 *confusion, disarray, clutter, jumble, chaos, snarl, muddle

Ana derangement, disarrangement, disorganization, disturbance, unsettlement (see corresponding verbs at disorder); *anarchy, chaos, lawlessness

Ant order — Con arrangement, organization, methodization, systematization (see corresponding verbs at order); system, *method

2 *disease, condition, ailment, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome

disorganize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange

Ant organize — Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown *disclaim, disavow, repudiate, disallow

Ana reject, spurn, refuse (see decline)

Ant own — Con *acknowledge, avow

disparage *decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle, minimize

Ana asperse, *malign, traduce, defame, slander, libel: depreciate, *disapprove

Ant applaud — Con *praise, laud, extol, eulogize, acclaim: *commend, compliment: *exalt, magnify, aggrandize

disparaging *derogatory, depreciatory, deprecative, slighting, pejorative

Ana belittling, decrying, minimizing (see decry); underestimating, undervaluing, understating (see base words at estimate)

Con extolling, acclaiming, praising (see praise); magnifying, exalting (see exalt)

disparate diverse, divergent, *different, various

Ana *inconsonant, incompatible, incongruous, discrepant, discordant, inconsistent: *distinct, separate

Ant comparable, analogous — Con similar, *like, parallel

dispersant unbiased, impartial, objective, uncolored, *fair, just, equitable

Ana disinterested, detached, aloof, *indifferent: *cool, collected, composed: candid, open, *frank

Ant passionate: intemperate

dispatch vb 1 *send, forward, transmit, remit, route, ship

Ana hasten, quicken, *speed

2 *kill, slay, murder, assassinate, execute

dispatch n 1 speed, expedition, *haste, hurry

Ana *celerity, alacrity, legerity: quickness, fleetness, swiftness, rapidity (see corresponding adjectives at fast): diligence (see corresponding adjective at busy)

Ant delay

2 message, note, *letter, epistle, report, memorandum, missive

dispel dissipate, disperse, *scatter

Ana expel, *eject, oust, dismiss: disintegrate, crumble

(see decay)

Con *accumulate, amass: *gather, collect, assemble

dispense 1 *distribute, divide, deal, dole

Ana *allot, assign, apportion, allocate: portion, parcel, ration, prorate, *apportion

2 *administer

dispense *scatter, dissipate, dispel

Ana *separate, part, divide: *dismiss, discharge

Ant assemblage, congregate (persons): collect (things)

— Con *summon, convene, converse, muster, cite, call

dispirit *discourage, dishearten, deject

Ana *depress, weigh

Ant inspirit — Con *encourage, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel

dispirited depressed, dejected, *downcast, disconsolate, woebegone

Ana sad, melancholy (see corresponding nouns at sadness): gloomy, glum, morose (see sullen): discouraged, dishheartened (see discouragement)

Ant high-spirited — Con encouraged, inspired, heartened (see encourage)

dispiriting *dismal, dreary, cheerless, bleak, desolate

Ana disheartening, discouraging, dejecting (see discouragement): depressing, oppressing or oppressive (see corresponding verbs at depress)

Ant insipring — Con heartening, cheering, encouraging, emboldening (see encourage)

displace supplant, *replace, supersede


display vb exhibit, *show, expose, parade, flaunt

Ana manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate, *show: *reveal, disclose, discover

Con *disguise, cloak, mask, dissemble, camouflage: *hide, conceal, secrete

display n Display, parade, array, pomp are comparable when denoting a striking or spectacular show or exhibition for the sake of effect. Display commonly suggests a spreading out or an unfolding of something that is usually concealed or visible only in the mass or in individual instances, so that the observer is impressed by the extent, the detail, the beauty, or the lavishness of what is revealed to him (a display of meteors) (a parvenu's display of wealth) (a nation's display of military power) (fine editions that make an impressive display in an oilman's library — Green Peyton) Parade implies ostentation or flaunting exhibition; display may or may not suggest a conscious endeavor to impress, but parade definitely does carry such an implication (Mr. Cruncher could not be restrained from making rather an ostentatious parade of his liberality — Dickens) (he does not make the least parade of his wealth or his gentry — Snaithe) Array stresses order and brilliancy in display of or as if of marshaled ranks of armed soldiers and therefore may be used of displays that make one as beautiful, as terrible, or as merely astonishing (an array of tulips) (an array of silver on a sideboard) (the terrible array of evils around us and dangers in front of us — Shaw) (clouds . . . each lost in each, that marvelous array of temple, palace, citadel — Wordsworth) Pomp stresses ceremonial grandeur or splendor. Once often but now rarely used of a pageant or solemn procession it still suggests an outward spectacular show of magnificence or glory (it [Independence Day] ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with . . . bonfires, and illuminations — Adams) (pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war — Shak.) (Io, all our pomp of yesterday is one with Nineveh and Tyre — Kipling)
disport

An ostentatiousness or ostentation, pretentiousness or pretension, showiness or show (see corresponding adjectives at SHOWY)
disport n sport, play, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb)
disport vb sport, *play, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol

Ana recreation, diversion, amusement, entertainment (see under AMUSE); merriment, jollity (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY)
disposition a proper or orderly distribution or utilization <the disposition of her jewels seemed necessary to pay her debts> <the disposition of the intestate's property has been agreed upon by the heirs> <incinerators used for the disposal of garbage> <I am happy that the speedy disposal of the pictures will enable you . . . to settle this unpleasant affair—Miford> <the donors have stipulated for the future disposition . . . of those funds—John Marshall> When the idea of arrangement or ordering or of making arrangements is stressed, disposition, rather than disposal, is the more accurate term <while the disposition of the branches is unsymmetrical, balance is maintained—Binyon> <a deserter had informed Octavian of the general plan . . . and he made his dispositions accordingly—Buchan> The idiomatic phrases at one's disposal and at (or in) one's disposition differ in that, though both imply a placing under one's control, the former suggests use as one sees fit and the latter, subjection to one's direction, arrangement, or command <they put their summer home at the disposal of the bridal couple> <had at his disposition no considerable sums of money—Trench>

Ana destroying or destruction, demolishing or demolition (see corresponding verbs at DESTROY)
dispose predispose, bias, *incline
Ana influence, *affect, sway
disposition 1 *disposal
Ana administering or administration, dispensing or dispensation (see corresponding verbs at ADMINISTER); management, direction, controlling or control, conducting or conduct (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT); arrangement, ordering (see corresponding verbs at ORDER)

2 Disposition, temperament, temper, complexion, character, personality, individuality are comparable when they mean the prevailing and dominant quality or qualities which distinguish or identify a person or group. Disposition applies to the predominating bent or constitutional habit of one's mind or spirit <ages of fierceness have overlaid what is naturally kind in the dispositions of ordinary men and women—Russell> <the taint of his father's insanity perhaps appeared in his unbalanced disposition—E. S. Bates> Temperament applies to the sum total of characteristics that are innate or inherent and the result of one's physical, emotional, and mental organization <a nervous, bilious temperament> <I verily believe that nor you, nor any man of poetical temperament, can avoid a strong passion of some kind—Byron> <shall I ever be cheerful again, happy again? Yes. And soon. For I know my temperament—Mark Twain> Temper (compare temper under moderate vb) implies a combination of the qualities and especially those acquired through experience which determine the way one (as a person, a people, an age) meets the situations, difficulties, or problems that confront him <there was a general confidence in her instinctive knowledge of the national temper—J. R. Green> <the leaders of forlorn hopes are never found among men with dismal minds. There must be a natural resiliency of temper which makes them enjoy desperate ventures—Crothers> Unlike the foregoing terms temper may suggest an acquired or transient state of mind controlling one's acts and decisions <after four years of fighting, the temper of the victors was such that they were quite incapable of making a just settlement—Huxley> Complexion implies some fundamentally distinctive quality based on mood, attitude, and ways of thinking that determines the impression one produces on others <the rationalist mind . . . is of a doctrinaire and authoritative complexion: the phrase “must be” is ever on its lips—James> <great thinkers of various complexion, who, differing in many fundamental points, all alike assert the relativity of truth—Ellis> Character applies to the aggregate of qualities, especially moral qualities, which distinguish an individual at any one time in his development, which constantly tend to become more or less fixed, and which must be taken as a whole into consideration in any ethical judgment of him <he is a man of character> <in his youth his character was weak and unstable> <that inexorable law of human souls that we prepare ourselves for sudden deeds by the reiterated choice of good or evil that determines character—George Eliot> Often character means such an aggregate of qualities brought to a high state of moral excellence by right principles and right choices and by the rejection of anything that weakens or debases <when we say of such and such a man, whatever he has . . . character, we generally mean that he has disciplined his temperament, his disposition, into strict obedience to the behests of duty—Brownell> Personality also applies to the aggregate of qualities which distinguish an individual, but the term differs from character in that it implies his being distinguished as a person rather than as a moral being. In general personality may be said to be revealed in unconscious as well as in conscious acts or movements, in physical and emotional as well as in mental and moral behavior, and especially in a person's relations to others; thus, one may know very little about the character of an acquaintance, yet have a very definite idea of his personality. Therefore personality is qualified not as good or bad but by an adjective implying the extent to which it pleases, displeases, or otherwise impresses the observer <there was a pious and good man, but an utterly negligible personality—Mackenzie> <the mere presence of personality in a work of art is not sufficient, because the personality revealed may be lacking in charm—Benson> Hence personality often distinctively means personal magnetism or charm <personality is not something that can be sought; it is a radiance that is diffused spontaneously—Ellis> Individuality implies a personality that distinguishes one from all others; often it connotes the power of impressing one's personality on others <a man of marked individuality> <she is a pleasant person but has no individuality> <Sophia quietened her by sheer force of individuality—Bennett> <an individuality, a style of its own—Cather>

disprove, refute, confute, rebut, controvert mean to show or attempt to show by argument that a statement, a claim, a proposition, or a charge is not true. Disprove stresses the success of an argument in showing the falsity, erroneouness, or invalidity of what is attacked <he could not disprove the major contention of his opponents> <I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, but here I am to speak what I do know—Shak> <the final values of life, the ultimate meanings of experience, are just those that no man
can prove, and that no man can *disprove* either—*Hedley*—
*Refute* stresses the method more than the effect of argument in disproof; it therefore is preferred to *disprove* when one wishes to convey implications of the aduding of evidence, of a bringing forward of witnesses, experts, or authorities, and of close reasoning. It connotes an elaboration of arguments not present in *disprove* <with respect to that other, more weighty accusation, of having injured Mr. Wickham, I can only *refute* it by laying before you the whole of his connection with my family.—*Austen* > <there is great force in this argument, and the Court is not satisfied that it has been *refuted*—*John Marshall* > <one can disagree with his views but one can’t *refute* them. . . . Every particle of him asseverates the truth which is in him—*Henry Miller*—
*Confute* emphasizes a destruction of arguments or a reducing to silence of opponents by clearly revealing the falsity or the untenability of the points which have been made; the term usually implies refutation, but it may also suggest such methods as denunciation and sarcasm <Satan stood. . . . *confuted* and convinced of his weak arguing and fallacious drift—*Milton* > <Elijah. . . . *confuted* the prophets of Baal in precisely that way, with . . . bitter mockery of their god when he failed to send down fire from heaven—*Shaw* > <hypothesizes which may be *confuted* by experience—*Ayer*—
*Rebut* differs from *refute*, its closest synonym, in suggesting greater formality of method (as that used in organized debate or in courts of law). Although its aim is disproof of an opponent’s contentions, the term does not necessarily imply the achievement of one’s end, but it does suggest the offering of argument, evidence, or testimony given in support of the other side <at the end of the formal arguments, each member of the debating team was allowed three minutes for *rebutting* the arguments of his opponents—*the Tractarians were driven to formulate a theory of the Church . . . which should justify the exclusive claim of Anglicanism to be the Church of Christ in these islands, while *rebutting* the arguments of Rome—*Inge*—
<the author carefully examined and *rebuted*, point by point, many of the arguments—*Ashley Montagu*—
*Controversy* usually carries a dual implication of denying or contradicting a statement, proposition, or doctrine, or a set of these, and of refusing or attempting to refute it. It does not necessarily suggest disproof but it does connote a valiant effort to achieve that end <this doctrine has been *controverted*; it is, however, very ably defended by Mr. Hargrave—*Crusoe* > <I am glad that this year we are assembled not to *controvert* the opinions of others, nor even to defend ourselves—*Inge*—
*Ana* negative, traverse, impugn, contravene (see *deny*—
*Ant* prove, demonstrate

**disputation** debate, forensic, *argumentation, dialectic*

*Ana* *argument, dispute, controversy

**dispute** *v* argue, debate, *discuss, agitate

*Ana* see those at *debate*

*Ant* concede — *Con* *grant, allow

**dispute** *n* argument, controversy

*Ana* *argumentation, disputation, debate, forensic, dialectic: contention, dissection, strife, *discord, conflict

**disquiet** *discompose, disturb, agitate, perturb, upset, fluster, flurry

*Ana* *annoy, vex, irk, bother: worry, harass, harry: trouble, distress

*Ant* tranquilize, soothe


*Ana* paper, *essay, article: inquiry, investigation

**disrate** *degrade, demote, reduce, declas

**disregard** *ignore, overlook, slight, forget, *neglect, omit

*Con* attend, mind, watch, *tend: observe, notice, note, remark (see *see*

**disrepute** *disgrace, dishonor, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloquy, odium

*Ant* repute — *Con* *fame, reputation, renown, honor, glory

**dissect** *analyze, break down, resolve

*Ana* *scrutinize, examine, inspect: pierce, penetrate, probe (see *enter*

**dissection** breakdown, analysis, resolution (see under *analyze*

**dissemble** mask, cloak, *disguise, camouflage

*Ana* simulate, feign, counterfeit, *deny, refute, radiate

*Ant* accord (sense 1): comity — *Con* *harmony, concord, consonance: friendship, goodwill, amity

**disdissent** *disagree, variance, strife, conflict, contention, *discord

*Ana* alteration, wrangle, *quarrel, bickering: *argument, dispute, controversy

*Ant* accord (sense 2): concurrence — *Con* *assent, consent —

**disentangle** *differ, vary, disagree

*Ana* object, protest: *deny, balk, boggle, sly, stickle

*Ant* concur: assent: consent — *Con* acquiesce, subscribe, agree, accede (see *assent"

**disenser** nonconformist, sectarian, sectary, schismatic, *heretic


*Ana* exposition: *argumentation, disputation: article, paper, *essay

**disimilarity, unlikeness, difference, divergence, divergency, distinction** are comparable when they mean lack of agreement or correspondence (or an instance of such lack) in appearance, in qualities, or in nature brought out by a comparison of two or more things. **Dissimilarity and unlikeness**, the most general terms in this group, are often used interchangeably without loss, but when there is little basis for comparison and the contrast is obvious, **dissimilarity** is usually preferred <the effectiveness of a metaphor depends, in part, on the **dissimilarity** of the things which are compared> <the injunction that the most recent comers slough off all the traits of their **dissimilarity** also implied that homogeneity was itself socially desirable—*Handlin*—
*Unlikeness* is commonly the preferred term, however, when the things contrasted belong to a common category, and there are fundamental likenesses between them <but he was rich where I was poor, and he supplied my want the more as his **unlikeness** fitted mine—*Tennyson*—
<the likenesses among human beings as well as the **unlikenesses**—*Wiggam*—
*Difference* suggests notice of a quality or feature which marks one thing as apart from another. The term may imply want of resemblance in one or more particulars <note the **differences** between the first poems of Keats and those written after he had achieved mastery of his art> <there are both resemblances and **differences** in the designs of these two cathedrals or want of identity *difference* of opinion is the one crime which kings never forgive—*Emerson*—
<difference of religion breeds more quarrels than *difference of politics—*Phillips* or a disagreement or cause of disagreement which separates individuals or makes them hostile to each other <there have been **differences**
between them for some time) Dissuasion or dissuasiveness applies to a difference between things or less often persons having the same origin, the same ends, or the same background or belonging to the same type or class; there is usually an implication of a difference that makes for cleavage or increasing unlikelihood (an illustration of the divergences between countries both highly democratic—Bryce) (the greatest divergence in the educational value of studies is due to the varying degree to which they require concentration, judgment, observation, and imagination—Grangent) (increasing divergencies between British and French policies—Welles) Distinction usually implies want of resemblance in detail, especially in some minute or not obvious detail; it therefore commonly applies to a difference that is brought out by close observation, study, or analysis or that marks the line of division between two like things (point out the distinction in meaning between two close synonyms) (a hairsplitting distinction between "original" and "creative" writing) (apprehend the vital distinction between religion and criticism—Arnold) (so intoxicated with dreams of fortune that he had lost all sense of the distinction between reality and illusion—Brooks) (this is not a distinction without a difference. It is not like the affair of "an old hat cooked") and "a cooked old hat" . . . but there is a difference here in the nature of things—Sterne) Ana difference, diversity, disparity (see corresponding adjectives at DIFFERENT): discrepancy, discordance, inconsonance (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT) Ant similarity — Con * likeness, resemblance, similitude: correspondence, agreement, conformity (see corresponding verbs at AGREE) dissimulation duplicity, * deceit, cunning, guile Ana dissembling, cloaking, masking, disguising, camouflagging (see DISGUISE): hiding, concealing, secreting (see HIDE): pretending or pretense, feigning, shamming (see corresponding verbs at ASSUME): * hypocrisy, pharisaism, sanctimony Can candidness or candor, openness (see corresponding adjectives at FRANK): sincerity (see corresponding adjective at SINCERE) dissipate dispel, disperse, * scatter Ana disintegrate, crumble (see DECAY): separate, part, divide: deliquesce, melt (see LIQUEFY) Ant accumulate (possessions, wealth, a mass of things): absorb (one's energies, one's attention): concentrate (one's thoughts, powers, efforts) 2 * waste, squander, fritter, consume Ana * spend, expend, disburse: * scatter, disperse: * vanish, evanesce, disappear, evaporate dissolute profligate, profligate, * abandoned Ana * licentious, libertine, wanton, lewd: inebriated, intoxicated, drunken, * drunk: debauched, depraved, corrupt, debased, perverted (see under DEBASE) dissuade, deter, discourage, divert mean to turn one aside from a purpose, a project, or a plan. Dissuade carries the strongest implication of advice, argument, or exhortation; like the affirmative form persuade, it usually suggests gentle or effective methods and carries no suggestion of bullying or browbeating, though it equally carries little or no suggestion of coaxing or wheedling (Sir Walter had at first thought more of London; but Mr. Shepherd . . . had been skillful enough to dissuade him from it, and make Bath preferred—Austen) (wrote a book to dissuade people from the use of tobacco—Scudder) (Galton was eagerly interested and wanted to experiment on himself, though ultimately dissuaded on account of his advanced age—Ellis) While deter often implies the operation of fear as the cause of turning aside from the fulfillment of a project, it may suggest no more than a changing of purpose for cause rather than from mere caprice (the fear of reprisals deterred them from using poison gas) (he vowed that nothing should deter him from his purpose) (the Judge's remark about hanging around the stable did not deter Theophilus from playing there all that winter—Delaun) (Peter for a time abandoned both smoking and alcohol, and was only deterred from further abstinences by their impracticability—H. G. Wells) (he then hazards the conjecture that Aristotle wrote so obscurely in order that he might deter slow-witted and indolent men from reading him—Babbitt). In deterrent the implication that it is fear which is the cause of holding back is stronger than in the verb. Discourage (see also DISCOURAGE) implies a deterring by undermining spirit or enthusiasm or by weakening intent or sense of purpose (discouraged him from prosecuting the inquiry) (the incessant hurry and trivial activity of daily life . . . seem to prevent, or at least discourage, quiet and intense thinking—Eliot) (I definitely wished to discourage his intimacy with my family—Rose Macaulay) Divert (see also TURN AND AMUSE) implies a turning aside, but here the mind or some of its functions is usually the thing diverted or turned aside, and another object of interest or attention is generally expressed or understood as the alternative; in this sense divert is often used of the very young, or of the preoccupied or the worried (the attention was diverted to more important game) (thank God for colonels, thought Mrs. Miniver; sweet creatures, so easily entertained, so biddably diverted from senseless controversy into comfortable monologue—Jan Struther) Ana advise, counsel (see under ADVICE): * urge, exhort, prick Ant persuade — Con * induce, prevail, get; influence, touch, * affect distant, far, faraway, far-off, remote, removed mean not near or close but separated by an obvious interval especially in space or in time. Distant carries a stronger reference to the length of the interval (whether long or short) than the other terms; only when it directly qualifies a noun does it necessarily imply that the interval is markedly long (a book held six inches distant from the eyes) (the sun is about 93,000,000 miles distant from the earth) (a distant city) (the other item, on a distant page, was cheerfully headed “Food from Sewage”—Krutch) (at a distant date) (I do not ask to see the distant scene,—one step enough for me—Newman) Far, except for the possible reference to a short distance involved in the question “How far?” applies (as adverb as well as adjective) only to what is a long way off (he took his journey into a far country—Lk 15:13) (take a far view in planning for future needs of the city) (go back in the far past to a common origin—Kroeger) (across the hills, and far away beyond their utmost purple rim—Tennyson) Faraway and far-off not only mean extremely far but are preferred when distance in time is specifically implied (old, unhappy, far-off things, and battles long ago—Wordsworth) However, both may suggest distance in space (a cheer that started the echo in a faraway hill—Stevenson) (the far-off places in which he had been wandering—Dickens) Remote suggests a far removal, especially from something (as one's present location, one's point of view, or one's time) regarded as a center or vantage ground (some forlorn and naked hermitage, remote from all the pleasures of the world—Shak.) (the sands of a remote and lonely shore—Shelley) (whose nature it was to do more for immediate annoyances than for remote consequences—George Eliot) Removed, which is usually a predicate adjective,
distaste 261
can be distinguished ⟨a nicety and force of touch, which is an endowment separate from pictorial genius, though indispensable to its exercise—Hawthorne⟩ ⟨the reestablishment of ethics and esthetics as separate and autonomous realms—Krucho⟩ Separate is also often used in preference to distinct when an opposition to common or shared is implied ⟨please give us separate rooms⟩ ⟨the children had separate toys and separate books⟩ Several (see also MANY) is somewhat formal or old-fashioned in this sense; it implies an existence, a character, a status, or a location separate or distinct from that of similar items. It may modify a singular noun, especially when “each” precedes, as well as a plural noun ⟨conduct these knights unto their several lodgings—Shak⟩ ⟨each individual seeks a sever'gal goal—Pope⟩ ⟨will call the members . . . for their several opinions—New Republic⟩ ⟨a network of concrete highways upon the several states—W. H. Hamilton⟩ Discrete, even more than separate, implies that the individuals are not the same and are not connected; it is often more precise than separate because it stresses numerical distinctness (that is, distinctness as individuals) rather than difference in kind, nature, or goal; thus, discrete things may be exactly the same in appearance, nature, or value, but they are not separate and are physically disconnected ⟨the dumb creation lives a life made up of discrete and mutually irrelevant episodes—Huxley⟩ ⟨[the phage] has been identified as existing in discrete units, that is, it is a particle like granulated sugar and not a continuum like molasses—Furnas⟩ ⟨the conclusion that gases are made up of discrete units (molecules)—Hogben⟩

Distinctive peculiar, individual, (see characteristic) ⟨*special, particular, specific, especial: *different, diverse, disparate, divergent⟩

Distinct 1 Distinct, separate, several, discrete are comparable when used in reference to two or more things (sometimes persons) and in the sense of not being individually the same. Distinct always implies a capacity for being distinguished by the eye or by the mind as apart from the other or others, sometimes in space or in time but more often in character, nature, or identity ⟨I see three distinct objects in the distance, but I cannot identify them⟩ ⟨the novel has two related, but nevertheless distinct, plots⟩ ⟨there has been endless discussion whether we have a distinct faculty for the knowledge of God—Inge⟩ ⟨for him the work of literature is not distinct or separable from its author—L. P. Smith⟩ Separate (see also single) is often used interchangeably with distinct and often in combination with it, as if one strengthened the other ⟨the power . . . is given in two separate and distinct sections of the constitution—John Marshall⟩ ⟨these two characteristics were not separate and distinct . . . they were held together in vital tension—Ellis⟩ But separate stresses, as distinct does not, the lack of a connection between the things considered, usually by reason of the distance in space or time or the difference in identity of the things in question; thus, a drama with two separate plots is not the same as one with two distinct plots, for separate implies no connection (or, often, only a factitious connection) between the plots, while distinct suggests only that they
entiate implies either the possession of a distinguishing character or characters, or more commonly capacity to ascertain differences between things susceptible of confusion (we find in Chinese art a strong synthetic power, which differentiates it and lifts it beyond the art of Persia and the art of India—Binyon) (if poetry is art, it must produce its effects through a medium which differentiates it, without divorcing it, from reality—Loves) (we must have classes small enough to enable the teacher to differentiate the strong and the willing from the sluggards—Grandgent) Discriminate involves the idea of perception; it implies the power to perceive or discern differences; often slight differences, between things that are very much alike (discriminate synonyms) (irritated by the wasp's inability to discriminate a house from a tree—E. K. Brown) (whenever you have learned to discriminate the birds, or the plants, or the geographical features of a country, it is as if new and keener eyes were added—Burroughs) (to discriminate between true and false Aristotelianism—Babbit) Demarcate implies the setting of literal limits or the marking of literal boundaries, but it can be freely used to suggest a distinguishing between things as clear as if there were lines between them (how shall we demarcate? Reproduction from Growth?—Lewes) (only in periods when a common idea of style pervades the whole production of a people does... the work of the craftsmen merge, with no demarcating difference, in the art which expresses thought and emotion—Binyon)

Ana *separate, part, divide: *detach, disengage Ant confound —Con confuse, *mistake 2 *characterize, mark, qualify Ana individualize, peculiarize (see corresponding adjectives at CHARACTERISTIC)
distort contort, warp, *deform Ana twist, bend, *curve: disfigure, *deface: *injure, damage, mar, impair: misinterpret, misconstrue (see affirmative verbs at EXPLAIN)
distract bewilder, nonplus, confound, dumbfound, mystify, perplex, *puzzle Ana *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle, befuddle: baffle, balk (see FRUSTRATE): agitate, upset, fluster, flurry, perturb, *discompose Ant collect (one's thoughts, one's powers)
distraught absentminded, absent, *abstracted, preoccupied Ana distracted, bewildered, nonplused (see PUZZLE vb): muddled, addled, confused (see CONFUSE): agitated, perturbed, discomposed, flustered (see DISCOMPOSE)
Ant collected —Con *cool, composed, unrumpled, im-perturbable, unflappable, nonchalant
distress n Distress, suffering, misery, agony, dolor, passion are comparable when denoting the state of one that is in great trouble or in pain of mind or body. Distress commonly implies conditions or circumstances that cause physical or mental stress or strain; usually also it connotes the possibility of relief or the need of assistance (to pity distress is human; to relieve it is Godlike—Mann) The word is applicable to things as well as to persons; thus, a ship in distress is helpless and in peril because of some untoward circumstance (as a breakdown in machinery); a community's distress may be the result of a disaster or of an event imposing extreme hardships on the people. When used to designate a mental state, distress usually implies the stress or strain of fear, anxiety, or shame (the original shock and distress that were caused by the first serious work of scholars on the Bible—Montague) (it had evidently been a great distress to him, to have the days of his imprisonment recalled—Dickens) (she therefore dressed exclusively in black, to her husband's vast amusement and her mother's rumored distress—Wylie) Suffering is used especially in reference to human beings; often it implies conscious awareness of pain or distress and conscious endurance (extreme sensibility to physical suffering... characterizes modern civilization—Inge) (the losses and hardships and sufferings entailed by war—Russell) Misery stresses the unhappy or wretched conditions attending distress or suffering; it often connotes sordidness, or dolefulness, or abjectness (for bleak, unadulterated misery that dak bungalow was the worst... I had ever set foot in—Kipling) (she had... cheated and shamed herself... exchanged content for misery and pride for humiliation—Bennett) Agony suggests suffering so intense that both body and mind are involved in a struggle to endure the unbearable (fell with a scream of mortal agony—Mason) (the agony of being found wanting and exposed to the disapproval of others—Mead) Dolor is a somewhat literary word applied chiefly to mental suffering that involves sorrow, somber depression, or grinding anxiety (heaviness is upon them, and dolor thickens the air they walk through—Frank) Passion is now rare in this sense except in reference to the sufferings of Jesus in the garden at Gethsemane and culminating in his crucifixion.
Ana *afflict, *trial, tribulation: *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, heartbreak: strain, pass, pinch, exigency (see JUNCTURE): hardship, *difficulty, rigor, vicissitude: *pain, pang, ache
Con comforting or comfort, solacing or solace, consolation (see corresponding verbs at COMFORT): alleviation, assuagement, mitigation, allaying, relieving or relief (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE)
distress vb *trouble, ail Ana *afflict, try, torment, torture, rack: *worry, annoy, harass, harry, plague, pester: *depress, oppress, weigh Con *comfort, console, solace: *help, aid, assist: *re- relieve, alleviate, light, mitigate, assuage, allay
distribute, dispense, divide, deal, dole are comparable when they mean to give out, usually in shares, to each member of a group. Distribute implies either an apportioning among many by separation of something into parts, units, or amounts, and by assigning each part, unit, or amount to the proper person or place, or a scattering or spreading more or less evenly over an area (distributed his possessions among his heirs) (distribute fertilizer by spreading or scattering it over a garden) (distribute profits among shareholders in the form of dividends) (distribute type by returning each piece of used type to its proper compartment in a case) (the old habit of centralizing a strain at one point, and then dividing and subdividing it, and distributing it on visible lines of support to a visible foundation—Henry Adams) (all modern societies aim... to distribute impartially to all the burdens and advantages of the state—Dickinson) Dispense (see also ADMINISTER 1) differs from distribute in not usually implying a spreading out that affects a large number or a separation that reduces the size or amount of each part or portion; rather, it suggests the giving of a carefully weighed or measured portion to each of a group as a right or as due, or as accordant to need (dispense aims to the needy) (if every just man that now pines with want had but a moderate and beseeching share... nature's full blessings would be well-dispensed—Milton) (let us... receive whatever good 'tis given thee to dispense—Wordsworth) (a pulsating, metallic, fluorescent world, in which Olympian judgments are dispensed by worried word fanciers from their thirty-ninth floor cubicles—Hilton) Divide (see also SEPARATE) stresses the separation of a whole into parts but it implies as the purpose of that
separation a dispensing of those parts to, or a sharing of them by, each of a group; the term usually implies, if the context gives no further information, that the parts are equal 〈the three partners divide the profits of the business, the size of each share depending on the size of the partner's investment〉〈claimed that his confederates would not divide the booty fairly〉 〈of the rent, a large proportion was divided among the country gentlemen—Macaulay〉 〈if, for example, he is an evildoer, it is a great comfort to him to know that others likewise are evildoers. Dividing the blame lightens the load—Overstreet〉 Deal (usually followed by out) emphasizes the delivery of something piece by piece, or in suitable portions, especially to those who have a right to expect it 〈deal the cards for a game of bridge〉 〈deal out equipment and supplies to each soldier〉 〈our fellows were very methodical about the death they were dealing out. They dispensed it in the firm, tranquil-seeming way of clerks—Wolfert〉 Often, the term carries no suggestion of distribution, and means little more than to give or deliver 〈dealt his opponent a blow〉 〈should employ one special man whose sole job is to keep inventing fresh phrases of delight to be dealt out in regular doses to authors at work—Dawson & Wilson〉 Dole (also frequently followed by out) may imply a dispensing of alms to the needy 〈dole out daily one thousand loaves of bread〉 〈a prince doling out favors to a servile group of petitioners—Dreiser〉 but since in this sense it usually suggests a carefully measured portion, it often suggests scantiness or niggardliness in the amount dispensed and does not necessarily suggest a charitable intent 〈this comfort . . . she doled out to him in daily portions—Fielding〉 〈I can accept what is given in love and affection to me, but I could not accept what was doled out grudgingly or with conditions—Wilde〉

Dive vb 〈dive bomb, dive for, dive in, dive into, dive under〉

Distrust vb Distrust, mistrust are comparable both as verbs meaning to lack trust or confidence in someone or something and as nouns denoting such a lack of trust or confidence. Distrust, however, implies far more certitude that something is wrong than mistrust; often it suggests conviction of another's guilt, treachery, or weakness 〈Octavius had imbibed sufficient philosophy to distrust the world as a place for all ill—Buchan〉 〈the same distrust and horror of the unnatural forms into which life for the majority of people is being forced—Day Lewis〉 Mistrust suggests domination by suspicion and, usually, fear 〈he took me into a place so wild that a man less accustomed to these things might have mistrusted and feared for his life—Cather〉 〈something . . . roused in him a suspicion that in the near future he was not going to have matters quite so much his own way. However, he concealed his mistrust as well as he could—Mackenzie〉

Con *rely, trust, depend, count, bank, reckon: confide, entrust, *commit, consign

Distrust n mistrust (see under DISTRUST vb)

Ana doubt, *uncertainty, dubiety, dubiositas, suspicion: *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment

Con confidence, *trust, reliance, dependence, faith

Disturb 1 unsettle, derange, *disorder, disarrange, disorganize

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
divide vb 1 *separate, part, sever, sunder, divorce
   Ana cleave, split, rend, rive (see TEAR): *cut, carve, chop
   Ant unite
   2 *distribute, dispense, deal, dole
   Ana *apportion, portion, prorate, ration, parcel: *share, participate, partake: *allot, assign, allocate
   divine adj *holy, sacred, spiritual, religious, blessed
   divive vb *foresee, foreknow, apprehend, anticipate
   Ana discern, perceive, descry (see SEE): predict, prophesy, prognosticate, presage (see FORETELL)
   division section, segment, sector, *part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel
   divorce vb *separate, sever, sunder, part, divide
   Ana alienate, *strange, wean, disaffect
   divulge tell, disclose, *reveal, betray, discover
   vb *separate, sever, sunder, part, divide
   dizzy *giddy, vertiginous, swimming, dazzled
   Ana reeling, whirling (see REEL): confounded, bewildered, puzzled (see PUZZLE)

docile obedient, biddable, tractable, amenable
Ana *compliant, acquiescent: pliant, pliable, adapt- (see PLASTIC): yielding, submitting or submissive (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)
Ant indolent: unruly, ungovernable —Con intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong (see UNRULY): stubborn, *obstinate

dock wharf, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty, levee

doctor vb *adulterate, sophisticate, load, weight
   doctrinaire dogmatic, magisterial, oracular, *dictatorial, authoritarian

doctrine, dogma, tenet are synonymous only when they mean a principle (usually one of a series or of a body of principles) accepted as authoritative (as by members of a church, a school of philosophers, or a branch of science).
   Doctrine is often used in a much broader sense to denote a formulated theory that is supported by evidence, backed by authority, and proposed for acceptance (the doctrine of evolution) <Einstein's doctrine of relativity>. In the narrower sense doctrine retains its basic implication of authoritative teaching, but it presupposes acceptance by a body of believers or adherents (a catechism of Christian doctrines) (a ... mathematical doctrine of waves which nowadays has almost come to dominate ... physics—Darrow) Dogma also stresses authoritative teaching but unlike doctrine it seldom implies proposal for acceptance. A dogma is not advanced as reasoned and worthy of acceptance but laid down as true and beyond dispute (the dogmas of a church are usually stated in a creed or confession) (in 1870 Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of papal infallibility) Dogma (or especially its derivative dogmatic) often connotes insistence, sometimes arrogant insistence, on authority or imposition by authority (the dogma that the king can do no wrong) Tenet emphasizes acceptance and belief rather than teaching. It is therefore thought of as a principle held or adhered to and implies a body of adherents (the tenets of modern Socialism are not in every instance identical with the doctrines of Karl Marx)
   Ana teaching, instruction (see corresponding verbs at TEACH): *principle, fundamental

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
dogged

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donation

doctrine, tenet
boredom, ennui, •tedium
allowance, pittance, * ration
doctrine, tenet

lugubrious, dolorous, *melancholy, plaintive,
dolor

sphere, province, *field, territory, bailiwick

belief, conviction, persuasion, view (see OPINION):
apportioning or apportionment, parceling or parcel,
portioning or portion (see corresponding verbs at AP-
PORTION): sharing or share (see corresponding verb
SHARE)
doctrine, tenet

suffering, passion, *distress, misery

mournful, sorrowing or sorrowful, 
grieving (see corresponding verbs at GRIEVE); piteous,
•pitiful

cheerful, cheery
dolor

agony, suffering, passion, *distress, misery

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mournful, sorrowing or sorrowful, 
grieving (see corresponding verbs at GRIEVE); piteous,
or less publicly, and usually without reference to other givers or gifts (the endowment funds of the great universities are increased mainly by donations and bequests) a list of the Rockefeller donations Benefit is often used in place of donation, especially when there is the intent to compliment the donor and to imply his benevolence or the beneficence of his gift. The latter, however, is the basic implication and the word may be appropriately used of any benefit conferred or received whether it has money value or not (her benefactions are remembered by many philanthropic agencies) the benefactions of the American GIs to the children of Korea—Harford Times this benefaction totals almost $5 million—Americana Annual Contribution implies participation in giving; it is applicable as small as well as large amounts of money; it is the modest term which one may apply to his own gift, though others may rightly call it a donation or benefaction (please accept my contribution to the endowment fund of your institution) a community chest contribution (but the Government quickly came to the rescue, and, aided by private contribution, built a cutoff wall—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) Alms implies the aim of relieving poverty either in former times as the fulfillment of a religious obligation or as a practical manifestation of the virtue of charity the gift without any proviso: who gives himself with his alms feeds three, himself, his hungering neighbor, and me [Christ]—J. R. Lowell or in more recent times as an indication of casual benevolence displayed chiefly in the giving of petty sums to beggars or paupers (though poor and forced to live on alms—Wordsworth a few filthy . . . children, waiting for stray tourists, cried for alms—Harper's) Ana grant, subvention appropriation, subsidy doom n fate, destiny, lot, portion doom vb damn, condemn sentence, proscribe

door n doorway, portal, postern, gate, gateway are comparable chiefly as meaning an entrance to a place. Door applies chiefly to the movable and usually swinging barrier which is set in the opening which serves as an entrance to a building or to a room or apartment in a building an oak door the front door of a house sometimes door is used also of the opening children came running through the door gate may apply to an opening in a wall, fence, or enclosure but it more commonly denotes a movable and often swinging barrier (especially one made of a grating or open frame or a heavy or rough structure) set in such an opening and closed or opened at will the north gate to the campus the opening the garden gate Portal applies usually to an elaborate and stately door or gate, with its surrounding framework the portal to the temple the knights were admitted through the portal to the palace Postern denotes a private or retired door or gate (as at the back of a castle or fortress). Doorway and gateway apply not to the structure but to the passage when a door (in a doorway) or a gate (in a gateway) is opened for ingress or egress (stand in the doorway awaiting the postman) (automobiles passed through the gateway in constant succession) In their extended use these words are still more sharply distinguished. Door usually applies to what provides opportunity to enter or withdraw or makes possible an entrance or exit (the love of books, the golden key that opens the enchanted door—Long) i know death hath ten thousand several doors for men to take their exit—John Webster Gate differs from door chiefly in its connotations of facility in admission or of entrance into something large, impressive, wide, or even infinite (what sweet contentments doth the soul enjoy by the senses! They are the gates and windows of its knowledge—William Drummond) to wade through slaughter to a throne and shut the gates of mercy on mankind—Gray Portal often carries similar connotations, but it usually applies to a definite place or thing which is itself splendid or magnificent and through which something (as the sun at rising and at setting) is admitted or allowed exit (Heaven, that opened wide her blazing portals—Milton) since your name will grow with time . . . have I made the name a golden portal to my rhyme—Tennyson Postern, on the other hand, implies an inconspicuous or even a hidden means of entrance or escape it finds a reader way to our sympathy through a postern which we cannot help leaving sometimes on the latch, than through the ceremonious portal of classical prescription—J. R. Lowell Gateway is usually preferred to doorway in figurative use because it more strongly suggests a passage through which entrance is gained to something desirable or difficult (the city was once more the gateway to half a continent—Harold Sinclair) the senses were regarded as gateways or avenues of knowledge—Dewey Ana entrance, entry, entrance, ingress, access doorway door, portal, postern, gate, gateway dormant 1 quiescent, latent, abeyant, potential Ana inactivable, inert, passive, idle Ant active, alive, 2 couchant, prone, recumbent, supine, prostrate dormer n window, casement, oriel dotage senility, age, senescence Ant infancy dote love, relish, enjoy, fancy, like Ant loathe —Con abhor, abominate, detest, hate despise, contemn, scorn dotting fond, devoted, affectionate Ana infuriated, enamored: fatuous, foolish, silly, asinine, simple double n understudy, stand-in substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate, pinch hitter double-cross delude, betray, beguile, deceive, mislead double-dealing n chicanery, chicane, trickery, deception, fraud Ana duplicity, dissimulation, deceit, guile, cunning double entendre equivocation, ambiguity, tergiversation doubt n uncertainty, skepticism, suspicion, mistrust, dubiety, dubiosities Ana dubiousness, doubtfulness, questionableness (see corresponding adjectives at DOUBTFUL) incredulity, unbelief, disbelief Ant certitude confidence —Con certainty conviction, assurance trust, reliance, dependence, faith doubtful, dubious, problematic, questionable are comparable when they mean not affording assurance of the worth, soundness, success, or certainty of something or someone. Doubtful and dubious are sometimes used with little distinction. Doubtful, however, is commonly so positive in its implication as almost to imply worthlessness, unsoundness, failure, or uncertainty to the thing in question (it is doubtful whether the captain had ever had so much fun—Steinbeck) Dubious stresses suspicion, mistrust, or hesitation (as in accepting, believing, following, or choosing); thus, a man of doubtful repute is by implication more distrusted than one of dubious repute; one who is doubtful of the outcome of a project has by implication better grounds for fearing its failure than one dubious about it, for the latter may imply mere vague suspicions and fears and little evidence (a doubtful prospect) (a dubious transaction) (a dubious title to an estate) (dubious friends) whispers and glances were interchanged, accompanied by shrugs and dubious
shakes of the head—Irving> <she takes me in, telling me there’s nobody there. I’m doubtful, but she swears she’s alone—Hammett> Problematic is the only one of the terms here considered that is free from a suggestion of a moral judgment or suspicion; it is especially applicable to things whose existence, meaning, fulfillment, or realization is very uncertain, sometimes so uncertain that the probabilities of truth and of falsehood or of success and of failure are nearly equal (the very existence of any such individual [Homer] . . . is more than problematic—Coleridge> <excellent acoustics, always so problematic a quality in halls built for the hearing of music—Wharton> <publishing is now in a very problematic state—Farrell> Questionable may imply little more than the existence of doubt respecting the thing so qualified (the legality of this action is questionable) <a questionable theory> It more commonly suggests doubt about propriety and may imply well-grounded suspicions (as of immorality, crudity, or dishonesty) that for one reason or another need to be expressed in guarded terms; thus, to say that a man is a questionable character is to cast a reflection on his honesty or morality; questionable dealing suggests underhandedness and dishonesty (women of questionable virtue) <the propriety of Lydia’s manners was at least questionable—Shaw> <the illustration is questionable, but the notion implied may be sound—Alexander>

Ana distrusting or distrustful, mistrusting or mistrustful (see corresponding verbs at DISTRACT): *fearful, apprehensive, afraid

Ant cocksure, positive
dough, batter, paste are quasi-synonyms often confused in their modern cookery senses. All denote a mixture of flour, liquid, salt, and supplementary ingredients, but each suggests a difference both in consistency as a result of the variety and proportion of ingredients and in use. Dough applies to a mixture with only enough liquid in relation to the flour to bind the ingredients while leaving the mixture sufficiently stiff to knead or to shape before baking. Ordinarily other ingredients (as a kneading agent, fat, and sugar) are included to improve the texture, flavor, and nutritive qualities of the ultimate product which includes such items as bread, biscuit, rolls, and some kinds of cake and cookies. Batter applies to a thinner mass in which the proportion of liquid is much greater than in dough; characteristically, also, it contains eggs, and often baking powder, sugar, and fat. It may be used for cakes that are shaped by the pan in which they are baked or for those that are poured in small amounts on a hot griddle or pan and quickly cooked. Batter also designates a similar mixture of flour, liquid, and eggs into which raw food (as fish or meat) may be sound—Alexander

downturn

Problematic is the only one of the terms here considered that is free from a suggestion of a moral judgment or suspicion; it is especially applicable to things whose existence, meaning, fulfillment, or realization is very uncertain, sometimes so uncertain that the probabilities of truth and of falsehood or of success and of failure are nearly equal (the very existence of any such individual [Homer] . . . is more than problematic—Coleridge> <excellent acoustics, always so problematic a quality in halls built for the hearing of music—Wharton> <publishing is now in a very problematic state—Farrell> Questionable may imply little more than the existence of doubt respecting the thing so qualified (the legality of this action is questionable) <a questionable theory> It more commonly suggests doubt about propriety and may imply well-grounded suspicions (as of immorality, crudity, or dishonesty) that for one reason or another need to be expressed in guarded terms; thus, to say that a man is a questionable character is to cast a reflection on his honesty or morality; questionable dealing suggests underhandedness and dishonesty (women of questionable virtue) <the propriety of Lydia’s manners was at least questionable—Shaw> <the illustration is questionable, but the notion implied may be sound—Alexander>
of being insupportable or exceptionally uncomfortable; it may sometimes suggest no more than a frame of mind in which depression and disappointment are associated with discomfort or grief (the Jews sat disconsolate on the poop); they complained much of the cold they had suffered in their exposed situation.—Borrow) (Adrian hurried after Richard in an extremely disconsolate state of mind. Not to be at the breakfast and see the best of the fun, disgusted him—Meredith) Woebegone usually suggests a frame of mind but it emphasizes the impression of dejection and defeat produced on an observer not only by the facial expression and posture of the one observed but also by his surroundings or quarters: it may imply dejection, depression, or merely discouragement in the persons affected or desolation or dilapidation in their surroundings, but the overall impression is that of a defeated, spiritless condition (it was the most woebegone farm I had ever seen) (the woebegone expression on the countenances of the little children) (a poor mendicant approached, old and woebegone—Lockhart) Ana weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS); distressed, troubled, unhappy, in trouble, double vbl; *troubled; adj: double vb; *troubled, forlorn Ant elated —Con cheerful, happy, joyous (see GLAD)
downtright adj also adv *forthright Ana blunt, *bluff, brusque, curt: candid, plain, open, *frank: *straightforward, aboveboard Con devious, oblique, *crooked
doze vb drowse, snooze, *sleep, slumber, nap, catnap
draft n outline, diagram, sketch, delineation, tracing, plot, blueprint (see under SKETCH vb)
draft vb outline, diagram, *sketch, delineate, trace, plot, blueprint
draw vb draw, *pull, tug, tow, haul, hale Ana *bring, fetch: *attract, allure: *lure, entice: extract, elicit, evoke, *educe Con see those at DRAG
draw n Draw, tie, stalematedeadlock, standoff mean an indecisive ending to a contest or competition or a contest or competition ending indecisively. Draw usually implies equally matched contestants who compete (as in fighting, performing, or playing) with equal skill and between whom there can be no clear decision as to the superiority of one or the other (the prizefight ended in a draw) (the chess match was a draw) Tie implies a numerical equality (as in the scores attained by competitors or contestants, or in the votes obtained by candidates for office); usually a tie does not remain indecisive, since provisions are often made (as by law or by the rules of a game) for reaching a decision when a tie occurs (there was a tie between the two candidates for governor, which was decided by a vote of the legislature) (when a contest ends in a tie, a further match is often played to determine the winner) Stalemate is fundamentally a term of chess which designates the position of a player when his king, although not in check, cannot be moved without being placed in check and the game is thereby drawn; in extended use, stalemate represents a condition from which neither contestant can derive an advantage (was advised to cut his losses by withdrawing . . . but refused, and expended much precious material there in a costly stalemate—D. N. Rowe) (they believed that they could hold the triumvirs to a stalemate till hunger or sedition broke down their armies—Buchan) Deadlock implies a counteraction or neutralization of the efforts of contending elements (as parties, forces, or factions) that leads to a stoppage of action; it connotes an immobilization because of the equal power of the opposing elements usually in a situation other than a formal competition or contest (it often happens that one party has a majority in the Senate, another party in the House, and then . . . a deadlock results—Bryce) (so the deadlock continues, and neither side is prepared to yield—Blanshard) Standoff is an informal term usually for a draw or tie but sometimes for a situation where two opponents counteract or neutralize each other, so evenly are they matched (they fought several hours to a standoff) (the availability of the bomb to the two greatest powers may mean a standoff as far as atomic war is concerned—Atlantic)
dramatic, theatrical, dramaturgic, melodramatic, histrionic are not close synonyms although all imply special reference to plays as performed by actors or to the effects which are produced by acted plays. Dramatic basically denotes relationship to the drama as written or as produced (a dramatic critic) (a dramatic performance) It may imply an effect or a combination of effects appropriate to the drama (as a stirring of the imagination and emotions by vivid and expressive action, speech, and gesture, or by the exciting complications of a plot) (the dramatic appeal of a great orator) (the dramatic storytelling . . . of incidents which have a sympathetic hero—Russell) (an idyll of Theocritus . . . is today as much alive as the most dramatic passages of the Iliad—stirs the reader's feeling quite as much—Cather) Theatrical denotes relationship to the theater (a theatrical office) (a theatrical agent) It may imply effects appropriate to the theater as the place where plays are produced, and to the demands which its limitations, its convention, and, often, its need of financial success make both upon a play and its performance; the term therefore usually implies a marked degree of artificiality or conventionality, a direct and sometimes a blatant appeal to the senses and emotions, and often an overdoing or exaggeration in gesture, in speech, or in action (the situations are in the most effective sense theatrical, without being in the profounder sense dramatic—T. S. Eliot) (he had already learned that with this people religion was necessarily theatrical—Cather) Dramaturgic, which stresses the technical aspects of the drama and its presentation, may be used in place of theatrical when the more or less derogatory connotations of that word are to be avoided and the emphasis is upon those elements in a play which fit it for repre-
sentation in a theater (poetic plays are often lacking in dramaturgic quality) (a play that is said to be "good theater" is both dramatic and dramaturgic in its character) (every dramaturgic practice that subordinates the words to any other medium has trivialized the drama—Bentley) Melodramatic implies a manner characteristic of melodrama; it, therefore, usually connotes exaggerated emotionalism or inappropriate theatricalism (make a melodramatic speech) (employ melodramatic gestures) (for the first time in his centuries of debate with the Tozers, he was melodramatic. He shook his fist under Bert's nose—Sinclair Lewis) (but suppose . . . the most lurid or melodramatic solution you like. Suppose the servant really killed the master—Chesterston) Histrionic is more limited than theatrical for it implies reference to the tones of voice, gestures, movements, and appearance characteristic of actors, especially in times before realism was attempted in dramatic performances (good looks are more desired than histrionic skill—Shaw) (a tall, histrionic, dark man with a tossing mane—S. E. White)
dramaturgic theatrical, *dramatic, histrionic, melodramatic
draw vb draw, *pull, tug, tow, haul, hale Ana *bring, fetch: *attract, allure: *lure, entice: extract, elicit, evoke, *educe Con see those at DRAG
drawback 269

\(<a \text{ standoff between the Communist party and the Army, a sort of uneasy truce with each watching the other carefully—W. L. Ryan}\>

\(\text{drawback} \quad *\text{disadvantage, detriment, handicap}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{evil, ill: inconvenience, trouble (see INCONVENIENCE): obstruction, hindrance (see corresponding verbs at HINDER)}\)

\(\text{dread} \quad n \quad *\text{fear, horror, terror, fright, alarm, trepidation, panic, consternation, dismay}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment: timidity, timorousness (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID)}\)

\(\text{dreadful} \quad \text{horrible, horrific, appalling, *fearful, awful, frightened, terrible, terrific, shocking}\)

\(\text{dream} \quad n \quad *\text{fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, vision, daydream, nightmare}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{delusion, illusion, hallucination}\)

\(\text{dreary} \quad 1 \quad *\text{dismal, cheerless, dispiriting, bleak, desolate}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{disheartening (see DISCOURAGE): barren, *bare: forlorn, hopeless (see DESPONDENT)}\)

\(\text{2} \quad *\text{dull, humdrum, monotonous, pedestrian, stodgy}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{irksome, tiresome, wearsome, tedious, boring: fatiguing, exhausting, fagging, tiring (see TIRE vb)}\)

\(\text{dregs} \quad \text{sediment, *deposit, precipitate, lees, grounds}\)

\(\text{drench} \quad *\text{soak, saturate, sop, steep, impregnate, waterlog}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{permeate, pervade, penetrate, impenetrate}\)

\(\text{dress} \quad vb \quad *\text{clothe, attire, apparel, array, robe}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad \text{undress}\)

\(\text{dress} \quad n \quad *\text{clothes, clothing, attire, apparel, raiment}\)

\(\text{drift} \quad n \quad *\text{trend, tenancy, tenor}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{flow, stream, current: movement, *motion, progression, *progress: *intention, purpose, end, objective, goal, intent, aim}\)

\(\text{drill} \quad vb \quad 1 \quad *\text{bore, perforate, punch, puncture, prick}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{pierce, penetrate, *enter, probe}\)

\(\text{2} \quad *\text{practice, exercise}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{train, discipline, *teach, instruct, school: *habituate, accustom}\)

\(\text{drill} \quad n \quad *\text{practice, exercise (see under PRACTICE vb)}\)

\(\text{drive} \quad vb \quad 1 \quad *\text{impel, move, actuate}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{push, shove, propel: compel, *force, coerce: *incite, instigate}\)

\(\text{Con} \quad *\text{restrain, curb, check, inhibit: lead, *guide, pilot, steer}\)

\(\text{2} \quad *\text{ride}\)

\(\text{drive} \quad n \quad 1 \quad *\text{ride (see under RIDE vb)}\)

\(\text{2} \quad *\text{vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, élan}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{power, force, energy, strength, might: impetus, momentum, *speed, velocity}\)

\(\text{drivel} \quad *\text{nonsense, twaddle, bumb, balderdash, poppycock, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{gibberish, mummmery, abracadabra}\)

\(\text{droll} \quad *\text{laughable, risible, comic, comical, funny, ludicrous, ridiculous, farcical}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): absurd, preposterous (see FOOLISH): humorous, *witty, facetious}\)

\(\text{droop vb} \quad \text{Droop, wilt, flag, sag} \quad *\text{are comparable when they mean to sink or to lose in vigor, firmness, or freshness.} \quad \text{Droop} \quad *\text{stresses a hanging or bending downward (as through exhaustion, discouragement, or lack of nourishment: *some of the watchers were drooping from weariness—Cather} \quad *\text{he sat down heavily, his shoulders drooping, his arms falling between his outspread legs —Caldwell} \quad \text{In extended use it implies a languishing or a subsiding of something previously thriving or flourishing <oh, ye so fiercely tended, ye little seeds of hate! I bent above your growing early and noon and late, yet are ye drooped and pitiful, —I cannot rear ye straight!—Miller}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad \text{analogous words} \quad \text{Ana} \quad \text{antonyms} \quad \text{Con} \quad \text{contrasted words} \quad \text{See also explanatory notes facing page 1}\)

\(\text{Wilt} \quad *\text{applies especially to plants and suggests a loss of freshness or firmness in flower, leaves, or stems through lack of water or through excessive heat <most cut flowers wilt quickly unless given plenty of fresh water> The term often may be extended to various things that grow flaccid or weak in response to some stress (as fear, exhaustion, boredom, or a physical agent) <collars wilted in the damp heat> <the witness wilted under the cross-examiner’s sarcasm> <nor did I ever see the nation droop and wilt as we saw it wither under the panic of 1907—White> <the romance ... blossomed for six or seven months and then wilted—Commins} \quad \text{Flag} \quad *\text{may be used of flexible things that hang loosely and limply and, with reference to plants, may be interchangeable with droop <leaves flagging in the heat> more often it is used of something that loses in vigor or in force so that it suggests dullness, weariness, or languor <the conversation flagged> <Tristan and Isolde: it’s wonderful beyond words—a sustained ecstasy of love that never flags or grows monotonous—Ellis} \quad \text{This effect of wearying or boring may be attributed not to the thing which drops in interest or stimulating power but to the energy, spirits, interest, or attention that are concentrated on that thing (for a couple of hours he wrote with energy, and then his energy flagged—H. G. Wells) <these devices succeed ... in stimulating our interest afresh just at the moment when it was about to flag—T. S. Eliot} \quad \text{Sag} \quad *\text{implies a sinking or subsiding, especially at one point, through undue weight, pressure, or improper distribution of stresses <the ceiling shows signs of sagging> <the bridge sagged under the weight of the truck> In extended uses it implies a loss of firmness, resiliency, or power to stand up against pressure, and a consequent drooping or decline <though it sags in the middle, the novel is readable throughout—Havighurst> <his heart sagged with disappointment—Mason> <prices on the market sagged> \quad \text{Ana} \quad *\text{sink, slump, subside, *fall, drop: languish (see languishing under Languid): *wither, shrivel, wizen}

\(\text{Ana} \quad \text{undress}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{clothes, clothing, attire, apparel, raiment}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{train, discipline, *teach, instruct, school: *habituate, accustom}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{push, shove, propel: compel, *force, coerce: *incite, instigate}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{restrain, curb, check, inhibit: lead, *guide, pilot, steer}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{power, force, energy, strength, might: impetus, momentum, *speed, velocity}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{nonsense, twaddle, bumb, balderdash, poppycock, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{gibberish, mummmery, abracadabra}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): absurd, preposterous (see FOOLISH): humorous, *witty, facetious}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{sloppy, somnolent, slumberous}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{alert, vigilant, *watchful: *active, live, dynamic: animate, *lively, vivacious}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{sleepy, somnolent, slumberous}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{sleepy, somnolent, slumberous}\)

\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{alert, vigilant, *watchful: *active, live, dynamic: animate, *lively, vivacious}\)

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\(\text{Ana} \quad *\text{alert, vigilant, *watchful: *active, live, dynamic: animate, *lively, vivacious}\)


**druggist**

〈exports of medicinals to China〉〈medicinals are not contraband〉

Pharmaceutical is also often preferred to drug by pharmacists and manufacturers, especially as a designation of drugs (as quinine, cod-liver oil, and aspirin) which are commercially refined or prepared or synthetically manufactured. The term is also used to distinguish strictly therapeutic substances from other substances of similar origin or composition (the company produces pharmaceuticals, dyes, and cosmetics) Biological is the increasingly frequent designation for a therapeutic product (as a globulin, serum, vaccine, or antibody) that is ultimately a product of living organisms. Simple usually denotes a plant product used for its real or fancied medicinal value especially in primitive or folk medicine 〈boneseed, tansy, and other homely simples〉 It may also be used of a plant drug or medicinal preparation containing only one active ingredient. 

**Ana**

medicine, medicament, medication, *remedy, physic, Ana
druggist, pharmacist, apothecary, chemist denote one who deals in medicinal drugs. Druggist is the broadest of these terms and may designate a seller of drugs or medicinal preparations at wholesale or retail and as owner, manager, or employee of the sales establishment; it may often replace the more precise pharmacist to denote one who is skilled in compounding drugs and dispensing medicines prescribed by a physician especially when he is thought of primarily as selling these. Pharmacist, however, specifically implies, as druggist does not, special training in pharmacy, professional standing, and usually licensing following a test of qualifications. Apothecary in early use was distinguished from druggist, which then designated one who sold crude drugs (as herbs, roots, and other ingredients of medicines) while apothecary designated one who compounded these ingredients or made them up into medicines and was, therefore, equivalent to pharmacist. The distinction has tended to disappear and apothecary may be interchangeable with either druggist or pharmacist although it is increasingly rare except in historical situations. In England chemist is the preferred term.

**drunk, drunken, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight**

are comparable when they mean being conspicuously drunkard, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, tipper, tosspot, tippler designate one who drinks to excess. Drunkard and inebriate suggest the habituation of intoxication but in themselves imply nothing about the causes or effects of such intoxication. Alcoholic and dipsomaniac both denote a person with defective ability to control his use of intoxicants. In technical usage alcoholic is the usual term and often specifically distinguishes the person physically and mentally impaired by compulsive drinking; in more general and often distinctly derogatory use it may approach drunkard and inebriate but normally carries at least some suggestion of loss of control. Dipsomaniac, once nearly coextensive with alcoholic, is now little used except to denote a person subject to periodic bouts of compulsive drinking. Sot and soak are closely comparable in implying excessive and habitual drinking. Sot in addition suggests the dulling of faculties and degradation of habits that accompany such drinking. Soak, on the other hand, may stress a spongeliike capacity for intoxicants and even carry a hint of wry admiration; like the next two terms but unlike sot it may be used as a casual or even friendly epithet without connoting any strong disparagement. Tipper, tosspot, and tippler all imply habitual drinking but carry no inherent implication of intoxication. Toper and tosspot commonly stress the conviviality and jovialness of group drinking (as in taverns and bars) and may suggest a capacity for heavy drinking without obvious intoxication. Tippler carries the idea of light but constant and often secret drinking.

Ant teetotaller
drunken *drunk, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight
drunk

dry adj

1 Dry, arid mean devoid of moisture. Dry may suggest freedom from noticeable moisture either as a characteristic or as a desirable state (a dry climate) (dry clothing) (dry land) (dry provisions) (dry floors) or it may suggest deficiency of moisture or the lack of normal or necessary moisture (dry soil) (a dry summer) (dry seaside) or, again, it may suggest exhaustion or dissipation of water or other liquid (a dry fountain pen) (dry pond) (dry well) (dry bones) Arid implies destitution or deprivation of moisture and therefore extreme rather than relative dryness. In its chief applications to regions or territory, it suggests waste or desert land (an arid condition of soil) In extended use, as applied to such matters as subjects, books, or sermons, dry suggests the lack of qualities which compel interest or attention (the course is dry but useful) (in the driest passages of her historical summaries these delightful descriptions come running to the rescue—Payne) Arid, on the other hand, connotes absence of all qualities which mark the thing so this led Novalis to characterize him as the God-intoxicat ed—Ginnetti〉〈intoxicated poetry, difficult and dense but flashing sparks of overwhelming insight—Time〉〈a sweet inebriated ecstasy—Crashaw〉 Tipsy implies a degree of intoxication that deprives one of muscular or sometimes of mental control 〈drinking steadily, until just manageably tipsy, he contrived to continue so—Melville〉 Tight usually implies obvious intoxication, but does not suggest loss of power over one's muscles 〈he was tight, and, as was characteristic of him, he soon dropped any professional discretion that he might have been supposed to exercise— Edmund Wilson〉

Ana fuddled, befuddled, confused (see CONFUSE): maudlin, soppy (see SENTIMENTAL) Ant sober
drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler designate one who drinks to excess. Drunkard and inebriate suggest the habituation of intoxication but in themselves imply nothing about the causes or effects of such intoxication. Alcoholic and dipsomaniac both denote a person with defective ability to control his use of intoxicants. In technical usage alcoholic is the usual term and often specifically distinguishes the person physically and mentally impaired by compulsive drinking; in more general and often distinctly derogatory use it may approach drunkard and inebriate but normally carries at least some suggestion of loss of control. Dipsomaniac, once nearly coextensive with alcoholic, is now little used except to denote a person subject to periodic bouts of compulsive drinking. Sot and soak are closely comparable in implying excessive and habitual drinking. Sot in addition suggests the dulling of faculties and degradation of habits that accompany such drinking. Soak, on the other hand, may stress a spongeliike capacity for intoxicants and even carry a hint of wry admiration; like the next two terms but unlike sot it may be used as a casual or even friendly epithet without connoting any strong disparagement. Tipper, tosspot, and tippler all imply habitual drinking but carry no inherent implication of intoxication. Toper and tosspot commonly stress the conviviality and jovialness of group drinking (as in taverns and bars) and may suggest a capacity for heavy drinking without obvious intoxication. Tippler carries the idea of light but constant and often secret drinking.

Ant teetotaller
drunken *drunk, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight
drunk

dry adj

1 Dry, arid mean devoid of moisture. Dry may suggest freedom from noticeable moisture either as a characteristic or as a desirable state (a dry climate) (dry clothing) (dry land) (dry provisions) (dry floors) or it may suggest deficiency of moisture or the lack of normal or necessary moisture (dry soil) (a dry summer) (dry seaside) or, again, it may suggest exhaustion or dissipation of water or other liquid (a dry fountain pen) (dry pond) (dry well) (dry bones) Arid implies destitution or deprivation of moisture and therefore extreme rather than relative dryness. In its chief applications to regions or territory, it suggests waste or desert land (an arid condition of soil) In extended use, as applied to such matters as subjects, books, or sermons, dry suggests the lack of qualities which compel interest or attention (the course is dry but useful) (in the driest passages of her historical summaries these delightful descriptions come running to the rescue—Payne) Arid, on the other hand, connotes absence of all qualities which mark the thing so
qualified as worthwhile, fruitful, or significant (an arid treatise on poetry) (the frank elucidation of such a principle ... might imply only bleak and arid results—Holbrook Jackson) As applied to persons, their manner, or their words and expressions, dry implies a loss of normal or often of youthful human warmth, freshness, responsiveness, or enthusiasm; arid, an absence of these qualities or an incapacity for them (his dry schoolmaster temperament, the husky-gurdy monotony of him—James) (some arid matron made her rounds at dawn sniffing, peering, causing blue-nosed maids to scowl—Woolf) Specifically, dry often suggests the repression of feeling for the sake of outwardly appearing aloof or imperturbed (a dry comic style) (comments which did not seem to be censures because uttered in a dry tone of voice) Arid, on the other hand, often connotes a deadening of feeling, especially as shown by a loss of fervor or hope (if Shakespeare himself ever had that "dark period"... it was at least no darkness like that bleak and arid despair which sometimes settles over modern spirits—Krutch)

Dry, desiccate, dehydrate, bake, parch are compared when meaning to treat or to affect so as to deprive of moisture. Dry is the comprehensive word and may be used whatever the process (as evaporation, absorption, or solidification) or method (as heating, draining, or aerating) by which the result is attained (clothes dried in the wind) (dry up a ditch) (dry dishes with a towel) (dry bricks in a kiln) Desiccate is narrower in its range of reference and implies a complete deprivation of moisture, especially of vital juices, and often therefore, in its common extended use, a withering or shriveling. It is applicable to animal and vegetable products preserved by thorough drying (desiccated fish) or it may be applied to persons or to their attitudes, activities, or expression which have lost all their spiritual or emotional freshness or vitality (analysis is desiccating and takes the bloom off things—Babbitt) (they were all... living on the edge of their nerves, a harsh, angular, desiccated existence—Brooks) Dehydrate implies extraction or elimination of water; it is often preferred to desiccate, of which it is a close synonym, when the reference is to foods (dehydrate vegetables) It is the usual word when the removal of water (or hydrogen and oxygen in the proportion to form water) is by chemical rather than physical means (dehydrated alums) and in extended use suggests a removal of what strengthens, inspires, or makes meaningful or pleasing (ouches nothing that he does not dehydrate—Economist) Bake implies not only dehydrating by means of heat, but a hardening or caking of what is dried (sunbaked earth) (bake bricks) Parch stresses the damaging effect of drying by intense heat or drought; it is preferred to bake, therefore, when the restoration of the proper amount of water is necessary or highly desirable (a parched throat) (record heat waves which have parched mid-America’s usually productive plains—N. Y. Times Mag.)

Dry v/h Dry, desiccate, dehydrate, bake, parch are comparable when meaning to treat or to affect so as to deprive of moisture. Dry is the comprehensive word and may be used whatever the process (as evaporation, absorption, or solidification) or method (as heating, draining, or aerating) by which the result is attained (clothes dried in the wind) (dry up a ditch) (dry dishes with a towel) (dry bricks in a kiln) Desiccate is narrower in its range of reference and implies a complete deprivation of moisture, especially of vital juices, and often therefore, in its common extended use, a withering or shriveling. It is applicable to animal and vegetable products preserved by thorough drying (desiccated fish) or it may be applied to persons or to their attitudes, activities, or expression which have lost all their spiritual or emotional freshness or vitality (analysis is desiccating and takes the bloom off things—Babbitt) (they were all... living on the edge of their nerves, a harsh, angular, desiccated existence—Brooks) Dehydrate implies extraction or elimination of water; it is often preferred to desiccate, of which it is a close synonym, when the reference is to foods (dehydrate vegetables) It is the usual word when the removal of water (or hydrogen and oxygen in the proportion to form water) is by chemical rather than physical means (dehydrated alums) and in extended use suggests a removal of what strengthens, inspires, or makes meaningful or pleasing (ouches nothing that he does not dehydrate—Economist) Bake implies not only dehydrating by means of heat, but a hardening or caking of what is dried (sunbaked earth) (bake bricks) Parch stresses the damaging effect of drying by intense heat or drought; it is preferred to bake, therefore, when the restoration of the proper amount of water is necessary or highly desirable (a parched throat) (record heat waves which have parched mid-America’s usually productive plains—N. Y. Times Mag.)

Due adj Due, rightful, condign are comparable when they mean being in accordance with what is just and appropriate. Due, which basically means owed or owing as a debt, carries over in the sense here considered a strong implication that the thing so described is grounded upon an obligation, duty, or debt which should not or cannot be ignored; thus, one who takes due precautions uses the care that is required by his obligation to look out for his own or for others’ safety or well-being; one who has a due sense of another person’s rights accords to that person all that belongs to him by natural or moral right; one who has due respect for the law observes the individual laws as the duty of a responsible citizen. Often the term implies little more than an accordance with what is right, reasonable, or necessary (the due relation of one thing with another—Galsworthy) (your due and proper portion—Meredith) (many noncommissioned officers have a firm belief that without a due admixture of curses, an order is inaudible to a private—Montague) Rightful carries a much stronger and more consistent implication than due of a ground in right and justice, and usually suggests a moral or legal claim (the rightful heir to the estate) (possess the rightful authority) (looked askance, jealous of an encroacher on his rightful domain—Hawthorne) (the disloyal subject who had fought against his rightful sovereign—Macaulay) Condign applies to something that is distinctly deserved or merited and usually something that neither exceeds nor falls below one’s deserts or merits; the term is used chiefly of punishment, often with the implication of severity (he had been brought to condign punishment as a traitor—Macaulay) (the particular troubles which involved Messrs. Buecheler and Vahlen in such condign castigation—Housman) See also explanatory notes facing page 1
dull

punishments set up for violations of the rules of
culture—Baruch)

Appropriate, meet, suitable, fit, fitting, proper: right,
good: just, fair, equitable

Excessive, inordinate, immediate, extravagant, exorbitant: deficient

dull adj 1 *stupid, slow, dumb, dense, crass

Dull, blunt, obtuse are comparable when they mean
what is justly owed to a person (sometimes a thing),
especially as a recompense or compensation. Due usually
implies a legal or moral right on the part of the person
or thing that makes the claim or is in a position to make
the claim and suggests a determination of what is owed by
strict justice. *More is thy due than more than all can pay
—Shak. *Carve to all but just enough, let them neither
starve nor stuff, and that you may have your due, let your
neighbor carve for you—Swift) *Giving each man his due ... impartial as the rain from Heaven's face—Lindsay)

Desert (often in plural deserts) suggests not a legal right
but a moral right based upon what one actually deserves,
whether it be a reward or a penalty. *"My lord, I will use
them according to their desert." *"God's bodykins, man,
man, much better: use every man after his desert, and who
should 'scape whipping?"—Shak. *You have deprived the
best years of his life of that independence which was
no less his due than his desert—Austen) *Any federal
officer, regardless of his deserts, has much prestige—Heiser)

Merit is a somewhat complex term, often shifting
in its major implication but (see also EXCELLENCE)
commonly implying a deserving either of reward or punishment
on the ground of what has been accomplished or of com-
mendation, esteem, or acceptance on the ground of intrin-
sic and usually excellent qualities. *No tribute can be paid
to them which exceeds their merit—John Marshall) *Deal
with every case on its merits) *As a pilgrim to the Holy
Places I acquire merit—Kipling

Compensation, recompensing or recompense, repayment,
satisfaction, payment (see corresponding verbs at
PAY): retribution, retaliation, reprisal, vengeance,
revenge: reward, meed, guerdon (see PREMIUM)

Grating

Dull, humdrum, dreary, monotonous, pedestrian, stodgy
mean so unvaried and uninteresting as to provoke boredom
or tedium. Dull (see also STUPID) implies the lack of all
gives brightness, edge, or point to the person or thing; it
need not imply inferiority, but it does suggest, from the
point of view of one who judges, a want of interesting
character compared with her, other women were ... dull;
even the pretty ones seemed lifeless—Cather) *For
instance, you draw no inference from your facts. It's
dull. Why not round the thing off into a good article?—
Rose Macaulay) *Humdrum implies a commonplace and
routine character; it suggests a lack of variation that per-
sists and colors the life or the people who lead that life
*a plain, humdrum domestic life, with eight hundred a
year, and a small house, full of babies—Trollope) *They
regarded their adversaries as humdrum people, slaves to
routine, enemies to light—Arnold) *Dreary (see also DIS-
MAL) applies to something that from the writer's or
speaker's point of view seems uninteresting and dull; the
word may imply an absence of enlivening character in the
thing itself but more often it reveals an attitude of mind
*I see that many people find the world dreary—and,
indeed, there must be spaces of dreaminess in it for us all
—some find it interesting—Benson) *Monotonous implies
an irksome sameness (as of what never changes in quality,
character, or appearance); it may be widely applied (as to
work, to play, to persons, to scenes, or to noises) *Ines-
tant recurrence without variety breeds tedium; the over-
iterated becomes the monotonous—Lowes) *We may thus
bring a little poetry and romance into the monotonous
lives of our handworkers—Inge) *The sky was as full of
motion and change as the desert beneath it was monoto-
nous and still—Cather) *Pedestrian, which basically
means walking on foot, is applied chiefly to something
written, especially in verse, that lacks any quality (as
originality in thought or freshness in expression or in
imagery) which raises the spirits and that, therefore, is
monotonous and uninspired; the term may connote a dull
prosaic quality and implies the impossibility of lifting the
reader's thoughts, emotions, or imagination *Who wander-
ing with pedestrian muses, content not with you on the
winged steed—Byron) *Crane's verse is of a very pedes-
trian order—Sidney Lee) *Stodgy, which also implies the
lack of a quality which inspires or inspires, is wider in
its application, for it emphasizes the heaviness, the solid-
ity, or the lumpiness of something (as a person, a book,
or an affair) that should be lighter, brighter, or gayer (a

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
dumb 273
durable

stodgy discussion <the reception was a stodgy affair>
<in England, art must be obvious and stodgy before people think it's respectable—Guy Thorne>
Anaxirksome, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, boring: prosy, *prosaic, matter-of-fact
Ant lively —Con gay, animated, sprightly (see LIVELY):
exciting, stimulating (see PROVOKE)
dumb adj 1 Dumb, mute, speechless, inarticulate mean lacking the power to speak. Dumb and mute are often used interchangeably, but when used in distinction from each other, dumb implies an incapacity for speech (as in the case of animals and inanimate objects or of human beings whose organs of speech are defective); mute implies an inability to speak, owing to one's never having heard speech sounds (as in the case of one who is deaf congenitally or has lost his hearing before being old enough to reproduce heard sounds); thus, persons once called deaf and dumb are usually deaf-mutes who have healthy speech organs and can be trained to speak through the senses of sight and touch <dumb stones whereon to vent their rage—Arnold> <a mute child> When used of persons who are normally able to speak, dumb (see also STUPID) usually signifies duped of the power to speak: mute stresses a compelling cause for keeping or maintaining silence <deep shame had struck me dumb—Shak.> (how terrible is that dumb grief which has never learned to moan—Galsworthy) <all sat mute, pondering the danger with deep thoughts—Milton> <some mute inglorious Milton—Gray> Speechless commonly implies momentary deprivation of the power of speech <struck speechless with terror> <Can I remember, across the years, standing there with that paper in my hand; dumb, speechless, and probably tearful—White> Inarticulate implies either lack of the power to speak at all <the inarticulate people of the dead—Shelley> <the inarticulate hunger of the heart—Sherman> or, especially, inability to speak intelligibly or clearly, usually on account of some powerful emotion but sometimes because of lack of power to express one's thoughts or feelings <inarticulate with rage> <stood looking down on her in inarticulate despair—Wharton>
2 dull, *stupid, slow, dense, crass
Anax & Con see those at DULL 1
Ant articulate (sense 2)
dumbfound confound, nonplus, bewilder, distract, mystify, perplex, *puzzle
Anax astound, flabbergast, amazed, astonish, *surprise: *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle: disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit (see EMBARRASS)
dumps dejection, gloom, blues, depression, melancholy, melancholia, *saddness
Anax despondency, forlornness, hopelessness, despair (see under DESPONDENT): doldrums, ennui, boredom, *tedium
dumpy stocky, thickset, thick, chunky, stubby, squat
dunk vb *dip, immerse, souse, submerge, duck
Anax *soak, saturate, sop
dupe vb Dupe, gull, befoul, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle mean to delude a person by underhand means or for one's own ends. Dope suggests unwariness or unsuspicuousness on the part of the person or persons deluded and the acceptance of what is false as true, what is counterfeit as genuine, or what is worthless as valuable <the public is easily duped by extravagant claims in advertising> <he was so soothed he was constantly being duped into helping impostors> <William had had too much sense to be duped—Macaulay> Gull implies great credulousness or a disposition that leads itself to one's being easily imposed upon or made a laughingstock of <if I do not gull him into a mayword, and make him a common recreation, do not think I have wit enough to lie straight in my bed—Shak.>

Anax analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1

<if the world will be gulléd, let it be gulled—Burton> <gull who may, they will be gulléd! They will not look nor think—Browning> Befool stresses the effect on the victim, that of being made a fool of in his own eyes or in those of others; it does not so strongly suggest a temperamental weakness in the victim as the preceding words, nor so clearly imply an intent to delude on the part of the agent, as most of the words that follow <confess themselves befooled by the candidate, his personable appearance, and his promises> <innocent philosophic critics, too easily befooled by words—Ellis> (pictures supplant one another so swiftly as to befool the eye with the illusion of continuity—S. H. Adams> Trick implies the intent to delude on the part of the agent by means of a stratagem or ruse, by wiles, or by fraud; it suggests the deliberate intent to deceive, but it need not imply a base end. It may, for example, imply illusion as the end <a skillful dramatist tricks the spectators into accepting the impossible as probable> <a magician's success depends partly upon his ability to trick his audience> It more often suggests deliberate misleading and the use of cunning or craft <pills are coated with sugar or chocolate in order to trick children into taking them> <he was tricked out of his savings by the promises of large returns on an investment> (the people felt that they had been tricked into approval of the project> <it enables some lawyers to trick us into bringing in the wrong verdict—Reilly> Hoax may imply indulgence in tricking as a sport or for the purpose of proving how gullible a person or persons can be when a skilful imposition or fabrication is presented to them; it more often suggests a fraud intended to deceive even the most skeptical and often, also, to work for one's own profit or personal advantage <after having been hoaxèd for the past 40 years, British scientists have discovered that the jaw and teeth of the world-famous "Pitman man" belong to a modern ape—Farmer's Weekly> <a get-rich-quick scheme intended to hoax the public> <did Mark Twain intend to hoax people by his Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc, published without his name and as the work of one of her contemporaries?> Hoodwink connotes either a deliberate confusing intended to blind the mind of another to the truth, or, less often, self-delusion arising from one's inability to distinguish the false from the true <he will not be hoodwinked by sentimental platitudes into doing things that are against reason> <to hoodwink everybody by pretending to conform—Cabell> <since she'd hoodwinked your uncle, she thought she could pull the wool over my eyes, too—Kenneth Roberts> Bamboozle usually implies the use of such methods as cajolery, humbug, or illusion to dupe or confuse; the word is often used interchangeably with trick, hoax, or hoodwink, but it is less definite or fixed in its implications <bamboozled into a belief that he was a great man> <what Oriental tomfoolery is bamboozling you—Newman>
Anax *deceive, beguile, delude, mislead, double-cross, betray: *cheat, cozen, defraud, overreach: outset, baffle, circumvent (see FRAUDULATE)
duplicate n *reproduction, facsimile, copy, carbon copy, transcript, replica
Anax counterpart, *parallel, analogue
duplicity *deceit, dissimulation, cunning, guile
Anax double-dealing, chicanery, chicane, trickery, *deception, fraud: treacherousness or treachery, perfidiousness or perfidy, faithlessness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)
Con straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corresponding adjectives at STRAIGHTFORWARD)
durable *lasting, perdurable, permanent, stable, perpetual
Anax enduring, abiding, persisting (see CONTINUE)
**dusky** dim., *dark, obscure, murky, gloomy

**duty** 1 *obligation

*Ana* responsibility, accountability, amenability, answerability, liability (see corresponding adjectives at *RESPONSIBLE*)

2 office, *function, province

*Ana* concern, business, *affair

3 *task, assignment, job, stint, chore

*Ana* *work, business, employment, occupation, calling:

*trade, craft, art, profession*

**dwarf** *Dwarf*, *pygmy*, *midget*, *manikin*, *homunculus*, *runt*

are comparable when they mean an individual and usually a person of diminutive size. *Dwarf* is the general term not only for a human being but for any animal or plant that is definitely below the normal size of its kind; often the term suggests stunted development. *This* [the fool’s] value was trebled in the eyes of the king by the fact of his being also a *dwarf* and a *cripple*—*Poe*  

Pygmy originally was applied to one of a race of fabled dwarfs mentioned by Homer and others; now it is used especially of one of a people of small stature found in central Africa. In general application the term carries a stronger connotation of diminutiveness and a weaker suggestion of arrested development than *dwarf*; when used in reference to a person, it often implies relative tininess, sometimes in body but more often in intellect  

<to him all the men I ever knew were *pygmies*. He was an intellectual giant—*Byron>*  

*Midget* stresses abnormal diminutiveness but, unlike *dwarf*, carries little suggestion of malformation or deformity; the term is applied usually to a tiny but otherwise more or less normally shaped person exhibited in a circus or employed in place of a child in theatrical performances  

<*P. T. Barnum’s famous *midget*, Tom Thumb>*  

*Manikin* is often applied not only to a dwarf but to any human being who for one reason or another seems dispensably small or weak  

<can it be fancied that Deity ever vindictively made in his image a *manikin* merely to madden it?>—*Poe*  

*Often* it suggests an animated doll  

<of a bright-eyed little *manikin*, naked like all his people—Forester>*  

*Homunculus* usually suggests even greater diminutiveness and often greater perfection in form than *midget*; it is the specific term for an exceedingly small artificial human being such as was supposedly developed by Paracelsus, a famous Renaissance alchemist.  

*Runt*, usually a contemptuous designation, applies to a dwarf or undersized person, especially to one who is conspicuously puny or undeveloped  

<always I always did admire a good, sizable, stout man. I hate a *runt*—McClure’s *Mag.*)  

*The term is also applied to an animal, especially a domestic animal, small of its kind; and it is used specifically of the undersized one of a litter (as of pigs).*

**dwindle** *dwell* reside, live, lodge, sojourn, stay, put up, stop  

*dwelling* abode, residence, domicile, home, house, *habitation*

**dwindle** diminish, lessen, *decrease, reduce, abate*  

*Ana* wane, ebb, *abate, subside: attenuate, extenuate, *thin: *moderate: disappear (see affirmative verb at *APPEAR 1*)

**dynamic** *live, active, operative*  

*Ana* potent, forceful, forcible, *powerful: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent; vitalizing, energizing, activating (see *VITALIZE*)

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**eager, avid, keen, anxious, agog, athirst** mean actuated by a strong and urgent desire or interest. *Eager* implies ardor and, often, enthusiasm; it frequently also connotes impatience (*it is not a life for fiery and dominant natures, eager to conquer—Benson*)  

*Avid* adds to the implication of greed or of unbounded desire (*a too avid thirst for pleasure—*E*)  

*Cultivated, excited, *avid* of new things—Buchan*  

<he was convivial, bawdy, robustly avid for pleasure—F. S. Fitzgerald>*  

*Keen* suggests intensity of interest and quick responsiveness in action (*boys in white flannels—all *keen* as mustard, and each occupied with his own game, and playing it to the best of his powers—Quiller-Couch)*  

*Tories who are as *keen* on State interference with everything and everybody as the Socialists—*Shaw>*  

*Anxious* emphasizes fear lest one’s desires be frustrated or one’s hopes not realized; it often additionally connotes insistence or perseverance in making one’s desires known (*visibly anxious that his wife should be on easy terms with us all*—Reppieri)*  

*Schoolmasters may be pathetically anxious to guide boys right, and to guard them from evil—Benson>*  

*Agog* suggests being caught up in the excitement and bustle attending something interesting about to be begun or an event eagerly awaited (*six precious souls, and all *agog* to dash through thick and thin—*
Cower} {the abrupt announcement . . . left everybody . . . oog—Cref} Athirst implies yearning or longing more vividly than the others; it seldom connotes readiness for action {I that forever feel athirst for glory—Keats} {one or two great souls athirst for pure aesthetic rapture—Clive Bell}

**Ana** desiring, coveting, craving (see DESIRE vb): longing, yearning, hungering, thirsting (see LONG vb): *impatient, restless, restive

**Ant** listless—**Con** *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof, uninterested: apathetic, *impassive, stolid

**early** adv Early, soon, beforehand, betimes share the meaning of at or nearly at a given point of time or around the beginning of a specified or implied period of time. Early is used chiefly in reference to a period of time (as a day, a lifetime, an age, or a term) and in dating a happening with reference to the beginning of that period. In such use it implies occurrence shortly after the time at which the period is set to begin or is regarded as beginning {crocuses blossomed early this spring} {migrations took place early in the Middle Ages} {early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise—Franklin} {Voltairre perceived very early in life that to be needy was to be dependent—John Morley} Sometimes, especially when the reference is to a point of time, early may mean in advance of the time set or expected or of the usual time; thus, a person who arrives early at a meeting and leaves early comes slightly before (sometimes just at) the time set or noticeably ahead of the others and leaves before the gathering breaks up; winter came early (that is, ahead of the expected or normal time) this year. Soon usually refers to a definite point of time (as the present or the beginning of a period, a process, or a course), but it commonly implies occurrence after the moment in mind; thus, when a physician tells a patient to come early, he by implication asks that patient to come in advance of that time set for the beginning of his office hours so that the patient may be attended to soon, or shortly after the office hours begin: on the other hand, when he asks a patient to come soon, he by implication requests another visit shortly after the present one. But soon carries not only the implication of occurrence to a specified or implied point of time but also, even more strongly, that of quickness or promptness or lack of delay {I called, and he soon appeared} {the absconder was apprehended soon after his disappearance} {I hope you will find your ring very soon} {soon, however, is sometimes used in place of early, though with greater emphasis on promptness, in poetry, in some idiomatic expressions, and in the comparative and superlative degrees {late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers—Wordsworth} {must you go so soon?} {excuse my not writing sooner} {the spirit . . . may know how soonest to accomplish the great end—Shelley} {Beforehand sometimes implies a time in advance of that set or expected or customary} {he promised to be here beforehand}

More often it refers to a time in advance of a possible, certain occurrence, and it then usually implies anticipation or anticipatory measures {if one knows a thing beforehand one can be prepared} {try to be beforehand in dealing with an enemy} {had . . . taken unusual pains to inform himself beforehand concerning the subject may perhaps} {betimes, he was able to give perfect satisfaction afterwards} {if we had taken steps betimes to create an air force half as strong again . . . we should have kept control of the future—Sir Winston Churchill}

**Ant** late

**ear**n *deserve, merit, rate

**Ana** gain, win (see GET)

**earnest** adj *serious, solemn, grave, sober, sedate, staid

**Ana** zealous, enthusiastic, passionate (see corresponding nouns at PASSION): diligent, *busy, industrious, assiduous, sedulous: *sincere, wholehearted, whole-souled

**Ant** frivolous—**Con** volatile, effervescent, buoyant, *elastic: flippant, flighty, light (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

**earnest** n token, *pledge, pawn, hostage

**earsplitting** *loud, stentorian, hoarse, raucous, strident, stertorous

**earth** n Earth, world, universe, cosmos, macrocosm are comparable when they mean the entire area or extent of space in which man thinks of himself and of his fellow men as living and acting. Earth applies, however, only to part of what he knows by sight or by faith to exist; the term usually suggests a distinction between the sphere or globe called astronomically the earth, which he knows to be composed of land and water, and the bodies which he sees in the heavens {this goodly frame, the earth—Shak} {land is part of Earth's surface which stands at a given time above sea level—Lord} It may imply a distinction from heaven and hell {Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven—Mt 6:10} {the infinite loftiness of Mary's nature, among the things of earth, and above the clamon of kings—Henry Adams} *World* is a far less definite term than earth. When applied to a physical entity, it may denote all that allimitable area which to man's senses, at least, includes not only the earth and other planets but all the space surrounding the earth and all the bodies contained within it {it is not accident that wherever we point the telescope . . . wherever we look with the microscope there we find beauty. It beats in through every nook and cranny of the mighty world—R. M. Jones} To persons who accept the account of creation in Genesis the term denotes the entire system that was brought into being by the word of God {God made the world} {expect the destruction of the world} The term, nevertheless, is usually used as equivalent to earth, the globe {a trip around the world} {he wanted to visit every corner of the world} As applied to an immaterial entity, world may imply the sum total of all the inhabitants of earth and of their interests and concerns {all the world loves a lover} {the world was one in desiring peace} {the doctrine of imperialism which condemns the world to endless war—Willkie} or that section or part of this larger world which comes within the knowledge of the individual {man's relation to the world about him} {his family and his business comprised his world} {among the friends of his three worlds, the intellectuals, the Concord family circle, and the farmers, he was always a little on edge with the first—Canby} or the section or part of the larger world which is devoted to secular, as distinct from religious or spiritual, concerns {retire from the world} {the world, the flesh, and the devil}{the world too much with us—Wordsworth} {I too love the earth and hate the world. God made the first, and man . . . has made the second—Santayana} University, in its most precise sense, denotes the entire system of created things or of physical phenomena, regarded as a unit both in its organization and in its operation {ancient and medieval astronomers regarded the earth as the fixed center of the universe} {the astronomers of today teach that the uni-
verse is finite but that it is constantly expanding) (what was true for the development of man, the microcosm, must have been true for the genesis of the universe as a whole, the macrocosm—S. F. Mason) Universe, however, is also used in reference to an entire system of phenomenal things as that system appears to the limited vision of the typical man or of the individual (from the universe as we see it both the Glory of God and the Glory of Man have departed—Kruitch) (he inhabited a different universe from that of common men—Huxley) Cosmos, because of its opposition to chaos, carries a stronger implication of order and harmony in operation than universe, which it otherwise closely resembles in meaning (were it not for the indwelling reason the world would be a chaos and not a cosmos—Blackie) Macrocosm applies to the universe thought of as a great whole characterized by perfect organic unity exhibited elsewhere only in the small whole, the individual man or microcosm (the microcosm repeats the macrocosm—T. H. Huxley) (should these ephemera [flying disks] exist in the macrocosm, it is likely . . . that they would be known to . . . observers of the atmosphere—Mauer)

**earthly, terrestrial, earthly, mundane, worldly, sublunary** are comparable when they mean of, belonging to, or characteristic of the earth. Earthly is used chiefly in opposition to heavenly (earthly love) (the earthly paradise) (if I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?—Jn 3:12) (a peace above all earthly dignities, a still and quiet conscience—Shak) (there could be a new order, based on vital harmony, and the earthly millennium might approach—Forster) Terrestrial is sometimes used in place of earthly as a more sonorous term; frequently, however, it implies an opposition to celestial rather than to heavenly (see celestial) (a terrestrial globe) (a terrestrial telescope) or it may imply a distinction of earth from the other planets (terrestrial magnetism) (whose vision is cosmic, not terrestrial—Lowes) (carbon dioxide is, of course, of great importance in long-wave terrestrial radiation, but plays a minor role in solar radiation absorption—Compendium of Meteorology) or more specifically in astronomy, a distinction of certain planets assumed to be like the earth from others assumed to be unlike the earth (the terrestrial planets are Earth, Mars, Venus, and Mercury) (there are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another—1 Cor 15:40) (when from under this terrestrial ball he fires the proud tops of the eastern pines—Shak) Terrestrial in some use suggests land as a habitat, rather than water or trees (terrestrial reptiles) (terrestrial plants) (they will still obey natural laws and, if manned, they will still be manned by normal, terrestrial airmen—Time) Earthy, in the historical development of its senses, has stressed a connection with the earth as soil rather than with the earth as the abode of men (an earthly smell) (even when it comes close to earthly in its meaning, it carries a stronger implication of grossness of substance or of material interests than earthly and is opposed more to spiritual than to heavenly (the first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven—1 Cor 15:47) (my anger and disgust at his gross earthly egoism had vanished—Hudson) (with much earthly dross in her, she was yet preeminently a creature of “fire and air”—Buchan) Mundane and worldly both imply a relationship to the world thought of as the affairs, concerns, and activities of human beings especially as they are concentrated on practical ends or on immediate pleasures. Mundane specifically suggests an opposition to what is eternal and stresses transitoriness or impermanence (mundane glory) (there I quaff the elixir and sweet essence of mundane triumph—L. P. Smith) (Tony knew that she did not allow them to talk of mundane affairs on these expeditions to and from church—Archibald Marshall) (the occupations and distractions of mundane life—Harold Nicolson) Worldly, which is applied chiefly to persons and their interests, specifically implies indifference to things of the spirit and concentration on whatever satisfies one’s love of success, one’s desire for pleasure, or one’s self-esteem (the obvious thing to say of her was that she was worldly: cared too much for rank and society and getting on in the world—Woolf) (the most worldly of the eighteenth-century ecclesiastics—Bello) Sublunary is a distinctly literary or poetic term variously interchangeable with earthly, mundane, and terrestrial (all things sublunary are subject to change—Dryden) (what then would matter the quakes and sublunary conflicts of this negligible earth?—L. P. Smith)

**Ana** temporal, *profane, secular: material, physical, corporeal

Con *celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal: spiritual, divine (see HOLY)

**earthly** mundane, worldly, earthly, terrestrial, sublunary

**Ana** *material, physical, corporeal: fleshly, *carnal, sensual: gross, *coarse

ease n 1 comfort, relaxation, *rest, repose, leisure

**Ana** inactivity, idleness, inertness, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at INACTIVE); tranquillity, serenity, placidity, calmness, peacefulness (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

**Con** toil, travail, *work, labor: *distress, suffering, misery

2 facility, dexterity, *readiness

**Ana** effortlessness, smoothness, easiness (see corresponding adjectives at EASY): grace (see ELEGANCE): expertness, adeptness, skillfulness, proficiency (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT): definiteness, adroitness (see corresponding adjectives at DEXTEROUS)

**Ant** effort —Con exertion, pains, trouble (see EFFORT): awkwardness, clumsiness, ineptness, maladroitness (see corresponding adjectives at AWKWARD)

**easy adj 1** *comfortable, restful, cozy, snug

**Ana** *soft, lenient, gentle: commodious, *spacious: *calm, tranquil, serene, placid: unconstrained, spontaneous (see corresponding nouns at UNCONSTRAINT)

**Ant** disquieting or disquieted —Con disturbed, perturbed, agitated, upset, discomposed (see DISCOMPOSE): anxious, worried, concerned (see under CARE n)

2 Easy, facile, simple, light, effortless, smooth are comparable when meaning not involving undue effort or difficulty (as in doing, making, giving, or understanding). Easy is applicable both to persons and things that make demands for physical or mental effort or that impose a task upon a person and to the acts or activities involved in satisfying such demands or in accomplishing such a task (the book was easy to read) (I would like some more easy readings) (our teacher was easy today: her assignment for tomorrow is short and easy) (can easy riddle) (the place is easy to reach) (the place is within easy reach of the city) (it will not be easy for him to understand your breaking of your promise) (take my yoke upon you, and learn of me . . . for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light—Mt 11:29-30) (I have been a dreamer and an artist, a great dreamer, for that is easy, not a great artist, for that is hard—Ellis) (it was easy to sit on a camel's back without falling off, but very difficult to . . . get the best out of her—T. E. Lawrence) Facile was once and to some extent is still used as a very close synonym of easy (having won . . . his facile victory—Froude) (the facile modes of measurement which we now employ—Tyn dall) But it now
chiefly applies to something which comes, or moves, or works, or gains its ends seemingly without effort or at call; it therefore is often used in derogation implying lack of constraint or restraint, undue haste, dexterity rather than meticulousness, or fluency with shallowness (a writer's facile pen) (a woman's facile tears) (I am not concerned with... offering any facile solution for so complex a problem—T. S. Eliot) (she was a prey to shoddy, facile emotions and moods, none of which had power to impel her to any action—Rose Macaulay) (Chrétien was a facile narrator, with little sense of the significance that might be given to the stories—H. O. Taylor) (Simple stresses ease in apprehending or understanding; it implies freedom from complication, intricacy, elaboration, or other involvements which render a thing difficult to see through (problems in arithmetic too simple to hold the interest of pupils of that age) (true poetry, however simple it may appear on the surface, accumulates meaning every time it is read—Day Lewis) (the English mother or the English nurse has a simpler job. She must teach her charge to start as few fights as possible and that there are rules—Mead) (Light implies an opposition to heavy in nearly all of its senses, but in the one here considered it suggests freedom from burdensomeness or from exacting demands on one (a light task) (his work is very light) (one generation's light reading often becomes another's heavy text—J. D. Hart) (light punishment) Effortless, though it carries many of the connotations characteristic of facile, suggests more the appearance of ease than actual absence of effort; often it implies mastery, skill, or artistry, and the attainment of such perfection that the movements or techniques seem to involve no strain (the effortless dancing of a Pavlova) (that effortless grace with which only a true poet can endow his work—M. O. Smith) (a natural, effortless style) (the swallows... glided in an effortless way through the busy air—Jeffries) Smooth suggests an absence of, or the removal of, all difficulties or obstacles that makes a course or a career easy to follow or to pursue (the car sped along over the smooth road) (floated over the expanse within, which was smooth as a young girl's brow—Melville) (making the lives of the needy a little more smooth—Shields) (Ant hard—Con difficult, arduous (see HARD): exacting, onerous, burdensome, oppressive eat, swallow, ingest, devour, consume mean to take food into the stomach through the mouth and throat. Eat, the common and ordinary term, implies the process of chewing as well as of taking into the stomach and therefore distinguishes itself from swallow, which implies merely the passing from the mouth through the throat to the stomach. Eat is often used, however, without any clear reference to chewing or swallowing (cattle do not eat meat) (the worms have eaten into the timber) and, especially in extended use, without implying anything but a slow, gradual process that is comparable to the biting or gnawing that precedes eating in that it wastes or wears away the substance (the waves have eaten a channel through the rocks) (a knife eaten by rust) (the acid eats into the metal) In many idiomatic expressions the literal phrasing recalls the implications of the original meaning but nothing more (eat one's heart out (grieve in silence) (eat one's words (take back what one has said)) Swallow basically implies the second part of the eating process (he has difficulty in swallowing) (the tablets are to be swallowed without chewing) More often it is used of hurried eating without proper mastication of food (he swallowed his breakfast and rushed for the train) In extended use it implies a seizing and taking in or a being seized and taken in (as by engulfment, engrossment, or suppression) (the ship was swallowed up by the sea) (swallow one's resentment) Ingest is a physiological term that implies a taking in through the mouth and throat into the stomach and is commonly opposed to egest (does a man dine well because he ingests the requisite number of calories?—Lippmann) Devour throws the emphasis on greediness; it suggests intense hunger or gluttony in man and voracity in a wild animal (the tramp rapidly devoured the food that was set before him) (they saw the tiger rushing on them as if it would devour them) In extended use devour implies to something (as fire or disease) which destroys or wastes completely (the flames devoured the houses one by one) (he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him—Ezek 7:15) or to something which preys upon one as insistently as a beast or bird of prey (devoured by fear) Sometimes, however, it approaches swallow in its reference to something which engrosses the mind, but it heightens the implications of avidity and zest in taking in (devoured all the books on aviation that he could get) (devoured the scene before him) Consume (see also WASTE, MONOPOLIZE) usually means little more than eat and drink, for which it serves as a term including both or either (whoever came late had to start with the course which the captain was then... consuming—Heiser) (after taking a piece of asparagus in her hand, she was deeply mortified at seeing her hostess consume the vegetable with the aid of a knife and fork—Shaw) Very often, however, it adds to eat the implications of using up (my stock of provisions had been so long consumed that I had forgotten the flavor of pulse and maize and pumpkins and purple and sweet potatoes—Hudson)
**eclipses** obscure, dim, bedim, darken, cloud, becloud, *ecstasy* 
n
Ecstasy, rapture, transport denote a feeling or a

economy *system, scheme, network, complex, organism

echo *deviation, aberration, divergence: peculiarity, oddity, queerness, singularity (see corresponding adjectives at STRANGE): freak, conceit, vagary, crotchety, *ca-price, fancy, whim, whimsy

echelon *line, row, rank, file, tier

eclat renown, glory, celebrity, notoriety, repute, reputation, *fame, honor

**Ana** prominence, conspicuousness, remarkableness, noticeableness (see corresponding adjectives at NOTICEABLE); illustriousness or luster, eminence (see corresponding adjectives at FAMOUS)

eclipse vb *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, cloud, becloud,* economy *frugal, thrifty, *sparing

**Ana** prudent, provident (see under PRUDENCE): close, cheeseparing, parsimonious, penurious (see STINGY)

**Ant** extravagant — **Con** lavish, prodigal, exuberant, *profuse

economy *system, scheme, network, complex, organism

**Ana** organization, institution, establishment, foundation (see corresponding verbs at FOUND)

**ecstasy** n Ecstasy, rapture, transport denote a feeling or a state of intense, sometimes excessive or extreme, mental and emotional exaltation. Ecstasy in its earlier sense, which is now found chiefly in religious and poetical writings, implies a trancelike state in which consciousness of one’s surroundings is lost and the mind is intent either on what it contemplates (as does the mystic) or on what it conceives and creates (as does the inspired poet or artist) (like a mad prophet in an ecstasy — Dryden) *anthsoms clear, as may with sweetness, through mine ear, dissolve me into ecstasies, and bring all Heaven before mine eyes — Milton* (to later and now general use the term implies overmastering, entrancing joy, or other emotion that exalts the mind and overcomes the senses (men in whom the manual exercise of combat seems to light a wonderful fire in the blood. To them battle brings ecstasy. They are ravished above pain and fear — Montague) *she loved him with an acute, painful ecstasy that made her dizzy and blinded her to all the world besides — Rose Macaulay* (their faces were fixed in a calm ecstasy of malevolence — Wylte) *Rapture* in its early religious use and still occasionally in theology, mysticism, and poetry differs from ecstasy in implying a lifting of the mind or soul out of itself by divine power, so that it may see things beyond the reach of human vision; the experiences narrated by the Apostle Paul of being caught up to the third heaven are in this sense raptures. In its chief current sense rapture merely implies intense bliss or beatitude with or without the connotation of accompanying ecstasy or loss of perception of everything else (I drank it in, in a speechless rapture — Mark Twain) (as a child I first read Pope’s Homer with a rapture which no subsequent work could ever afford — Byron) (she burned again with the same ecstasy, the same exaltation. How fine it had been, to live in that state of rapture! — Sackville-West) (continual ups and downs of rapture and depression — Warton) *Transport* applies to any violent or powerful emotion that lifts one out of oneself and, usually, provokes enthusiastic or vehement expression (I mean to . . . support with an even temper, and without any violent transports . . . a sudden gust of prosperity — Fielding) (transports of rage — Austen) *what a transport of enthusiasm! — Landor* (in art, as in poetry, there are the transports which lift the artist out of . . . himself — Pater) (a periodical that is weekly moved to transports of delight about contemporary America — Bliven b. 1889)

**Ana** bliss, beatitude, blessedness, felicity, *happiness* joy, delectation, delight, *pleasure: *inspiration, fury, frenzy, afflatus

ecuminal *universal, cosmic, catholic, cosmopolitan

**Ant** provincial: diocesan

eddy n Eddy, whirlpool, maelstrom, vortex mean a swirling mass especially of water. Eddy implies swift circular movement (as in water, wind, dust, or mist) caused by a countercurrent or, more often, by something that obstructs; it is usually thought of less as dangerous than as annoying or confusing (it is blunt tails [of ships] rather than blunt noses that cause eddies — W. H. White) (a thick brown fog, whirled into eddies by the wind . . .) *abolished the landscape from before our smarting eyes — Huxley* Whirlpool suggests a more extensive and more violent eddy in water; usually it implies a force of swirling water (as at a meeting of countercurrents) so great as to send whatever enters whirling toward a center where it is sucked down (pass safely through the whirlpool of the Niagara River in a barrel) but it may also be extended to other things that draw or suck one in like a swirl of raging water (live in a whirlpool of excitement) (Europeans . . . have assumed . . . that public life will draw . . . enough of the highest ability into its whirlpool — Bryce) *Maelstrom* is basically the name of a very powerful whirlpool off the west coast of Norway which was supposed to suck in all vessels that passed within a wide radius; the term is extended to any great turmoil that resistlessly drags men into it (in one wild maelstrom of afflicted men — J. S. C. Abbott) (in the maelstrom of wild controversy (the ancient taboos were gone, lost in the maelstrom of war — Coulton Waugh) Vortex usually suggests a mass of liquid (as water) or gas (as air) rapidly circulating around a hollow center; it is visualized principally as something which draws all that become involved in the swirling into its center (the cleansing power of the vortex of water in a washing machine) (the noise of the vortex of soapy water draining from the bathtub) (conventions are shifting, and undergoing metamorphosis . . .) but it is hard to estimate justly the significance of their contemporary behavior, because we are caught in the vortex — Lowes) (it is Koestler and Silone, who went deepest into the vortex of revolutionary activity, who emerge with the profoundest insights — Time) (drawn back into the emotional vortex of a youthful love affair — Geismar)

eddy vb rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, whirl, revolve, *turn, twirl, wheel, swirl, pirouette

edge n 1 verge, rim, brink, margin, *border, brim Ana *limit, end, bound, confine: *circumference, periphery, compass 2 odds, *advantage, handicap, allowance

edifice n structure, pile, *building

**edit** vb *Edit, compile, revise, redact, rewrite, adapt*, though not strict synonyms, are sometimes confused when used of the preparation of material for publication. **Edit** covers a wide range of meaning, sometimes stressing one implication, sometimes another. It fundamentally implies preparation for publication of a work, often the work of another or of others; thus, to **edit** a text (as a play of Shakespeare) usually means to present the text as nearly as possible in the form intended by the author, but it often suggests the modernization of spelling, the giving of variant readings, or the addition of comments or glosses; to **edit** a newspaper or magazine means, in general, to become responsible for the contents and policy of the periodical as a whole, sometimes by doing all or most of the work involved but far oftener by supervising the work of a staff, by exercising surveillance of all
outside writers or of the articles they write, and sometimes by writing editorials or leaders; to edit a work of reference (as a dictionary or encyclopedia) means to plan and execute a new work or one of its later editions, or, more often, to supervise the work of subordinates charged with the execution of those plans. Because the details of editing vary according to the nature of the work edited, the verb is often used narrowly with a stress on one of these implications; thus, to edit often currently implies the cutting out of material for the sake of improvement or to meet limitations of space but often for other reasons that concern the person or the institution involved (edit a classic for high school use). Compile in reference to literary material stresses a gathering together of material, whether written by oneself or obtained from varied sources, to form a collection, an anthology, or a work of reference; often, in addition, it implies the performance of the tasks of an editor, for it suggests need of skill in arrangement, in interpretation, and in dealing with textual problems (Palgrave compiled in the first volume of the Golden Treasury one of the best anthologies of English poetry). "the French Academy . . . took forty years to compile their Dictionary—William Adams) Revise (see also correct) implies a review of an earlier draft or edition to see where it can be improved and the actual work of improving (twenty years after Dr. Smith's death his standard work on this subject was revised and brought up-to-date by Dr. Jones) (the society finally decided to revise its bylaws). Redact is used mostly by literary and historical scholars, especially in its derivative forms redaction and redactor, to imply the presentation of something in form for use or for publication. It may imply careful framing of or giving expression to some material (of his earlier work . . . was ultimately confided to Diderot—Jeffreys) or even, especially in the form redactor, the giving of a new form to an old work (as by revision, rearrangement, or addition) (the visit of Julius Caesar to Egypt in the Pharsalia is seized upon by its [medieval] redactor to introduce . . . the liaison between Caesar and Cleopatra—Loves) (whatever delicacy and poignancy the tale has in Ovid's version eludes the Elizabethan redactor—PMLA) Rewrite implies a putting into a form suitable for publication of a set of facts or of material gathered by another (as a reporter). The verb often occurs in this sense but is not so common as the noun rewrite designating such an article (made a complete rewrite of his earlier draft) (it is this journalist's function to rewrite stories sent in by local representatives in nearby towns) (an old song which Burns has simply rewritten—Kilby) (the reporter at the scene of the catastrophe telephoned his story to a rewrite man in his editorial office) Adapt (for fuller treatment see adapt) implies a free alteration of the work of someone else to make it suitable for other readers or for another medium (the play was adapted from a French farce) (the book was adapted with success for the stage—J. D. Hart) (the tunes he adapted freely from French vaudeville—Edward Sackville-West & Desmond Shawe-Taylor) Ana *make, fabricate, fashion, form edition, impression, reprinting, printing, reissue are capable of being distinguished when used to designate the total number of copies of the same work printed during a stretch of time. Edition, as now used by publishers and to some extent by printers, applies to all the books and also to all the newspapers printed from the same type or plates made from it. Terms such as special edition, limited edition, and anniversary edition are sometimes used to indicate the particular form or format in which a fixed text is presented; but in United States copyright law a different edition must incorporate some material addition to or revision of the original material. Hence, when the first edition gives way to the second edition, the second edition to the third edition, and so on, a definite change in content is implied. The work may have been revised in whole or in part, whether by bringing it up-to-date or by varying it (this is especially true of newspapers) to suit a particular clientele, but in all cases there must have been changes involving an entire or partial resetting of type before a work can be said to go into a new edition (the 14th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica) (you will find it in the city edition of the New York Times for January 17th) Impression applies to all of the books (also prints or engravings) run off by the press at one time. The standing type or plates are then stored until a later impression (often called a reprinting) is needed. It is now the general practice among publishers to speak of the aggregate number of copies of a new book run off from the press in a large number and at one time (or, in technical language, printed in a continuous run from a single make-ready) as an impression rather than an edition, thereby respecting the latter word's implication of substantial changes in content (a work which went through several impressions) Printing is often used as practically equivalent to impression or reprinting but it is sometimes preferred as implying some minor corrections (the book is already in its tenth printing) Reissue is used to denote a republication, usually after some time, of a work which is out of print. The reissue may differ in price from the original edition or impression owing to changes in paper or in binding, and it may differ in further ways requiring a resetting of type in whole or in part. Educate train, discipline, school, *teach, instruct educe, evoke, elicit, extract, extort mean to bring or draw out what is hidden, latent, or reserved. Educate usually implies the development and outward manifestation of something potential or latent (get, with the help of mind and soul of a genuine poet . . . could not fully educe and enjoy them—Arnold) (seem to be able to educe from common sense a more or less clear reply to the questions raised—Sidwich) Evoke basically suggests the voice or the words of a magician compelling spirits to leave the other world or the dead to arise from their graves (evoke a demon) (evoked the ghost of his father) In current use the term ordinarily implies the operation of a powerful agency that produces an effect instantly or that serves as a stimulus in arousing an emotion, a passion, or an interest (the delight which growing flowers evoke—Binyon) (it is useless to obtrude moral ideas [upon children] at an age at which they can evoke no response—Russell) (all harmonies . . . are latent in the complex mechanism of an organ, but a master's hand is necessary to evoke them—Loves) Elicit usually implies pains, trouble, or skill in drawing something forth or out; it often implies resistance either in the person or thing that is the object of effort (elicit important information from a witness by cross-examination) (it is the trouble we take over our children that elicits the stronger forms of parental affection—Russell) Extract implies the action of a force (as pressure or suction) (extract the juice of an orange) (extract a tooth) (to extract all the dramatic value possible from the situation—T. S. Eliot) (he had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements—Dickens) (to make the comparison at all was . . . to return to it

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
often, to brood upon it, to extract from it the last dregs of its interest—Henry James> Extort implies a wringing especially from one who is reluctant or resisting <extort> money from one's relatives <extort> a promise <the she did at last extort from her father an acknowledgment that the horses were engaged—Austen> whose income is ample enough to extort obsequiously from the vulgar of all ranks—Bennett> 

Ana draw, drag (see pull): produce, *bear, yield, turn out: *summon, call
eerie *weird, uncanny Ana *fantastic, bizarre, grotesque: *mysterious, in- scrutinable, arcane: *fearful, awful, dreadful, horrific: *strange, odd, queer, curious, peculiar
efface obliterate, *erase, expunge, blot out, delete, cancel

Effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftermath, sequel, issue, outcome, event are comparable in signifying something, usually a condition, situation, or occurrence, ascribable to a cause or combination of causes. Effect is the correlative of the word cause and in general use implies something (as a bodily or social condition or a state of mind) necessarily and directly following upon or occurring by reason of a cause <the effect of the medicine was an intermittent dizziness> <tanning is the effect of exposure to sunlight> <low mortality, the effect of excellent social services available in every village—Petersen> Result, close to effect in meaning, implies a direct relationship with an antecedent action or condition, usually suggests an effect that terminates the operation of a cause, and applies more commonly than effect to tangible objects <his limp was the result of an automobile accident> <the subsiding flood or surface waters cause mineral deposits and the result is a mound—Duncan-Kemp> Consequence may suggest a direct but looser or more remote connection with a cause than either effect or result, sometimes implying an adverse or calamitous effect and often suggesting a chain of intermediate causes or a complexity of effect <one of the consequences of his ill-advised conduct was a loss of prestige> <this refined taste is the consequence of education and habit—Reynolds> Upshot often implies a climax or conclusion in a series of consequent occurrences or the most conclusive point of a single complex gradual consequence <we spent the time swimming at Glenelg and dancing at the Palais Royal in the city. The upshot was that, before we left ... we were engaged—Ingamells> they won the battle, and the upshot was a short-lived bourgeois republic—Lewis & Maude> <the upshot of the whole matter was that there was no wedding—Colm> Aftereffect and aftermath both usually designate secondary rather than direct or immediate effects. Aftereffect beside designating a secondary effect sometimes suggests a side effect but more generally implies an effect ascribable to a previous effect that has become a cause <the aftereffects of an atomic-bomb explosion—Current Biog.> <although the pioneer effort had reached a dead end, its aftereffects were all too apparent—Kohler> <the left of the highway the blackened appearance is the aftereffect of a fire that has recently swept across the flat—G. R. Stewart> 

Aftermath often suggests a more complex effect or generalized condition than aftereffect and usually carries the notion of belated consequences that appear after the effects, especially disastrous effects, seem to have passed <the serious dislocations in the world as an aftermath of war—U. S. Code> <the aftermath of the epidemic in Memphis was worse than the dismal days of Reconstruction—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.> Sequel usually signifies a result that follows after an interval <spinal curvature ... may be a symptom or a sequel to many different diseases—Fishein> <she lay rigid experiencing the sequel to the pain, an ideal terror—Stafford> Issue adds to result the implication of exit or escape (as from difficulties); it therefore usually designates a result that is a solution or a resolution <a contest in which the issue is still the greatest and gravest of all, life or death—A. C. Ward> <the war was by then obviously proceeding towards a successful issue—F. M. Ford> Outcome, though often interchangeable with result or issue, may put less stress on the notion of finality than does issue <the outcome of the presidential election> <the enduring organisms are now the outcome of evolution—Whitehead> <one outcome of this report was the formation of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare—Current Biog.> Event, which is both uncommon and somewhat archaic in this relation, usually carries the notion of an unpredictable or unforeseeable outcome and comes very close to the related eventuality in its implication of a possible or contingent effect or result <the happiness of Rome appeared to hang on the event of a race—Gibbon> the employed himself at Edinburgh till the event of the conflict between the court and the Whigs was no longer doubtful—Mackay> <the calm assumption that I should live long enough to carry out my extensive plan at leisure ... has in the event been justified—Ellis> 

Ant cause —Con determinant, antecedent, reason, occasion (see cause): basis, ground, *base, foundation, groundwork

2 in plural form effects *possessions, belongings, means, resources, assets

effect vb I accomplish, achieve, *perform, execute, discharge, fulfill Ana *reach, attain, achieve, compass, gain: finish, complete, conclude, end, terminate, *close: implement, *enforce: *realize, actualize 2 *affect
effective, effectual, efficient, efficacious all mean producing or capable of producing a result or results, but they are not freely interchangeable in idiomatic use. Effective emphasizes the actual production of an effect or the power to produce a given effect (effective speaker) (an effective rebuke) (the law becomes effective on the 1st of next month) (research chemists are actively investigating to learn why particular materials are effective and to make them more so—Morrison) (persons who will do nothing unless they get something out of it for themselves are often highly effective persons of action—Shaw) Effectual suggests the accomplishment of a desired result or the fulfillment of a purpose or intention, so that the term frequently becomes synonymous with decisive or final and looks backward after the event (an effectual measure) (an effectual refutation) (his recommendation was effectual, and I was ... chosen—Gibbon) (an appeal to the emotions is little likely to be effective before lunch—Maugham) Efficient may apply to what is actively operative and producing a result and then comes close to operant in meaning (<it should be obvious that it is the conditions producing the end effects which must be regarded as the efficient causes of them—Ashley Montagu>) More often it suggests an acting or a capacity or potential for action or use in such a manner as to minimize the loss or waste of energy in effecting, producing, or functioning (an efficient apparatus) (a setup designed for the efficient production of small parts) (a strong tendency to break up cumbersome estates into small, efficient farms—Nevins)
& Commager) As used of human beings with this denotation, *efficacious* suggests the exercise of such qualities as skill, pains, and vigilance and often becomes synonymous with *capable* and *competent* (<em>an efficient housewife takes care of her equipment</em>) (<strong>because pasturage is the best and cheapest feed for dairy cows, the efficient dairyman takes the best possible care of his pastures—R. E. Hodgson & W. J. Sweetman</strong>) *(an small seedy village grocer is more efficient for the limited task he must perform than a supermarket—Wiles)* *(Efficacious implies the possession of the quality or virtue that gives a thing the potency or power that makes it effective* *(quinine is efficacious in cases of malaria)* *(good wishes being so cheap, though possibly not very efficacious—Hawthorne)* *(certain formulae of blessing especially efficacious against devils—Wylie)* *(Ana)* *(forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful: producing or productive, bearing, turning out (see corresponding verbs at BEAR): telling, cogent, convincing, compelling (see VALID): operative, *active, dynamic)* *(Ant)* *(ineffectual: futile —<em>Con</em> vain, fruitless, bootless, abortive (see *futile*): nugatory, idle, otiose, *vain, empty, hollow)* *(effectual* *(effective, efficacious, efficient)* *(<em>effecting, accomplishing, achieving, fulfilling (see PERFORM): operative, dynamic, *active: decisive, determinative, *conclusive)* *(Ant)* *(ineffectual: fruitless —<em>Con</em>* *( futile, vain, bootless, abortive)* *(<em>effeminate</em>* *(adj* *(womanish, womanlike, womanly, feminine, *female, ladylike)* *(Ana)* *(emasculated, enervated, unmanned (see UNNERVE): epicene (BISEXUAL): *soft, mild, gentle, lenient, bland: pampered, indulged, humored, mollycoddled (see INDULGE)* *(Ant)* *(virile —<em>Con</em> mannish (see MALE)* *(effervescent* *(volatile, buoyant, expansive, resilient, *elastic)* *(Ana)* *(lively, vivacious, sprightly, gay, animated; hilarious, jolly, gleeful, mirthful (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH)* *(Ant)* *(subdued)* *(efficacious* *(effectual, *effective, efficient)* *(<em>potent, *powerful: producing or productive, bearing, turning out (see corresponding verbs at BEAR): telling, cogent, convincing, compelling (see VALID): operative, *active, dynamic)* *(Ant)* *(inefficacious: powerless)* *(efficient* *(effective, effectual, efficacious)* *(Ana)* *(competent, qualified, *able: capable, expert, skillful, skilled, *proficient, adept, masterly)* *(Ant)* *(inefficient)* *(effigy* *(image, statue, icon, portrait, photograph, mask)* *(effort, exertion, pains, trouble* *(mean the active use or expenditure of physical or mental power in producing or attempting to produce a desired result. Effort may suggest either a single action or continued activity, but it usually implies consciousness that one is making an attempt or sometimes, even, is laboring or striving to achieve an end (<em>make a final supreme effort</em>) (<strong>the constant *effort of the dreamer to attain his ideal—Henry Adams</strong>) *(utterly absorbed in the writing of a private letter—how you lose count of time and have no sense of disagreeable effort—Montague)* *(Exertion in general stresses the active, often vigorous, exercise of a power or faculty (<em>the continued exertion of vigilance</em>) *(wearyed by overexertion* *(a . . man, capable of close application of mind, and great exertion of body—Dickens)* *(Often, however, especially when not followed by of* *(exertion means a laborious effort (<em>his work was done with remarkable grace, but with exertions which it was painful to witness; for he had but one leg, and had to use a crutch—Deland)* *(Pains implies toilsome or solic-itous effort; trouble implies exertion that inconveniences or wastes time and patience (<em>was at pains to emphasize the nonpolitical character of the visit—Morgenthaum</em>) *(the Indians had exhaustual patience; upon their blankets and belts and ceremonial robes they lavished their skill and pains—Cather)* *(is twenty hundred kisses such a trouble?—Shak)* *(<em>I feel that I am beginning to get a grip of the people . . . .” “I should hope so, after the amount of time and trouble you’ve taken”—Mackenzie)* *(Ana)* *(work, labor, toil, travail: energy, force, *power, might, puissance: endeavor, essay (see under ATTEMPT vb)* *(Ant)* *(eas* *(effortless* *(easy, smooth, facile, simple, light)* *(Ana)* *(proficient, skilled, skillful, expert, adept, masterly)* *(Ant)* *(painstaking)* *(effrontery* *(temerity, audacity, hardness, nerve, cheek, gall)* *(Ana)* *(impudence, brazeness, brashness (see corresponding adjectives at SHAMELESS): impertinence, intrusiveness, officiousness (see corresponding adjectives at IMPERTINENT)* *(effulgent* *(radiant, luminous, brilliant, *bright, lustrous, refulgent, beaming, lambent, lucent, incandescent* *(Ana)* *(flaming, blazing, glowing, flaring (see BLAZE vb): flashing, gleaming (see FLASH vb): resplendent, *splendid, glorious)* *(Con)* *(mucky, gloomy, *dark, dim, obscure, dusky)* *(egg* *(<em>urge, exhort, goad, spur, prod, prick, sic* *(Ana)* *(stimulate, excite, *provoke, pique: *incite, instigate: rally, arouse, rouse, *stir)* *(egoism* *(egotism, *conceit, amour propre, self-love, self-esteem)* *(Con)* *(confidence, self-assurance, self-possession (see CONFIDENCE): self-satisfaction, self-complacency, complacency, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT)* *(Ant)* *(altruism —<em>Con</em> humility, meekness, modesty, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at HUMBLE)* *(egotism* *(egoism, *conceit, amour propre, self-love, self-esteem)* *(Ana)* *(vanity, vainglory, *pride: boastful or boastfulness, vaunting or vauntfulness, gasconading (see corresponding verbs at BOAST): pluming, piquing, priding, preening (see PRIDE vb)* *(Ant)* *(modesty —<em>Con</em> humility, meekness, modesty, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at HUMBLE): diffidence, bashfulness, shyness (see corresponding adjectives at SHY)* *(eject* *(Eject, expel, oust, evict, dismiss mean to force or thrust something or someone out. Eject, although it is the comprehensive term of this group and is often interchangeable with any of the others, carries the strongest implication of throwing out from within. So emphatic is this suggestion that the term covers actions so far apart as those implied by *dislodge, disgorge, vomit, emit, discharge, and many other terms (<em>the volcano ejected lava for three days in succession</em>) *(<em>eject an intruder from one’s house</em>) *(<em>the chimney ejected flames rather than smoke</em>) *(he was being ejected for taunting the pianist—Akinson)* *(Expel stresses a thrusting out or a driving away; it therefore more regularly implies the use of voluntary force or compulsion than does eject and indicates more clearly than eject an intent to get rid of for all time; thus, the stomach ejects (rather than expels) material in vomiting since the emphasis is on casting out from within; one expels (rather than ejects) air from the lungs since in this case a degree of voluntary force and permanent ridding are both implicit <em>expel)* *(Ana)* *(analogous words)* *(Ant)* *(antonyms)* *(Con)* *(contrasted words)* *(See also explanatory notes facing page 1)*
a student from college) to a curse . . . in his blood . . . which no life of purity could expel—Meredith) Octavian . . . forbade the practice of certain eastern cults, and expelled from Rome Greek and Asiatic magicians— Buchan) Oust implies a removal or dispossession by the power of the law or, in more general use, by the exercise of force or by the compulsion of necessity (in America . . . a new set of officials ousted the old ones whenever the Opposition ousted the Government—Shaw) (insidious attempts to disarm the findings of Reason, or to oust it from its proper province—Inge) Evict means to turn out (as from house or home or one’s place of business) by legal or equally effective process, commonly for non-payment of rent (after not paying their rent for six months, they were evicted by the sheriff) (the revolutionary artists . . . in the first flush of victory . . . literally evicted the members and officers of the Imperial Academy—Read) (he volunteered to become foster father to a 400-pot family [of orchids] temporarily evicted from a nearby greenhouse—JAMA) Dismiss (see also DISMISS) stresses a getting rid of something such as a legal case by rejecting a claim or prayer and refusing it further consideration (this court reversed the judgement given in favor of the defendant, and remanded the case with directions to dismiss it—Taney) or a fear, a grudge, or a hatred by ejecting it from the mind or thoughts (I declare to you . . . that I have long dismissed it from my mind—Dickens) or an unwelcome subject, duty, or prospect by taking adequate measures to ensure its no longer annoying or confronting one (the Judge was sharply angry . . . because he found himself unable to dismiss the whole thing by packing the child off—Deland) Ana *exclude, eliminate, shut out, rule out, debar, disbar: *discard, cast, shed: reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE) Ant admit (sense 1)

elaborate vb *unfold, evolve, develop, perfect Ana *expand, amplify, dilate: enlarge, augment (see INCREASE): heighten, enhance (see INTENSIFY) clam *vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verge, punch, drive elapse *pass, pass away, expire Ana slip, *slide, glide: end, terminate (see CLOSE)
elastic adj 1 Elastic, resilient, springy, flexible, supple are comparable when they mean able to endure strain (as extension, compression, twisting, or bending) without being permanently affected or injured. Elastic and resilient are both general and scientific terms; the scientific senses are later and are in part derived from the earlier meanings. Elastic in nontechnical use is applied chiefly to substances or materials that are easy to stretch or expand and that quickly recover their shape or size when the pressure is removed (a rubber band is elastic) (elastic cord for hats) (a toy balloon is an elastic bag which can be blown up greatly beyond its original size) In scientific use elastic is applicable to a solid that may be changed in volume or shape, or to a fluid (gas or liquid) that may be changed in volume, when in the course of the deformation of such a solid or fluid forces come into play which tend to make it recover its original volume or shape once the deforming force or forces are removed. The term in such use describes a property (elasticity) which a substance possesses up to the point (the elastic limit) beyond which it cannot be deformed without permanent injury (a body . . . is elastic when, and only when, it tends to recover its initial condition when the distorting force is removed . . . Steel, rubber, air . . . are more or less elastic—Foley) Resilient in nontechnical use is applicable to whatever springs back into place or into shape especially after compression; thus, rising bread dough is said to be resilient because it quickly recovers from a deforming pressure by the hand; a tree’s branch may be described as resilient when it snaps back into its former position once a pull is released. Scientifically, resilient is not the equivalent of elastic, but it may be used as its counterpart; elastic stresses the capacity for deformation without permanent injury, resilient the capacity for recovering shape or position after strain or pressure has been removed; thus, when an elastic substance is stretched or compressed, it shows itself resilient: as arteries gradually become less elastic with age, to the same extent they become less resilient. Springy is a nontechnical term that carries the meanings and suggestions of both elastic and resilient and stresses at once the ease with which a thing yields to pressure or strain and the quickness of its return (walk on springy turf) (firm, springy muscles) (a laughing schoolboy . . . riding the springy branches of an elm—Keats) Flexible is applicable to whatever can be bent or turned without breaking; the term may or may not imply resiliency, or quick recovery of shape (lead pipe is flexible and may be bent into shape) (a flexible young tree often endures a heavy windstorm better than a rigid, fully developed one) (flexible and gracious are the willows—Binyon) Supple applies to things which are, in general, not as solid or firm as substances which may be described as flexible: it also implies ease in bending, twisting, or folding or flexing, together with resistance to accompanying injury (as from breaking, cracking, or splitting) (supple joints and muscles) (a supple leather) (mere manual labor stiffens the limbs, gymnastic exercises render them supple—Jefferies)

In extended use these words often carry the implications of their literal senses. Elastic stresses ease in stretching or expanding beyond the normal or appointed limits (an elastic conscience) (some principles there must be, however elastic—Buchan) (an elastic term) Resilient implies a tendency to rebound or recover quickly (as in health or spirits) especially after subjection to stress or strain (see ELASTIC 2) (a resilient constitution) Springy, which is less common in extended use, may suggest youth, freshness, or buoyancy (a springy step) Flexible implies an adaptable or accommodating quality or, when applied to persons, pliancy or tractability (a flexible scheme) (a flexible arrangement) (his mind became more flexible with age—Crothers) Supple, in its extended use, is applied chiefly to persons or their utterances. Sometimes it suggests little more than flexibility; at other times it implies obsequiousness or complaisance or a show of these with what is actually astute mastery of a situation (in . . . Bismarck, the supple spirit is hidden under an external directness and rough assertion—Bello) Ana pliable, pliant, ductile, *plastic, malleable: limber, lithe, *supple Ant rigid—Con *stiff, inflexible, tense

2 Elastic, expansive, resilient, buoyant, volatile, effervescent are comparable when describing persons, their temperaments, moods, acts, or words and meaning indicative of or characterized by ease or readiness in the stimulation of spirit and especially of high spirits. Elastic implies an incapacity for being kept down in spirits, specifically it may suggest an ability to recover quickly from a state of depression (those elastic spirits . . . had borne up against defeat—Macaulay) or a tendency to moods of exaltation, elation, or optimism (there are times when one’s vitality is too high to be clouded, too elastic to stay down—Cather) (not an elastic or optimistic nature—on the contrary, rigid and circumscribed, depressed by a melancholy temperament—Symonds) (to him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the day is a perpetual morning—Thoreau

Expansive

implies exaltation of spirit that tends to make a person unusually genial, communicative, or sociable <he had an expansive temperament, a brilliant personality, a widely sympathetic disposition, troops of friends—Ellis> (in an expansive temper) not and very sober moment, she had told Tod about her adventure—Sayers <while not expansive toward visitors, she received them with courtesy—Raymond Weeks

Resilient usually implies a return to normal good spirits, which may or may not be high spirits <he was as resilient as ever, one day utterly exhausted, and the next day ready for fresh labors> (evidently her resilient strength was going; she could no longer react normally to the refreshment of food—Ellis) <already the shock and horror of it was fading from her resilient mind—Ruth Park>

Buoyant implies such lightness or vivacity of heart or spirits as is either incapable of depression or that readily shakes it off <no such material burden could depress that buoyant-hearted young gentleman for many hours together—George Eliot> (his buoyant spirits were continually breaking out in troublesome frowls—Prescott)

Volatile implies diaphanous opposition all to that is serious, sedate, or settled; it therefore suggests lightness, levity, or excessive buoyancy of spirits and often flightiness or instability <as giddy and volatile as ever—Swift> (he seemed to them so volatile and unstable.

He was an enigma to which they never secured the key—Ellis>

Effervescent implies liveliness, often boisterousness of spirits: it often suggests the effect of release after restraint and even more than buoyant implies the impossibility of suppression so long as the mood or temper lasts <an effervescent sort of chap with an enthusiasm that takes off like a rocket—Joseph>

Ana *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome: lively, vivacious, sprightly, animated, gay

Ana depressed —Con deserted, gloomy, melancholy, sad, blue (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS): flaccid, limp

elbowroom

room, berth, play, leeway, margin, clearance

elderly old, aged, superannuated

Ana youthful

elect adj picked, select, exclusive

Ana *choice, exquisite, rare: selected, preferred, chosen, singled out (see CHOOSE): redeemed, saved, delivered (see RESCUE vb)

Ant reprobate (in theology) —Con rejected, repudiated, spurned, refused (see DECLINE vb): scorned, disdained (see DESPISE): doomed, damned (see SENTENCE vb)

elect vb I select, pick, prefer, single, opt, *choose, cull

Ana *decide, determine, settle, resolve: conclude, judge (see INFER): *receive, accept, admit, take

Ant abjure —Con reject, spurn, repudiate, refuse, *decline: dismiss, *ject, oust, expel

2 *designate, name, nominate, appoint

election

option, choice, preference, alternative

Ana deciding or decision, determining or determination, settling or settlement (see corresponding verbs at DECIDE)

electrify *thrust, enthuse

Ana galvanize, excite, stimulate, quicken, *provoke: *stir, rouse, arouse, rally

elemosnary

charitable, benevolent, humane, humanitarian, philanthropic, altruistic

elegance, grace, dignity are comparable only when they denote an impressive beauty of form, appearance, or behavior. Elegance is used in reference to persons chiefly when their grooming, their clothes, and the way they wear them are specifically considered; it then often implies fashionableness and good taste, but it stresses perfection of detail and exquisiteness or, sometimes, overexquisiteness (as in materials, lines, and ornamentation) <the elegance in dress of a Beau Brummell> When used in reference to such things as the furnishings of a home, the details of a dinner, or a literary style, the term also implies the perfection and propriety in detail that indicate excellence of taste, a nice selective instinct, and often a restrained luxuriousness <a very pretty sitting room, lately fitted up with greater elegance and lightness than the apartments below—Austen> <a cultivated man should express himself by tongue or pen with some accuracy and elegance—Eliot>

Grace is more commonly applied to what is inward and native than to what is outward and acquired, especially when used in reference to persons; it always suggests a quality or a harmonious combination of qualities that gives aesthetic pleasure through a natural or simple beauty such as is shown in suppleness or rhythm of movement, in clean-flowing lines or contours, or in spontaneity and felicitousness of manner, mood, expression, or style <a behavior so full of grace and sweetness, such easy motions, with an air so majestic, yet free from stiffness or affectation—Montague> (the effect upon the observer of this exquisite little edifice . . . was of an unparagoned lightness and grace—Mackenzie> (she took the congratulations of her rivals and of the rest of the company with the simplicity that was her crowning grace—Wharton>

Dignity applies to what compels respect and honor. The term often suggests stakeness, majesty, and elevation of character or style as the compelling cause <the qualifications which frequently invest the facade of a prison with far more dignity than is found in the facade of a palace double its size—Hardy> (there was a dignity in his Client, an impressiveness in his speech, that silenced demonstating Reason—Meredith> (those who are just beginning to appreciate the idea of lending greater dignity to the worship of Almighty God—Mackenzie>

Very frequently in modern use the term suggests the compulsion of intrinsic worth or merit apart from any superficial characteristics that give it external beauty <the dignity of work> <the dignity of motherhood> (it matters not how trivial the occupation, if the man or woman be wholly given to it, there will be a natural compelling dignity in the figure—Binyon>

Ana *beautifulness or beauty, handsomeness, comeliness (see corresponding adjectives at BEAUTIFUL): fastidiousness, niceness or nicety, daintiness (see corresponding adjectives at NICE): perfection, *excellence: *taste (sense 2)

elegant adj exquisite, *choice, recherché, rare, dainty, delicate


element, component, constituent, ingredient, factor are comparable when they mean one of the parts, substances, or principles which make up a compound or complex thing. Element is, except in its specific sense in science, the most widely applicable of these terms, being referable both to material and immaterial and to tangible and intangible things <the native and foreign elements in English> <words are the elements of a sentence> <the basic element of his character> (his life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world "This was a man!"—Shak> Always in its scientific sense, often in its general sense, the term implies irreducible simplicity or, if applied to a substance, incapacity for separation into simpler substances <gold, silver, carbon, lead are among the chemical elements, or
ultimate building units of matter} ⟨analyze the elements of a situation⟩ ⟨another element common to all novels is characterization—Jacob's⟩ Component and constituent are often used interchangeably for any of the substances (whether elements or compounds) which enter into the makeup of a mixed thing or for any of the principles or qualities which comprise an intangible composite. Component, however, stresses the separate identity or distinguishable character of the substance; constituent stresses its essential and formative character ⟨springs, gears, levers, pivots, and other components of a watch mechanism⟩ ⟨hydrogen and oxygen are the constituents of water⟩ ⟨the components of the typical novel are its plot, its characters, and its setting⟩ ⟨the components of knowledge can never be harmonized until all the relevant facts are in—De Voto⟩ ⟨break a ray of light into the colors which are its constituents⟩ ⟨the constituents of a perfume⟩ Ingredient applies basically to any of the substances or materials which when combined form a particular mixture (as a drink, a medicine, a food, an alloy, or an amalgam) ⟨the ingredients of a cocktail⟩ ⟨iron and carbon are the ingredients of steel⟩ The term, however, may be extended to any component or constituent that can be thought of as added or as left out ⟨in this transaction every ingredient of a complete and legitimate contract is to be found—John Marshall⟩ ⟨two very necessary ingredients of the scientific process are curiosity and lack of haste—Sears⟩ Factor is somewhat remotely synonymous with the foregoing words. The term is applicable to a constituent, element, or component only when the latter exerts an effectuating force enabling the whole of which it is a part to perform a certain kind of work, to produce a specific and definite result, or to move or trend in a particular direction ⟨God is not one of the factors for which science has to account—Inge⟩ ⟨various factors entered the inception of the American enterprise—Ellis⟩ ⟨the word vitamins was coined to designate these essential food factors—Morrisson⟩

Ana *principle, fundamental: *part, portion, member: *item, detail, particular

Ant compound ⟨in science⟩: composite —Con mass, *bulk, volume: aggregate, whole, total, *sum
elemental *elementary

Ana *ultimate, categorical, absolute: *primary, prime, primordial
elementary, elemental are often confused. Something is elementary which pertains to rudiments or beginnings; something is elemental which pertains to the elements, especially to the ultimate and basic constituents or forces ⟨an elementary treatise⟩ ⟨an elementary knowledge of physics⟩ ⟨an elementary virtue⟩ ⟨an elementary school⟩ ⟨the elemental sounds of language⟩ ⟨an elemental substance⟩ ⟨they . . . busied themselves with the elemental, enduring things: sex, fatherhood, work—Rose Macaulay⟩

Ana basic, *fundamental: primal, *primary

Ant advanced
elephantine *huge, vast, immense, enormous, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian elevate *lift, raise, rear, hoist, heave, boost

Ana exalt, agrandize, magnify; heighten, enhance ⟨see also INTENSIFY⟩: *rise, mount, ascend, tower, soar, rocket

Ant lower —Con *abase, debase, degrade, demean, humble
elevation 1 altitude, *height

Ana *ascension, ascent

2 promotion, *advancement, preferment

Ana exaltation, agrandizement ⟨see corresponding verbs at EXALT⟩

Ant degradation
elicit vb evoke, *educate, extract, extort

Ana draw, drag, *pull: *bring, fetch
eliminate rule out, *exclude, debar, blackball, disbar, suspend, shut out

Ana *ject, oust, dismiss, expel, evict: eradicate, extirpate, *exterminate, upright, wipe: expunge, *erase, delete, efface

elite society, *aristocracy, nobility, gentility, county

Ant rabble
eell wing, extension, *annex

elongate lengthen, *extend, prolong, protract

Ant abbreviate, shorten —Con abridge, curtail, re-trench (see SHORTEN): shrink, compress, *contract

elloquent 1 articulate, voluble, *vocal, fluent, glib

Ana *impassioned, passionate, fervid, perfervid, ardent, fervent: expressing, voicing, venting, uttering (see EXPRESS vb): forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful

2 *expressive, significant, meaningful, pregnant, sententious
elevate *rise, mount, ascend, tower, soar, rocket

Con *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tag, tail

emanate issue, proceed, *spring, rise, arise, originate, derive, flow, stem

Ana emerge, loom, *appear: *begin, commence, start, initiate

emancipate manumit, enfanchise, *free, liberate, release, deliver, discharge

emasculate 1 *sterilize, castrate, spay, alter, mutilate, geld, cauponize

2 enervate, unman, *unnerve

Ana *weaken, enfeebble, debilitate, sap, undermine

Con energize, *vitalize

embarrass, discomfit, abash, disconcert, rattle, faze mean to balk by confusing or confounding, but each word is capable of expressing precise and distinctive shades of meaning. Embarrass characteristically implies some influence which impedes freedom of thought, speech, or action and may be used with reference not only to persons but also to the things they plan or desire to do ⟨a course of legislation . . . which . . . embarrassed all transactions between individuals, by dispensing with a faithful performance of engagements—John Marshall⟩ When said of persons it commonly implies and often stresses resulting uneasiness or constraint ⟨He had, he knew, a sort of charm—it embarrassed him even to admit it—Mary Austin⟩ ⟨I was upset . . . and embarrassed by the crude and childish manner in which the townspeople were reduced to caricatures—J. M. BROWN⟩ Discomfit in this sense typically retains some of its basic denotation of to put to rout; in such use it implies opposition and the competence with which one opponent routs the other and crushes his self-esteem or self-complacency ⟨an answer that completely discomfited the brash young man⟩ or throws him into confusion ⟨Bradley's polemical irony and his obvious zest in using it, his habit of discomfiting an opponent with a sudden profession of ignorance, of inability to understand, or of incapacity for abstruse thought—T. S. Eliot⟩ ⟨the Prime Minister began badly. Discomfited by Labor heckling from the front bench opposite, Eden lost his usual urbanity—Time⟩ or, sometimes, thwarts his wishes, his hopes, or his plans ⟨thieves discomfited by a wakeful dog⟩ (he practiced the Socratic method . . . and earned among generations of
embellished students the designation Stinker Taussig—Lovett> At times discomfit is used with much weakened force and then loses its suggestion of active opponency and implies no more than to make uncomfortable or embarrass <it is discomfitting to recall the high hopes with which the states that had joined hands to defeat Fascism founded the United Nations—Sat. Review> <he drew discomfited chuckles from them in response to his garish laughter—Straight> <she may heckle the dealer, add a running commentary to the demonstrations, or just assume a discomfitting smugness—Fortune> Abash presupposes self-confidence or self-possession and implies a usually sudden check to that mood by some influence that awakens shyness or a conviction of error or inferiority or, sometimes, of shame <a man whom no denial, no scorn could abash—Fielding> abashed by the base motives she found herself attributing to Charlotte—Wharton> Disconcert, like embarrass, may be used in reference to actions and plans, but it is more frequently referred to persons. In either case it implies an upsetting or derangement; in the latter it suggests temporary loss of equanimity or of assurance <when she saw him there came that flicker of fun into her eyes that was so disconcerting to Mr. Ezra—Deland> Rattle more than disconcert stresses the emotional agitation accompanying the upset and implies a more complete disorganization of one's mental processes <the jeering rattled the team and caused them to play badly> <rattled by hypothetical eyes spying on her—Stafford> Faze is found chiefly in negative expressions, where it comes close to disconcert but sometimes carries the implications of abash and rattle <neither rebuffs nor threats faze him in the least> <it hit Marciano flush on the right side of the jaw, but it didn't seem to faze him a bit—Liebling> Ana *discompose, disturb, perturb, fluster, flurfy: be-wilder, nonplus, perplex (see PUZZLE): trouble, distress: vex, * annoy, bother, irk: impede, obstruct, block, * hinder: * hamper, fetter, shackle, hog-tie Ant relieve: facilitate embellish beautiful, deck, bedeck, garnish, * adorn, decorate, ornament Ana enhance, heighten, * intensify: apparel, array (see CLOTHE) Con denude, * strip, bare, divest embers * ash, cinders, clinkers emblem attribute, * symbol, type Ana device, motif, design, * figure, pattern: * sign, mark, token, badge embody 1 incarnate, materialize, externalize, objectify, * realize, actualize, hypostatize, refit Ana invest, * clothe: illustrate, * exemplify: manifest, demonstrate, evidence, evince, * show Ant disembode 2 incorporate, assimilate, * identify Ana * add, annex, superadd, append: * introduce, insert, interpolate, interject: comprehend, * include, embrace, involve, imply embolden * encourage, inspire, hearten, cheer, nerve, steel Ana * strengthen, fortify: * venture, chance, hazard Ant abash —Con discourse, deter (see DISSUADE); dishearten, dispirit, deject (see DISCOURAGE) embrace vb 1 * adopt, espouse Ana accept, * receive: seize, grasp, * take Ant spurn —Con reject, refuse, repudiate, * decline: scorn, disdain (see DESPISE) 2 cuddle, encircle, * include, involve, imply, subsume Ana * contain, hold, accommodate: embody, incorporate (see IDENTIFY) Con * exclude, rule out, shut out, debar, eliminate mend * correct, rectify, revive, amend, remedy, redress, reform Ana * mend, repair: * improve, better, ameliorate Ant corrupt (a text, passage) emerge * appear, loom Ana issue, emanate, * spring, flow, arise, rise, proceed, stem, derive, originate emergency exigency, contingency, crisis, pass, * juncture, pinch, strain Ana situation, condition, posture, * state: * difficulty, vicissitude emigrant, immigrant are comparable but not interchangeable when denoting a person who leaves one country in order to settle in another. Emigrant (so also emigrate and emigration) is used with reference to the country from which, immigrant (so also immigrate and immigration) with reference to the country into which, migration is made. The former marks the going out from a country; the latter, the entrance into a country <a large crowd of Italian emigrants boarded the ship at Naples> <Ireland lost heavily through emigration in the middle of the nineteenth century> <our surplus cottage children emigrate to Australia and Canada—H. G. Wells> <Scandinavian immigrants settled large parts of the Middle Western United States> <immigration from Europe into the United States has gradually decreased> emigrate immigrate (see under EMIGRANT) emigration immigration (see under EMIGRANT) émigré immigrant, alien, foreigner, outlaw, outsider, * stranger eminent illustrious, renowned, celebrated, * famous, famed Ana signal, outstanding, prominent, remarkable, conspicuous, * noticeable emolument stipend, salary, fee, * wage or wages, pay, hire Ana compensation, remuneration, recompensing or recompense (see corresponding verbs at PAY): reward, meed, guerdon (see PREMIUM) emotion * feeling, affection, passion, sentiment empathy * sympathy, pity, compassion, commiseration, ruth, condolence Ana * imagination, fancy, fantasy: appreciation, understanding, comprehension (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND) emphasis, stress, accent, accentuation denote exerted force by which one thing stands out conspicuously among other things; they also often designate the effect produced or the means used in gaining this effect. Emphasis implies effort to bring out what is significant or important <he puts the emphasis on discipline in his teaching> <an effective orator knows how to be sparing in his use of emphasis> Sometimes it also suggests vigor or intensity of feeling <anyone, however ignorant, can feel the sustained dignity of the sculptor's work, which is asserted with all the emphasis he could put into it—Henry Adams> Stress, though often used interchangeably with emphasis, is distinguishable from it both in some of its implications and in its association with particular arts, where it has acquired specific meanings. It rarely loses entirely its original implication of weight that causes pressure or strain, though this is often merely suggested <I wouldn't lay too much stress on what you have been telling me.> I observed quietly—Conrad> At times stress strongly implies urgency or insistency <Jane secretly approved his discernment. But all she said was, with her cool lack of stress, "It's not so bad"—Roark Macaulay> In phonetics and prosody stress is the general term referring to the prominence given to certain syllables by force of utterance. It may also be used of the natural emphasis on certain words in a sentence. It
may even suggest degree of emphasis (there were volumes of innuendo in the way the “eventually” was spaced, and each syllable given its due stress—Wharton) Accent implies contrast for the sake of effect, very frequently an aesthetic effect. Accent carries no connotation of weight, but it strongly suggests relief in both senses, that of relieving monotony and that of bringing out sharply or into relief (the room was quiet and neutral in coloring, but it was given accent by bowls of bright flowers) (sun and sea, the heady fragrance of the plane trees, the tropical accent of palms—Cassidy) In prosody accent is the form of stress characteristic of English verse, akin to the beat in music and involving force in utterance. In English phonetics accent and stress are commonly used interchangeably. Since force of utterance (stress) is the principal means by which a syllable, a word, or a group of words is accentuated or brought into sharp contrast with the others, one may speak of syllabic accent or stress, or word accent or stress. Accentuation, though close to accent (except in technical senses), often goes beyond it in its emphasis on increased conspicuousness; it also often suggests disagreeableness in the contrast (the essential defect of their polity . . . . its excessive accentuation of the corporate aspect of life—Dickinson)

employ vb *use, utilize, apply, avail

Ana *practice, exercise, drill: engross, absorb, *monopolize: *choose, select, pick

employment *work, occupation, business, calling, pursuit

Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession

empower *enable

Ana *authorize, commission, accredit, license: train, instruct, discipline, *teach: endow, endue (see DOWER)

Con debar, disbar, shut out, rule out, *exclude

empty adj 1 Empty, vacant, blank, void, vacuous mean lacking the contents that could or should be present. Something is empty which has nothing in it; something is vacant which is without an occupant, incumbent, tenant, inmate, or the person or thing it appropriately contains (an empty bucket) (his purse was empty) (empty-handed) (a vacant professorship) (a vacant apartment) When qualifying the same nouns the words usually suggest distinctly different ideas; thus, an empty house has neither furniture nor occupants; a vacant house is without inmates and presumably for rent or for sale; an empty chair has no one sitting in it at the time; a vacant chair is one that has lost its usual occupant by death or other cause; an empty space has nothing in it; a vacant space is one left to be filled with what is appropriate ([it] enabled him to fill a place which would else have been vacant—Hawthorne) Something, especially a surface, is blank which is free from writing or marks or which has vacant spaces that are left to be filled in (a blank page) (a blank application) Something is void which is absolutely empty so far as the senses can discover (a conscience void of offense) (sandy wilderness, all black and void—Wordsworth) (the void, hollow, universal air—Shelley) Something is vacuous which exhibits the absolute emptiness of a vacuum (the vacuous globe of an incandescent lamp)

In extended use the same distinctions hold: an empty mind is destitute of worthwhile ideas or knowledge: a vacant mind lacks its usual occupant, the soul or intellect; a blank look is without expression; a person is said to be void of learning or of common sense when not the slightest evidence of either one can be detected; a vacuous mind, look, or expression is so deficient in alertness or spirit as to suggest a vacuum in its inanity (the unthinking mind is not necessarily dull, rude, or impervious; it is probably simply empty—Elliot) (the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind—Goldsmith) (his eyes had that blank fixed gaze . . . that babies’ eyes have—M. E. Freeman) (it is dull and void as a work of art—Montague) (there was nothing to be read in the vacuous face, blank as a school notice board out of term—Greene)

Ana *devoid, destitute, void: *bare, barren: exhausted, drained, dejected (see DEPLETE)

Ant full —Con replete, complete (see FULL)

2 idle, hollow, *vain, nugatory, otiose


Con significant, meaningful, pregnant (see EXPRESSIVE): genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide

empyrean, empyreal *cestial, heavenly

evaluate *rival, compete, vie

Ana imitate, *copy, ape: *match, equal, approach, touch

evulous *ambitious

Ana aspiring, aiming, panting (see AIM vb): *eager, avid, keen, anxious, athirst, agog

enable, empower are comparable when meaning to make one able to do something. In ordinary usage enable implies provision of the means or opportunity, empower, full, granting of the power or the delegation of the authority, to do something (an income that enables him to live with dignity) (a letter empowering him to act in his father’s behalf) (to give to the Cathedral fund a sum sufficient to enable Father Latour to carry out his purpose—Cather) (these courts of appeal are also empowered to review and enforce orders of federal administrative bodies—Sayre)

Ana permit, allow, *let

Con *forbid, prohibit, inhibit: *prevent, preclude

enamored, infatuated are very frequently used interchangeably, though with a loss in precision, in the sense of being passionately in love. Enamored usually connotes complete absorption in the passion (Elisabeth-Jane . . . did not fail to perceive that her father . . . and Donald Farfrae became more desperately enamored of her friend every day—Hardy) Infatuated, when applied to lovers and their acts, carries much the same implications as enamored but may add the implications of its primary sense (see FOND 1) of blind folly and unreasonable ardor (you, Scythrop Glowry, of Nightmare Abbey . . . infatuated with such a dancing . . . thoughtless, careless . . . thing as Marionetta—Peacock)

Ana bewitched, captivated, fascinated (see ATTRACT): fond, devoted, doting, *loving

enchant charm, captivate, allure, fascinate, bewitch, *attract

Ana delight, rejoice, gladden, gratify, *please

Ant disenchant

enchanting charming, captivating, alluring, fascinating, bewitching, attractive (see under ATTRACT)

Ana *delightful, delectable: *pleasant, pleasing, grateful, gratifying

Con *repressive, repugnant, revolting, loathsome, *offensive: distasteful, obnoxious, repellent, abhorrent, *repugnant

encircle *surround, environ, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring

Ana *enclose, envelop: circumscribe, confine, *limit

enclose vb Enclose, envelop, fence, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall mean to surround so as to shut in or confine actually or apparently. Enclose implies a shutting in by barriers (as walls) or in an enveloping cover (as a case); the term may be used without connotations, or it may suggest protection, defense, privacy, or monastic seclusion (a high hedge encloses the garden) (the larger fir copes, when they are enclosed, are the resort of all
kinds of birds of prey yet left in the south—Jefferies
you will find enclosed our price list
walked across the enclosed porch, knocked, and opened the inside door—Bradbury
Envelop (see also COVER) implies enclosure in or by something usually yielding or penetrable that surrounds it on all sides and serves to screen it, to protect it, or to separate it from others (each specimen was enveloped in cotton and packed in a box) (the heart is enveloped by a serous sac, called the pericardium)
clouds envelop the mountaintops
<rewind his coat and enveloped him in a white robe—Krey>

Fence in this sense is usually followed by in or about and means only to enclose with or as if with a fence (as by a row of palings, a wall, or a hedge); the term usually connotes a means of barring trespassers, of keeping animals from wandering about or intruding, or of securing privacy (the farm was fenced about with a stone wall) (we will have to fence in the garden with wire netting to keep out the rabbits) (the chickens were not fenced in) (a tall hedge of hemlocks fenced in the estate) In extended use the term is a synonym of enclose only when that by which a thing is shut in is a man-made limitation (the men themselves were . . . fenced by etiquette—Emerson) (fenced by your careful fathers, ringed by your leaden seas, long did ye wake in quiet and long lie down at ease—Kipling)
Pen, usually followed by up or in, implies confinement in or as in an enclosure with narrow limits and suggests irksome restraint (the troops were penned up for days in inadequate barracks) (where shepherds pen their flocks at eve, in hurried cotes—Milton) (practically the whole of the population is penned in on a narrow coastal strip—W. A. Lewis) Coop, usually followed by up, also implies confinement in a limited enclosure but it carries even a stronger implication of cramming limitations (coop up the chickens only at night) (they are at present coopied up in a very small apartment) (her illness has kept her coopied in for a week) Corral implies a shutting up in or as if in a strongly fenced enclosure and is used primarily of animals or persons who would scatter, escape, or flee if not securely confined (at night they corralled their horses) (here they corralled us [prisoners] to the number of seven or eight thousand—Century) In extended use corral may largely lose its basic notion of shutting up and stress, rather, the difficulty of catching or bringing under control (the vitamins are being corralled one by one and the proteins are being brought under control—Furnas) Cage is often used, especially with in or up, to imply confinement with severe or humiliating restrictions (I don’t stay caged in my shop all day—George Eliot) (the feeling of caged muscular tightness has provoked a fairly widespread desire to emigrate from Britain—Chamberlain) Wall means enclosed by a wall which may be material or may be made up of harsh or rigid and impenetrable restraints (walled round with rocks as an inland island, the ghost of a garden fronts the sea—Swinburne) (walled in by conventions)
Ana confine, circumscribe, limit, restrict
Encomium, eulogy, panegyric, tribute, citation denote a more or less formal and public expression of praise. Encomium implies enthusiasm or warmth in praising this character (great minds should only criticize the great who have passed beyond the reach of eulogy or faultfinding—Lang) (I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without . . . love and sympathy—Childs) Panegyric carries a far stronger implication of elaborate, high-flown, often poetical or rhetorical compliment than either of the preceding terms but it does not now emphasize publicity as much as it once did (but verse, alas! your Majesty disdains; and I’m not used to panegyric strains—Pope) (all panegyrics are mingled with an infusion of poppy—Swift) Tribute applies not only to spoken or written praise but to any act or situation which can be construed as taking its place (no tribute can be paid to them which exceeds their merit—John Marshall) (I am appointed sole executor, a confidence I appreciate as a tribute to my lifelong friendship—H. G. Wells)
Citation is used in designating either the formal eulogy accompanying the awarding of an honor (as an honorary degree) or the specific mention of a person in military service in an order or dispatch (Columbia’s citation of Mr. Rhee as an ‘‘indomitable leader, implacable enemy of Communist totalitarianism’’ and ‘‘a scholar and statesman’’—Christian Science Monitor) (he had received the Croix de Guerre, with a divisional citation, for his service in Belgium—Malcolm Cowley)
Ana lauding or laudation, extolling or exaltation, praising or praise (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE); plaudits, *applause, acclaim, acclamation: commending or commendation, complimenting or compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND)
Encompass (see also COVER) implies enclosure in or as if in an enclosure with narrow limits and suggests confinement in or as if in a strongly fenced enclosure (they are at present coopied up in a very small apartment) (her illness has kept her coopied in for a week) Corral implies a shutting up in or as if in a strongly fenced enclosure and is used primarily of animals or persons who would scatter, escape, or flee if not securely confined (at night they corralled their horses) (here they corralled us [prisoners] to the number of seven or eight thousand—Century) In extended use corral may largely lose its basic notion of shutting up and stress, rather, the difficulty of catching or bringing under control (the vitamins are being corralled one by one and the proteins are being brought under control—Furnas) Cage is often used, especially with in or up, to imply confinement with severe or humiliating restrictions (I don’t stay caged in my shop all day—George Eliot) (the feeling of caged muscular tightness has provoked a fairly widespread desire to emigrate from Britain—Chamberlain) Wall means enclosed by a wall which may be material or may be made up of harsh or rigid and impenetrable restraints (walled round with rocks as an inland island, the ghost of a garden fronts the sea—Swinburne) (walled in by conventions)
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Con inductive, *abuse, vituperation, obloquy
Encourage, inspire, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel mean to fill with courage or strength of purpose especially in preparation for a hard task or purpose. Encourage in its basic and still common sense implies the raising of confidence to such a height that one dares to do or to bear what is difficult; it then usually suggests an external agent or agency stimulating one to action or endurance (the teacher’s praise encouraged us [prisoners] to utter freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell) Sometimes it may suggest merely an increase in strength of purpose or in responsiveness to advice or inducement fostered by a person or an influence or event (there they listened, and retained what they could remember, for they were not encouraged to take notes—Henry Adams) Encourage is often used with an im-
personal object, sometimes as if the object were a person—
we wish to encourage no vice—
but often as if it were the object not of encourage
but of an ellipsis meaning to encourage a person or persons to act (as by doing, making, forming, or using)—
they are donations to education;
donations, which any government must be disposed ... 
to encourage—John Marshall) (if a state sees fit to encourage steam laundries and discourage hand laundries, that is its own affair—Justice Holmes) Inspire is chiefly literary; it retains its implication of putting spirit into,
especially in the sense of life, energy, courage, or vigor,
and therefore often comes close to enliven or to animate
in meaning (those great men, who, by their writings, in-
spired the people to resistance—Buckley) (the early tea
which was to inspire them for the dance—George Eliot)
how inspiring to escape from here and now and wander wildly in a world of lutes and roses—Woolf (the book
is an astonishing and inspiring record of what human
ingenuity can accomplish—Basil Davenport) Hearten
implies a putting heart into and carries suggestions
that are stronger than those carried by either encourage
or inspire. It presupposes a state of low courage, depression,
despondency, or indifference and therefore implies
a bringing to mind or spirit that rouses one with fresh courage or zeal—Quotations which both strengthen our resources and hearten our endeavors—Conant. People
were merry or wise or comforting or revealing, whose
presence either heartened the spirit or kindled the mind
—Jan Struther) Embolden implies a giving of boldness
to or, more especially, a giving of just enough courage or
bravery to do what one wants to do or is expected to do
and suggests not brazenness but the overcoming of
timidity or reluctance <she was
to descend
these dastards all he can—Daniel}) fight this bravo
implies a putting heart into and carries suggestions
that both strengthen our resources and hearten our endeavors—Conant. People
were merry or wise or comforting or revealing, whose
presence either heartened the spirit or kindled the mind
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to or, more especially, a giving of just enough courage or
bravery to do what one wants to do or is expected to do
and suggests not brazenness but the overcoming of
timidity or reluctance <she was
more than the other words <the open resistance of the northern
barons nerved the rest of their order to action—
herein I should probably escape a lingering
end by making him insensible to pain, suffering, or
insults, and by filling him with resolution or determination
<Of God of battles, steel my soldiers' hearts, possess them
not with fear—Shak.>  
Ana stimulate, excite, *provoke, quicken, pique, gal-
vane: *strength en, fortify, energize, invigorate: rally, *
stir
Ant discourage —Con dishearten, dispirit, deject (see DISCOURAGE)  
2 *favor, countenance
Ana sanction, endorse, *approve: *incite instigating. 
*abate: *induce, prevail
Ant discourage —Con deter, *dissuade, divert: *re-
strain, inhibit
encroach *trespass, entrench, infringe, invade
Ana *enter, penetrate, pierce, probe: *intrude, but in,
obe trude, interlope: interfere, intervene, *interpose
encumber *burden, cumber, weigh, weight, load, lade,
tax, charge, saddle
Ana discommode, incommodate, *inconvenience: clog,
fetter, *hamper: impede, obstruct, block (see HINDER)
end n 1 *limit, bound, term, confine
Ana *extreme, extremity
2 End, termination, ending, terminus are comparable when
opposed to beginning or starting point and meaning
the point or line beyond which a thing does not or cannot
go (as in time or space or magnitude). End is not only
the ordinary but also the most inclusive of these terms,
and it may be used of almost any final limit and in such
varied applications as time <the end of a period> (at the
end of his life or space (the end of the road) or move-
ment or action (the end of his journey) or magnitude
<there is no end to his energy) or range of possibility
<his statement put an end to speculation> Termination
and ending apply especially to the end in time or, less
often, in space of something that is brought to a close
typically as having a set term or bounds or predetermined limits or as being complete, finished, or futile <the
termination of a lease> <the termination of the period
agreed upon> <the termination of a search> (a fair
beginning but a bad ending) <the maiden song as if her
song could have no ending—Wordsworth> Terminus
applies to the end (often in clear opposition to starting
point) to which a person or a thing moves or progresses.
The term usually suggests spatial relations and often
indicates a definite point or place (the terminus of his
tour) <New York is the terminus of several important
railroads) <an airway terminus> (the object is the start-
ing point, not the terminus, of an act of perception—
Jeans)
Ana closing or close, concluding or conclusion, finishing
or finish, completion (see corresponding verbs at
CLOSE): culmination, climax (see SUMMIT): term, bound,
*limit
Ant beginning —Con inception, *origin, source, root
3 objective, goal, aim, object, *intention, intent, purpose, design
Ana destiny, *fate, lot, doom, portion: *function, office, duty
end vb *close, conclude, terminate, finish, complete
Ant begin —Con commence, start, initiate, inaugurate
(see BEGIN): originate, derive, arise, rise, *spring
endanger *venture, hazard, risk, chance, jeopardize, imperil
Ana encounter, confront, *meet, face: dare, brave
(see FACE): *incur, contract, catch
endeavor vb *attempt, try, essay, strive, struggle
Ana apply, devote, *direct, address: determine, resolve, *
decide
endeavor n essay, striving, struggle, attempt, try (see
under ATTEMPT vb)
Ana toil, labor, travail, *work: *effort, exertion, pains, trouble
Endemic adj indigenous, *native, autochthonous, aboriginal
Ana exotic: pandemic —Con foreign, alien, extrane-
ous, *extrinsic
ending n *end, termination, terminus

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
endless

**Ana, Ant, & Con** see those at **END n 2**

endurable **interminable, *everlasting, unceasing**

**Ana** *lasting, perdurable, perpetual, permanent: eternal, illimitable, boundless, *infinite: *immortal, deathless, undying

**Con** transitory, *transient, fugitive, passing, short-lived, ephemeral, evanescent

endorse **approve, sanction, accredit, certify**

**Ana** vouch, attest, *certify, witness: *commend, recommend: *support, uphold, champion, back, advocate

**Con** disapprove, depreciate: condemn, denounce, repro- bate, reprehend, censure, *criticize: reject, repudiate, spurn (see **DECLINE**)

endow **dower, endue**

**Ana** bestow, confer (see **GIVE**): *grant, award, accord: empower, *enable: *furnish, equip

**Con** deny, *strip, divest, bare: despoil, spoliare, *ravage: exhaust, drain, *deplete, impoverish

endue **endow, *dower**

**Ana** clothe, invest, vest: *furnish, equip, outfit, accouter: bestow, confer (see **GIVE**)

**Con** see those at **ENDOW**

endure 1 **endure, last, abide, persist**

**Ana** survive, outlast, *outlive: *stay, remain, wait, linger, tarry, abide

**Ant** perish — **Con** disintegrate, crumble, *decay

2 abide, tolerate, suffer, *bear, stand, brook

**Ana** accept, *receive, take: submit, *yield

**Con** reject, refuse, *deny, spurn, repudiate

enemy, foe **opponent, adversary, antagonist: rival, competitor**

**Ana** denote an individual or body of individuals that is hostile or that manifests hostility to another

**Con** oppose, sanction, accredit, certify

**Ant** *approve, sanction, accredit, certify**

**Endless**

A man with many friends

When the reference is to a nation or group of nations

**Engagement**

**Ana** dynamism, activity, operativeness or operation (see corresponding adjectives at **ACTIVE**): momentum, impetus, *speed, velocity, headway

**Ant** inertia — **Con** weakness, feebleness, decrepitude (see corresponding adjectives at **WEAK**): powerlessness, impotence (see corresponding adjectives at **POWERLESS**)

enervate **enervate**

**Ana** weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, undermine, sap, disable: *abase, demean, debase, degrade: exhaust, jade, fatigue, *tire, weary

**Ant** harden, inure — **Con** energize, *vitalize, activate: galvanize, stimulate, quicken (see **PROVOKE**)

enervated **languishing, *languid, languorous, lackadaisical, spiritless, listless**

**Ana** decadent, degenerated, deteriorated (see corresponding nouns at **DETERIORATION**): enfeebled, debilitated, weakened (see **WEAKEN**)

**Con** hardened, seasoned (see **HARDEN**): Stout, sturdy, tough, tenacious, *strong, stalwart: *vigorous, lusty, energetic, strenuous

enfeeble **weaken, debilitate, sap, undermine, cripple, disable**

**Ana** impair, mar, harm, *injure: enervate, emasculate, *unnervé, unman

**Ant** fortify

enforce, implement are comparable when they mean to put something into effect or operation. **Enforce** is used chiefly in reference to laws or statutes. The term suggests the exercise of executive rather than legislative power or the use of the authority and the means given the magistrates and police to maintain order and security in the community (blue laws more often ignored than **enforced** (enforce traffic laws and regulations strictly)

But enforce is also used in reference to agreements, contracts, rights, and ends which have legal sanction or a legal character and require the compulsory powers of the government or of the courts to ensure their fulfillment or their protection in case of violation (Congress, as incident to its power to authorize and enforce contracts for public works—Justice Holmes) (there was no legal process by which a citizen could enforce his rights against the state—Buchanan) **Implement** usually suggests reference to bills or acts which have been passed, proposals or projects which have been accepted, or policies which have been adopted and implies the performance of such acts as are necessary to carry them into effect or ensure their being put into operation (proposed that any further medical aid to the aged be implemented by increased Social Security taxation) (he also urged that military equipment be given to the nations of western Europe to implement the Brussels pact—Current Biog.) (there was no legal process by which a citizen could enforce his rights against the state—Buchanan) **Implement** usually suggests reference to bills or acts which have been passed, proposals or projects which have been accepted, or policies which have been adopted and implies the performance of such acts as are necessary to carry them into effect or ensure their being put into operation (proposed that any further medical aid to the aged be implemented by increased Social Security taxation) (he also urged that military equipment be given to the nations of western Europe to implement the Brussels pact—Current Biog.)

**Ana** execute, fulfill, discharge, *perform: compel, constrain, oblige, *force

**Ant** relax (discipline, rules, demands) — **Con** ignore, forget, disregard, *neglect

enfranchise **emancipate, manumit, *free, release, liberate, deliver, discharge**

engage **pledge, plight, *promise, covenant, contract**

**Ana** bind, *tie: agree, accede, acquiesce, *assent, consent, subscribe

**Con** bind, *tie: agree, accede, acquiesce, *assent, consent, subscribe
because of the exigencies of his office, his profession, or his position in life must keep a calendar and apportion his time carefully among those who wish to consult him professionally or confer with him (the governor sees visitors only by appointment) (the doctor's secretary said it was impossible to make an appointment before Thursday) Rendezvous may designate a place agreed upon for the meeting of persons, often a group of persons (the old soldiers made the town hall their rendezvous) but it usually connotes a pledge or covenant (often an implicit one) to meet something or someone that cannot be escaped without violation of one's honor (this generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny—Roosevelt) Tryst is chiefly poetic; like rendezvous, it may designate the place of meeting (which, however, is more often termed trysting place) as well as the agreement to meet at a certain place, but the latter is the commoner denotation of tryst (a lovers' tryst) (hurrying to keep their tryst in the wood) Assignment usually denotes a lovers' tryst, but it commonly conveys a suggestion of an illicit love or of a clandestine meeting (make assignations for them with ladies of the street—Shaw) Date is used especially of casual engagements between friends or of an agreed meeting between a young man and young woman (remembering suddenly he had a riding date with Major Thompson's wife at 12:30—James Jones) 2 *battle, action  

**engaging**   

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
ennoble *dignify, honor, glorify
Ana *exalt, magnify: elevate, raise, *lift: heighten, enhance, *intensify
ennui *doldrums, boredom, *tedium
Ana *depression, dejection, dumps, blues, melancholy, *sadness: listlessness, languidness, languor or languor, spiritlessness (see corresponding adjectives at LANGUID): satiatiun or satiety, surfeiting or surfeit, cloying (see corresponding verbs at SATIATE)
enormity, enormousness both mean the state or the quality of being enormous but are rarely interchangeable in modern usage. Enormity imputes an abnormal quality; it applies especially to the state of exceeding all bounds in wickedness or evil, and therefore of being abnormally, monstrously, or outrageously evil *Newson . . . failed to perceive the enormity of Henchard's crime—Hardy
*the sensation of standing there . . . and wishing her dead, was so strange, so fascinating and overpowering, that its enormity did not immediately strike him—Wharton
Enormousness applies to the state or quality of grossly exceeding comparable things in size or amount *the enormosity of a whale *the enormousness of the cost of war *covers 885 close-printed pages of thin paper. Readers who brave its enormousness are likely to emerge both crushed and impressed—Time* Enormity, but not enormousness, may also be used of an instance of what is characterized by enormity or monstrous wickedness *huge, vast, immense, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian
Ana prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, *monstrous, monumental: inordinate, exorbitant, *excessive, extravagant
enrage infuriate, madden, incense, *anger
Ana exasperate, provoke, aggravate, rile (see irritate)
Ant placate —Con *pacify, appease, mollify, propitiate, conciliate
enrapture *transport, ravish, entrance
Ana rejoice, delight, gladden, *please, gratify: charm, enchant, captivate, fascinate, *attract
enroll *record, register, list, catalog
Ana enter (sense 2): insert (see INTRODUCE)
enconce screen, secrete, *hide, conceal, cache, bury
Ana shield, guard, safeguard, protect, *defend: shelter, lodge (see HARBOR)
Con expose, exhibit, display, *show
ensign *flag, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack
ensnare snare, entrap, trap, bag, *catch, capture
Ana *lure, entice, inveigle, decoy
ensure *follow, succeed, supervene
Ana issue, emanate, proceed, stem, *spring, derive, originate, rise, arise; pursue, *follow, chase
ensure, insure, assure, secure are comparable because they all carry the underlying meaning to make a person or thing sure. Ensure, insure, and assure all indicate a making of an outcome or event sure, certain, or inevitable as a consequence or concomitant. Ensure in such use may come very close to guarantee (good farming practices that go far toward ensuring good harvests) (certain rules of conduct for the purpose of ensuring the safety and victory of the absent warriors—Frazer) (for the remainder of his life he so constrained the expression of his thoughts as to ensure his safety—H. O. Taylor) Insure is often interchangeable with ensure (shipbuilders, who wished to insure a profitable career for their vessels—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (the structural division of the buildings, with no more than four apartments opening on any hallway, insures privacy and quiet—Amer. Guide Series: N. Y. City) but it is also the general word for reference to making certain arrangements for indemnification for loss by contingent events (to insure the car against theft and fire damage) Assure may in its more general use be indistinguishable from ensure and insure (protected by game laws and reared in state hatcheries, this bird is now assured a permanent place among the game birds of the state—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.) (policies and plans for assuring the necessary labor force for defense and essential civilian production—Current Bio.) but distinctly it more definitely expresses the notion of removal of doubt, uncertainty, or worry from a person's mind (I assured him that I was far from advising him to do anything so cruel—Conrad) (assured the inhabitants that France intended to grant autonomy—Current Bio.) Secure implies pur-}

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
against adverse contingencies {lock the door to secure us from interruption—Dickens} {one other battalion moved up to secure the first battalion's flank—Bernstein}

entangle, involve, enmesh are comparable when meaning to catch or to hold as if in a net from which it is difficult to escape. Entangle usually carries the implications of impeding and of the difficulty or impossibility of escape; although basically the word implies being caught in a net, a snare, or a maze, it may suggest only a condition that is similar in forming a complication of difficulties {the fly became entangled in the spider's web and could not escape} {like a bird entangled in a snare} {entangle themselves in the mazes of sophistry} {the firm is entangled in financial difficulties} {peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none—Jefferson} {had entangled the king in a false marriage with her—Sitwell} Involve (see also involve 3; compare involved under complex) implies the addition, often the conscious addition, of ideas, words, or projects which tend to make difficulties (as by confusing or perplexing) for oneself or another {his sentences are involved because he tries to express too many ideas} {the controversies . . . moved on in all their ugliness to involve others—J. M. Brown} {I plead frankly for the theistic hypothesis as involving fewer difficulties than any other—Inge} Enmesh comes very close to entangle in meaning but may be preferred when those involved in or as if in the meshes of a net is strongly felt {declining to haul up the net when the fish were already enmeshed—Grote} {his eye was enmeshed in no tangle of foreground, but was led across great tracts of country to the distant mountains—Binyon}


tenente treaty, pact, compact, concordat, convention, cartel, *contract, bargain

tenter 1 Enter, penetrate, pierce, probe are comparable when meaning to make way into something so as to reach or pass through the interior. Enter (see also enter 2) is the most comprehensive of these words and the least explicit in its implications. When the word takes a person for its subject, it often means little more than to go in or to go into {he entered the house} {came riding out of Asia on the very first horses to enter Africa—G. W. Murray} but sometimes it also suggests the beginning of a course of study, a career, or a proceeding {enter college} {enter Parliament} {there are many who are aghast at the type of world which we are now entering, in which a war could cause obliteration—Vannevar Bush} When enter takes a thing for its subject, it implies a making way through some medium and especially a dense or resisting medium {the rain could not enter the frozen earth} {the bullet entered the body near the heart} {such an idea never entered his mind} Penetrate (see also permeate) carries a far stronger implication than enter of an impelling force or of a compelling power that makes for entrance {the salt rain . . . penetrates the thickest coat—Jefferys} and it also more often suggests resistance in the medium {Frémont had tried to penetrate the Colorado Rockies—Cather} {his sight could not penetrate the darkness} It may imply either a reaching the center or a passing through and an issuing on the further side {penetrate the depths of a forest} {armor plate so thick that no cannonball can penetrate it} Penetrate, especially as an intransitive verb, often specifically takes as its subject something that is intangible or at least not objective but that has {in affirmative expressions} the power of making its way through {the influence of Christianity has penetrated to the ends of the earth} {a penetrating odor} {a penetrating voice} Often also, as distinguished from the other terms, penetrate suggests the use of a keen mind or the exercise of powers of intuition or discernment in the understanding of the abstruse or mysterious {we cannot penetrate the mind of the Absolute—Inge} {in seeking to penetrate the essential character of European art—Binyon} {Aunty Rosa could penetrate certain kinds of hypocrisy, but not all—Kipling} Pierce in the earliest of its English senses implies a running through with a sharp-pointed instrument (as a sword, a spear, or a knife) {they pierced both plate and mail—Spenser} In all of its extended senses it carries a far stronger implication than penetrate of something that stabs or runs through or of something that cuts into the very center or through to the further side {feel the piercing cold in every nerve} {a passion like a sword blade that pierced me through and through—Lindsay} {how was one to pierce such hidebound complacency?—Mackenzie} Often the term imputes great poignancy or aesthetic effectiveness beyond what is usual to the thing that pierces {the remembrance of all that made life dear pierced me to the core—Hudson} {whatever is expressed with ant—whether it be a lover's despair or a metaphysical theory—pierces the mind and compels assent and acceptance—Huxley} Probe derives its implications from the earliest of its senses, to explore (as a wound, a cavity, or the earth) with a long slender instrument especially in order to determine depth, condition, or contents. In its extended senses it implies penetration so far as circumstances allow or so far as one's powers or skills permit, and it usually suggests an exploratory or investigatory aim {the bog or peat was ascertained, on probing it with an instrument, to be at least fifteen feet thick—Lyell} {the only one . . . with whom he cared to probe into things a little deeper than the average level of club and chophouse banter—Wharton} In some cases probe means little more than to investigate thoroughly (as by questioning those in a position to know facts) {a rascally calumny, which I was determined to probe to the bottom—Scott}

Ana invade, entrench, *trespaso, encroach: *intrude, butt in: *begin, commence, start Ant issue from

2 Enter, introduce, admit are comparable when they mean to cause or permit to go in or get in. Enter, in its causative sense, is used chiefly in idiomatic phrases, though occasionally it is employed in the sense to drive or force in {he could not enter the wedge between the layers of rock} In idiomatic use it commonly implies writing down (as in a list, a roll, a catalogue, or a record), but in some of these phrases it also connotes the observance of other formalities; thus, to enter a word in a dictionary is to list it in alphabetical order and define its meaning: to enter one's son at a private school is to send in his name as a candidate for admission: to enter a judgment is to put it upon record in the proper legal form and order {the judge could enter a judgment of conviction and send Woodfall to prison—Chea} Introduce is often preferred to enter when it implies insertion {the painter who was introducing a tree into his landscape—Ellis} {when a bit of finely filiated platinum is introduced into a chamber containing oxygen and sulphur dioxide—T. S. Elliot} {Aunt Harriet met introduced herself through the doorway . . . into the interior of the vehicle—Bennett} It is the precise word when used of things not native and brought into a country or locality for the first time {plants introduced into America by the
enthuse

Enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot denote a

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

diversion, amusement, recreation (see entertain 1

*adventure, quest

entertain

1 *harbor, shelter, lodge, house, board

Ana

*receive, admit: cultivate, cherish, foster (see

exploit, *feat, achievement: struggle, striving, en-

devor, essay, attempt (see under ATTEMPT vb)

entice

*tire, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce

entity, being, creature, individual, person are comparable when meaning something which has real and independent existence. Entity, the most consistently abstract of these terms, implies such existence not only in the actual world but also in the realm of thought. An entity may be seen or heard or it may be invisible, intangible, or imaginary, but it may be thought of as really existing (that entity which we call an automobile) (is democracy an entity?) (his country is to him an entity, a concrete and organic unity for whom the work he is extremely proud to be natively associated—Brownell) (I insist that the entity called light to the readers of this book: as an entity consisting of particles—Darrow) for the good of that mystical entity, different from and superior to the mere individuals composing it, the Nation—Huxley) Being is for practical purposes definable in much the same terms as entities; however, it seldom retains the abstract meaning given to it by philosophers but easily slides into another and related sense, that of something or someone having material or immaterial existence, possessing qualities, properties, and attributes, and exciting thought or feelings (<the Supreme Being> <a human being> <a corporation is an artificial being, invisible, intangible, and existing only in contemplation of law—John Marshall>) (a period during which there exist in the universe beings capable of speculating about the universe and its fluctuations—Eddington) (doing her best to do the extraordinary things required of her, but essentially a being of passive dignities, living chiefly for them—H. G. Wells) Creature, in its most general sense, is the correlative of creator: it refers to any created thing, whether viewed as the creation of God or of natural influences we are all God’s creatures <as a child, I was inordinately fond of grasshoppers. For me, the mere mention of names of creatures—Grandgent>) In this, its usual sense, creature is a general term including all living beings, but especially all animals and men. Often, as a modification of this sense, creature refers to a human being regarded as an object of pity, scorn, congratulation, or reprobation (Mrs. Long is as good a creature as she ever lived—Austen) (it was against a creature like this that we plotted—Meredith) In a narrower sense creature often refers to a person whose work in the world is the creation of some power or influence and that, usually, is subject to it or obedient to its will (he was the Queen Mother’s creature—Belloz) (the evil in the moral order of the
Entrance is part of that world—and its own creature—Alexander> (imagination is always the creature of desire—Krutch) Individual, in its fundamental sense, refers to whatever may be regarded as an entity or being, but the term stresses rather its incapacity for being divided and its existence as a unit. An individual is that which cannot be divided without ceasing to be what it is—Archbishop Thomson> Individual, therefore, in ordinary language applies to a single member of a conceivable group, especially of human beings, and is often used in contrast with such general or comprehensive terms as society, race, or family (the individual rebelled against restraint; society wanted to do what it pleased—Henry Adams> (art . . . tends to reconcile the individual with the universal, by exciting in him impersonal emotion—Galsworthy) (the equipment of the higher animals . . . is needed less for the good of the individual than for the good of the race—Ellis) Concretely, individual is often used of a person who strikes one as rich in nature and as standing strongly alone or independently (Donne would have been an individual at any time and place—T. S. Eliot> but occasionally it is used contemptuously to mean himself unpleasantly conspicuous (as by undue familiarity, blatancy, or general obnoxiousness) (the individual who had sat himself down by me produced a little box and offered me a lozenge—Jefferies) Person in its most common modern use denotes an individual human being without reference to sex, age, or identity (there were five thousand persons at the meeting) (he knew but one person in the throng) (a commission of inquiry empowered to examine persons and papers) Person is often found in other and richer senses, most of which involve the idea of the manifestation or the sustaining of a clearly defined character; sometimes it implies an entity distinguished from one's body yet somehow associated with it (we observe . . . to begin with, that our bodies are not we,—not our proper persons—Mozley> (never needing to assert the dignity of his person) and sometimes it implies this character as manifest to others (the boy is becoming a real person) (everybody recognized him as a person) Sometimes (as in law) person may refer not only to a man (a natural person) but to a corporate body (an artificial, or juristic, person) either of which has rights and duties that are recognized (a state, a church, and a corporation are in the eyes of the law persons) Again (as in Christian theology), person denotes one of the distinct modes of being in which the Supreme Being manifests Himself to men (one God in three divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost) Sometimes, also, person may refer to the body of a human being or to his appearance, but even in these it usually suggests a body informed by a spirit or personality (he suffered injury to his person and damage to his property) (Mr. Wickham was . . . far beyond them all in person, countenance, air, and walk—Austen> (appear in person) (England . . . had stolen a kingdom . . . in Africa, and seized the person of its king—Shaw)

Entrance n Entrance, entry, entrée, ingress, access are comparable when meaning the act, fact, or privilege of going in or coming in. All but entrée also carry the denotation of a way or means of entering. Their differences are largely in their applications and in their connotations. Entrance is the widest in its range of application and the thinnest in its specific implications; it fits in with nearly every context (await the entrance of the king) (a season ticket gives you entrance to all the events) (the entrance is through a gate south of the stadium) (gained their entrance to the game through a hole in the fence) Entry, by comparison, typically imputes a formal or ceremonial character to the act of entering (the trumpet will announce the Nuncio’s entry—Browning> When used with reference to a place where one enters, it usually signifies a door, a gate, a portico, or more commonly a vestibule or entrance hall (the postman throws the letters in the entry) (I hear a knocking at the south entry—Shak.) It has largely yielded its meaning of the privilege or right of entrance to entrée. The latter word, however, is usually restricted in its application and suggests exclusiveness in those admitting or distinction or social gifts in those admitted (my mother’s introductions had procured me the entrée of the best French houses—Lytton> (commented on the entrance which his son had with the president—New Republic> Ingress, because of legal use, carries more than any of the others the implication either of permission to enter or of encroachment (his deed gives him use of the path with free ingress and egress) (we pardon it; and for your ingress here upon the skirt and fringe of our fair land—Tennyson> (it puts a great strain on an armadillo to open his mouth wide enough to permit the ingress of a copper cent edge-wise—G. S. Perry> When used concretely it more often suggests a narrow passageway than an architectural structure (a narrow gap is the only ingress to the valley) Access, like ingress, implies admission where barriers are imposed, but they may be of many kinds: social, legal, or personal, as well as natural (he is here at the door and importunes access to you—Shak.) Access is distinguished from the other words of this group by its emphasis on approach rather than on entrance (explorers still find the North Pole difficult of access, in spite of their use of airplanes) (the access to the harbor was through a long narrow channel)

Ant exit

Entrance vb *transport, ravish, enrapture

Ana delight, gladden, rejoice, *please: enchant, captivate, bewitch, charm (see ATTRACT)

Entrap trap, snare, ensnare, bag, *catch, capture

Ana seize, *take, clutch: *lure, inveigle, decoy, entice

Entreat *beg, beseech, implore, supplicate, importune, adjure

Ana *ask, request, solicit: pray, appeal, plead, petition, sue (see under PRAYER)

Con withstand, *resist, oppose: dare, *face, brave, challenge

Entrée *entrance, entry, ingress, access

Ana admission, *admittance

Entrench encroach, *trespass, infringe, invade

Ana *monopolize, engross, consume, absorb: *interpose, interfere, intervene

Entrust confide, *commit, consign, relegate

Ana *allot, assign, allocate: *rely, trust, depend, count, bank, reckon

Con suspect, doubt (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY): mistrust, *distrust

Entry *entrance, entrée, ingress, access

Ana *door, doorway, gate, gateway, portal, postern

Entwine *wind, coil, curl, twist, twine, wreathe

Ana *curve, bend: interweave, interlait (see base words at WEAVE): *entangle, enmesh

Enumerate *count, tell, number

Ana compute, *calculate, reckon: *add, sum, total, figure: rehearse, recount, recite (see RELATE)

Enunciate pronounce, *articulate

Envelop vb 1 *cover, overspread, wrap, shroud, veil

Ana *surround, environ, encompass: cloak, mask (see DISGUISE)

2 *enclose, fence, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
envious, jealous, though not close synonyms, are comparable because both carry as their basic meaning that of grudging another's possession of something desirable. Envious stresses a coveting of something (as riches, possessions, or attainments) which belongs to another or of something (as success or good fortune) which has come to another. It may imply either a gnawing, often a malicious, desire to deprive one of what gives him gratification, or a spiteful delight in his dispossess or loss of it <still in thy right hand carry gentle peace, to silence envious tongues—Shak.> <some envious hand has sprinkled ashes just to spoil our slide—Field> Frequently, however, the stress is on coveting rather than on a desire to injure <we are all envious of your good fortune> <tried to look disappointed and angry but . . . only succeeded in looking envious—Hervey Allen> Jealous often stresses intolerance of a rival for the possession of a thing which one regards as peculiarly one's own or on the winning of which one has set one's heart, but sometimes it merely implies intensely zealous efforts to keep or maintain what one possesses. The term often is used without derogation <thou shalt have no other gods before me>, for the Lord thy God a jealous God—Exod. 20:3-5> <pride of their calling, conscious of their duty, and jealous of their honor—Galsworthy> However the term usually carries a strong implication of distrust, suspicion, enviousness, or sometimes anger <a jealous wife> <he was jealous of Carson's fame as an Indian fighter—Cather> <stabbed by a jealous lover> 

Ana *covetous, grasping, greedy: grudging, coveting, envying (see COVET): malign, malignant, spiteful, *malicious, malevolent
Con generous, *liberal, bountiful, openhanded: kindly, *kind, benign, benignant

envir on vb *surround, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring
Ana *enclose, envelop, fence: circumscribe, confine (see LIMIT) 

environment *background, milieu, backdrop, setting, milieu, backdrop, 
environment

envisage, envision conceive, imagine, *think, realize, fancy
Ana view, behold, survey, contemplate (see VIEW): objectify, externalize, materialize, *realize
envoy *ambassador, legate, minister, nuncio, internuncio, chargé d'affaires
envy vb *covet, grudge, begrudge
Ana *long, pine, hanker, yearn

ephemeral *transient, transitory, passing, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, momentary, short-lived
Ana *Brief, short

epicene hermaphroditic, hermaphrodite, *bisexual, androgy nous

Ana effeminate, womanish (see FEMALE adj)

epicure, gourmet, gourmand, glutton, bon vivant, gastronome mean one who takes pleasure in eating and drinking. An epicure is one who is choice and fastidious while at the same time voluptuous in enjoyment of food and drink; the term is also applied to a connoisseur in an art involving both feasting and delicacy of taste <I am become a perfect epicure in reading; plain beef or solid mutton will never do—Goldsmith> <an epicure in many of the delights of the senses—Canby> A gourmet is a connoisseur in delicate or exotic dishes, liquors, and wines; the term carries as its distinctive connotation the savoring as of each morsel of food or sip of wine, and the power to distinguish delicate differences in flavor or quality <the most finished gourmet of my acquaintance—Thackeray> <eating habits . . . of a determined gourmet, verging at times on those of a gourmand—Kahn> Gour mand implies less fastidiousness and less discernment than gourmet, but it suggests a hearty interest in and enjoyment of good food and drink rather than, as glutton does, greedy and voracious eating and drinking <I dare say, their table is always good, for the Landgrave is a gour mand—Chesterfield> <youth is a gourmand when it cannot be a gourmet—McClure's Mag.> it would be difficult to determine whether they were most to be distinguished as gluttons or epicures; for they were, at once, dainty and voracious, understood the right and the wrong of every dish, and alike emptied the one and the other—Burney> Bon vivant differs little from gour mand except in its stronger connotation of a lively or spirited enjoyment of the pleasures of the table, especially in the company of others <the Major was somewhat of a bon vivant, and his wine was excellent—Scott> he was also a bon vivant, a dinner-out, and a storyteller—Fraser's Mag. Gastronome is equivalent to epicure, with perhaps greater stress on expert knowledge and appreciation of fine food and wine and of the ritual of preparation and serving of them <a conversation on the mysteries of the table, which . . . a modern gastronome might have listened to with pleasure—Scott>

Ana connoisseur, *aesthete, dilettante

epicurean sybaritic, luxurious, *sensual, sensual, voluptuous
Ana fastidious, dainty, *nice, particular

Ant gross

epigram aphorism, apothegm, *saying, saw, maxim, adage, proverb, motto

episode 1 *digression, divagation, excursus
Ana *deviation, divergence, deflection: departing or departure (see corresponding verb at SWERVE)

epoch era, age, *period, aeon

equable even, constant, *steady, uniform
Ana regular, *orderly, methodical, systematic: invariable, immutable, unchangeable (see affirmative adjectives at CHANGEABLE): *same, equal, equivalent

Ant variable, changeable —Con fluctuating, wavering (see SWING): *fitful, spasmodic
equal adj equivalent, *same, very, identical, identic, tantamount
Ana equable, even, uniform (see STEADY): *like, alike: proportionate, commensurate (see PROPORTIONAL)

Ant unequal —Con *different, diverse, disparate, various, divergent
equal vb *match, rival, approach, touch
Ana *compare: square, accord, tally, correspond, *agree
equanimity, composure, sangfroid, phlegm mean the mental temper of one who is self-possessed or not easily disturbed or perturbed. Equanimity suggests either a proper mental balance or a constitutionally equable temper; it therefore may imply either a delicate adjustment of one's emotional and mental powers that is liable to disturbance only under great strain or a settled attitude of mind which repels all that disturbs <his placidity of demeanour . . . arose from . . . the equanimity of a cold disposition rather than of one well ordered by discipline—Trollope> it was some time before Wildeve recovered his equanimity—Hardy> stoicism teaches men . . . to
accept with proud equanimity the misfortunes of life—Inge> Composure commonly implies the conquest of mental agitation or disturbance by an effort of will, though it may imply a temperamental freedom from agitation (his passions tamed and all at his control, how perfect the composure of his soul!—Cowper) <we have to call upon our whole people—men, women, and children alike—to stand up with composure and fortitude to the fire of the enemy—Sir Winston Churchill> Sangfroid implies great coolness and steadiness especially under strain (no being ever stood in a pedagogue's presence with more perfect sangfroid—Disraeli) <at all these [gambling games] she won and lost, with the same equable sangfroid—Rose Macaulay> Phlegm suggests an apathy of mind or sluggishness of temperament that results from a physical condition rather than from discipline or self-control; it therefore suggests even greater imper turbability and insensitiveness than any of the preceding terms (he chose the eldest daughter whose numb composure he mistook for phlegm—Patton) <there was a busy, bustling, disputatious tone about it, instead of the accustomed phlegm and drowsy tranquillity—Irving> Ana poise, equipose, *balance, equilibrium: self-pos session, self-assurance, aplomb (see CONFIDENCE): tranquillity, serenity, placidity, calmness (see corresponding adjectives at CALM) Con discomposure, agitation, disquieting or disquiet, perturbing or perturbation, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)
equilibrium equipoise, poise, *balance, tension Ana stableness or stability (see corresponding adjective at LASTING): stabilization, steadying (see corresponding verbs at STABILIZE): counterbalancing or counterbalance, counterpoising or counterpoise (see corresponding verbs at COMPENSATE)
equip *furnish, outfit, appoint, accouter, arm Con divest, dismantle, denude, *strip: despoil, spoli ate, *ravage
equipment, apparatus, machinery, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear, matériel are comparable when they mean all the things that are used in a given work or are useful in effecting a given end. Equipment usually covers everything needed for efficient operation or efficient service except the personnel; thus, the equipment for a polar expedition would include not only the vessels, instruments, and implements required but also the sleds, dogs, and supplies (as clothing, food, and medicines) <the equipment of furnishings, utensils, and supplies required for setting up housekeeping> Sometimes equipment is more limited in its application; thus, in railroad ing it covers only the rolling stock and not the roadbed and stations. In extended use equipment is also employed in reference to persons and covers the qualities and skills necessary to their efficiency or competency in a given kind of work <knowledge, penetration, seriousness, sentiment, humor, Gray had them all; he had the equipment and endowment for the office of poet—Arnold> <a health officer needed more than technical training . . . . It appeared that diplomacy should constitute a major part of his equipment—Heiser> Apparatus usually covers the instruments, tools, machines, and appliances used in a given craft or profession or in a specific operation or the equipment used in a recreation or sport; thus, the apparatus of a dentist includes all the mechanical and electrical devices he uses in his professional work; the apparatus of a laboratory, as distinguished from its equipment, consists of all the mechanical requisites for carrying on operations or experiments. When used in reference to persons or employment not requiring mechanical devices, apparatus denotes all the external aids useful in prosecuting a particular kind of work; thus, the apparatus of a scholar in Old English includes the reference books (as texts, glossaries, and bibliographies) that he finds essential to or helpful in his investigations <formal lectures, with an appending apparatus of specimens, charts, and wall pictures—Grandgent> Machinery covers all the devices, means, or agencies which permit a thing (as an organism, a government, an institution, or a law) to function or which enable it to accomplish its ends (as a movement, a political party, or propaganda) <the physiological machinery of the body is so adjusted that great variations of atmospheric temperature can be supported without detriment—Heiser> <public meetings, harangues, resolutions, and the rest of the modern machinery of agitation had not yet come into fashion—Macaulay> <if the peoples wanted war, no machinery could prevent them from having it—Inge> Paraphernalia usually suggests a collection of the miscellaneous articles or belongings that constitute the usual accompaniments (often the necessary equipment) of a person or group of persons in a particular employment or activity <the paraphernalia of a circus> <the paraphernalia of a tourist> <little piles of wheels, strips of unworked iron and steel, blocks of wood, the paraphernalia of the inventor's trade—Anderson> The word may be slightly contemptuous and imply a trivial or worthless character to the items included <clear a boy's room of all its paraphernalia> Outfit is sometimes interchangeable with equipment, but it has a slightly less formal flavor and is preferred when the latter term might seem pretentious <a camper's outfit> <a beginner's beekeeping outfit, consisting of a bee veil, a pair of bee gloves, and the makings of a first-rate beehive—New Yorker> It often specifically suggests wearing apparel and other necessities for a journey, a school year, or a new employment <a bride's outfit> <a college girl's outfit> Besides this neat, black figure the American business man's outfit is as garish as a clown's—Barbara Beecher> Tackle is also less formal than apparatus, which otherwise it closely resembles <fishing tackle> <the girl sprucely habited, with her pretty tackle on the shining horse was a glad sight—Miles Franklin> Gear is variously used, sometimes approaching equipment <you've got a good six hours to get your gear together—Conrad> or sometimes apparatus <sportsman's gear> or again outfit, or wearing apparel <servants . . . ready in waiting at Pathankote with a change of gear—Kipling> It is also occasionally the most general of these terms and equivalent to one's belongings collectively <they are all, as far as worldly gear is concerned, much poorer than I—Shaw> Matériel is used in industry and in military affairs as a comprehensive and unambiguous term that covers everything but the personnel <a heavy drain on both the manpower and matériel resources—N. Y. Times>
equipoise equilibrium, poise, *balance, tension

equitable *fair, just, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, objective Ana *proportional, proportionate, commensurate, commensurable: equal, equivalent, *same, identical Ant inequitable, unfair —Con unreasonable, *irrational

equity *justice equivalent adj equal, *same, identical, identical, selfsame, very, tantamount Ana like, alike, comparable, parallel, uniform (see SIMILAR): proportionate, commensurate (see PROPORTIONAL): *reciprocal, corresponding, convertible Ant different —Con disparate, diverse, divergent, various (see DIFFERENT): discrepant, discordant, *incon sonant, incompatible
equivocal  ambiguous, *obscure, dark, vague, enigmatic, cryptic
Ana  dubious, questionable, *doubtful
Ant  unequivocal —Con  *explicit, express, definite, specific, categorical: perspicuous, lucid, *clear
equivocate  prevaricate, *lie, palter, fib
Ana  *deceive, mislead, delude: evade, elude, *escape
equivocation  *ambiguity, tergiversation, double entendre
Ana  prevarication, lying, fibbing or fib (see corresponding verbs at LIE): duplicity, dissimulation, *deceit

erase  expunge, cancel, obliterate, *obliterate, blot out, delete
mean to strike out something so that it no longer has effect. Erase basically implies a scraping or rubbing out of something that is written, engraved, or painted (erase a word) (erase a line of an inscription) In extended use erase often refers to something that has been eradicated as if by scraping or rubbing out after it has impressed or imprinted itself on the memory or has become part of an unwritten record (have a few years totally erased me from your memory—Gray) (the old boyhood notion . . . that a town and a people could remake him and erase from his body the marks of what he thought of as his inferior birth—Anderson) Expunge implies, possibly through confusion with sponge, so thorough-going an erasure that the thing affected is wiped out completely (a woman's history, you know: certain chapters expunged—Meredith) (the most primitive ways of thinking may not yet be wholly expunged—James) Basically cancel means to strike out written material (originally with lines crossed latitudinally), but it also may apply to an invalidating or nullifying by other means; thus, a postage stamp is canceled to prevent reuse, usually with a hand device or a machine that stamps an indelible mark or device on its face; a transportation ticket is similarly canceled with a punch that removes a part of it; a will is canceled by physically destroying it (the worn or soiled currency declared unfit for further circulation is transferred to our custodians of unfit currency for cancellation on a canceling machine which is designed to punch the symbol "L" in each corner of each package of 100 bills, and to simultaneously cut each package in half lengthwise—George Parker) In extended use cancel implies an action that completely negates something, whether by a legal annulling (cancellation consists of any act, such as the surrender or intentional destruction of the instrument, that indicates the intention to cancel or renounce the obligation—Fisk & Snapp) or by a revoking or rescinding (cancel a meeting) (the laboratory door does not lock behind him and bar his return any more than it swung shut to imprison Darwin and forever cancel his status as a naturalist—Amer. Naturalist) or often by a neutralization of one thing by its opposite (the qualities that in the end nullified his great strength of character and remarkable gifts, just as his irritability cancelled out his natural kindness—Osbet Sibwell) (ironies breed before our eyes, cancel each other out—Kristol) Effece, more strongly than erase, implies the complete removal of something impressed or imprinted on a surface (constant use gradually effaces the figures and letters on a coin) (efface the offensive murals in a public building) As a result, in its extended use, efface often implies destruction of every visible or sensible sign of a thing's existence (while nations have effaced nations, and death has gathered to his fold long lines of mighty kings—Wordsworth) (the attempt to efface the boundaries between prose and verse—Lowes) Often, especially in reflexive use, it implies an attempt to make inconspicuous or vague (efface oneself in the company of others) Obliterate and blot out both imply rendering a thing indiscernible by smearing it with something which hides its existence (a smear of decisive lead-colored paint had been laid on to obliterate Henchard's name—Hardy) (blot out with ink a passage in a manuscript) Both terms are more often used, however, with the implication of the removal of every trace of a thing's existence (the falling snow rapidly obliterated all signs of approaching spring) (a successful love . . . obliterated all other failures—Krutch) (then rose the seed of chaos, and of night, to blot out order, and extinguish light—Pope) Delete implies marking something in a manuscript or proof for omission from a text that is to be published or distributed (whenever you feel an impulse to perpetrate a piece of exceptionally fine writing, obey it—wholeheartedly—and delete it before sending your manuscript to press—Quiller-Couch) But delete also often suggests eradication or elimination by the exercise of arbitrary power (the censor deleted all the interesting parts of the letter) (a compulsion to make plays out of books, musicals out of plays . . . to insert scenes, delete characters, include commentators—Kronenberger)
Ana  annul, *nullify, negate: *abolish, extinguish
Con  imprint, impress, print, stamp (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION)
erect  vb *build, construct, frame, raise, rear
Ana  fabricate, fashion, form (see MAKE): *lift, raise, elevate
Ant  raze
ereemit  hermit, anchorite, *recluse, cenobite
erotic, amatory, amorous, amative, aphrodisiac all involve the idea of love for the opposite sex, but they are not freely interchangeable because of differences in denotation as well as in implications. Erotic, though the strongest in its suggestions of love as a violent passion or as a physical appetite, is rarely applied to persons as distinct from their behavior, reactions, or emotions, and it is especially used in characterizing or classifying emotions, motives, or themes in art (erotic tendencies) (erotic music) (an erotic poet) (erotic poetry) (it was the persuasion that the deprivation was final that obsessed him with erotic imaginations . . . almost to the verge of madness—H. G. Wells) (describes his erotic adventures with prostitutes—Sat. Review) Amatory is a synonym of erotic but weaker in its suggestion of sexual desire; it sometimes connotes little more than ardent admiration; thus, one might more correctly describe the youthful love poems of Tennyson as amatory than as erotic poetry (Sir Lucius . . . has been deluded into thinking that some amatory letters received by him from Mrs. Malaprop are from Lydia—Harvey) Amorous is applied chiefly to persons, their words, or their acts especially when they are falling in love or making love (came many a tipote, amorous cavalier, and back retired . . . her heart was otherwise—Keats) (yielded, with coy submission, modest pride, and sweet, reluctant, amorous delay—Milton) (the shady lawns and thickets along the river give nightly sanctuary to amorous couples—Green Peyton) The word often suggests ripeness or eagerness for love (the English . . . are not an amorous race. Love with them is more sentimental than passionate—Maugham) In this
Ana  analogous words
Ant  antonyms
Con  contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sense it is also applied, chiefly in poetry, to animals (the amorous dove—Gilbert) Amative implies merely a disposition to fall in love or a propensity for loving; it is chiefly used in describing temperament or in analyzing character (that crudely amative public to which our modern best sellers appeal—N. Y. Times) he is not normally amative Aphrodisiac is applied to things (as drugs or writings) that arouse or tend to arouse sexual desire (the labored unreserve of aphrodisiac novels and plays—Montague) Ana passionate, *impassioned, fervid, perfervid, ardent, fervent; *carnal, fleshly, sensual erratic eccentric, odd, queer, *strange, singular, peculiar, bull, slip, lapse, faux pas, error, howler, mistake, blunder, bull, howler, boner are comparable when they denote something (as an act, statement, or belief) that involves a departure from what is, or what is generally held to be, true, right, or proper. Error implies a straying from a proper course and suggests such guilt as may lie in failure to take proper advantage of a guide (as a record or manuscript, a rule or set of rules, or a principle, law, or code); thus, a typographical error results when a compositor misreads a manuscript; an error in addition involves some failure to follow the rules for addition; an error in conduct is an infraction of an accepted code of manners or morals (those who, with sincerity and generosity, fight and fall in an evil cause, posterity can only compassionate as victims of a generous but fatal error—Scott) (without understanding grievous and irreparable errors can be made—Donald Harrington) Mistake implies misconception, misunderstanding, a wrong but not always blamingly judgment, or inadvertence; it expresses less severe criticism than error (he made a serious mistake when he chose the law as his profession) (a child makes many mistakes in spelling) (there is a medium between truth and falsehood, and (I believe) the word mistake expresses it exactly. I will therefore say that you were mistaken—Cowper) Blunder is harsher than mistake or error; it commonly implies ignorance or stupidity, sometimes blameworthiness (we usually call our blunders mistakes, and our friends style our mistakes blunders—Wheatley) (one's translation is sure to be full of gross blunders, but the supreme blunder is that of translating at all when one is trying to catch not a fact but a feeling—Henry Adams) Slip carries a stronger implication of inadvertence or accident than mistake and often, in addition, connotes triviality (the wrong date on the check was a slip of the pen) (a social slip which makes us feel hot all over—L. P. Smith) Often, especially when it implies a transgression against morality, the word is used euphemistically or ironically (let Christian's slips before he came hither ... be a warning to those that come after—Bunyan) (the minister ... comes when people are in extremis, but they don't send for him every time they make a slight moral slip—tell a lie, for instance, or smuggle a silk dress through the customhouse—Holmes) Lapse, though sometimes used interchangeably with slip, stresses forgetfulness, weakness, or inattention more than accident; thus, one says a lapse of memory or a slip of the pen, but not vice versa (writes well, despite occasional lapses into polysyllabic humor—Geographical Jour.) When used in reference to a moral transgression, it carries a weaker implication of triviality than slip and a stronger one of a fall from grace or from one's own standards (for all his ... lapses, there was in him a real nobility, an even ascetic firmness and purity of character—Ellis) Faux pas is most frequently applied to a mistake in etiquette (she was carefully instructed so that there was no danger of her making a faux pas when she was presented at the Court of St. James's) (John and I, horridly, hustled him out before he could commit any further faux pas—S. H. Adams) Bull, howler, and boner all three are rather informal terms applicable to blunders (and especially to blunders in speech or writing) that typically have an amusing aspect. A bull may be a grotesque blunder in language typically characterized by some risible incongruity (the well-known bull stating that "one man is just as good as another—and sometimes more so") or it may be a mere stupid or gauche blunder (he really committed a bull when he solemnly introduced his new friend to the latter's ex-wife) A howler is a gross or ludicrous error based on ignorance or confusion of ideas; the term is used especially of laughable errors in scholastic recitations or examinations (a collection of schoolboy howlers) (a howler that turns the title "Intimations of Immortality" into "Imitations of Immorality") A boner may be a grammatical, logical, or factual blunder in a piece of writing that is usually so extreme as to be funny (a few historical boners ... such as dinosaurs surviving until medieval times—Coulton Waugh) or it may be a ridiculous or embarrassing slip of the kind that results from a sudden lapse (as of attention or from tact or decorum) (is the proprietor of a large and varied selection of diplomatic boners—Rosenthal) errorless flawless, faultless, *impeccable Ana *correct, accurate, exact, precise, right, nice ersatz adj *artificial, synthetic, factitious erudite *learned, scholarly erudition learning, scholarship, *knowledge, science, information, lore escape vb 1 Escape, flee, fly, decamp, abscond mean to run away especially from something which limits one's freedom or threatens one's well-being. Escape so stresses the idea of flight from confinement or restraint that it very often conveys no suggestion of wrongdoing or of danger (one of the most powerful motives that attract people to science and art is the longing to escape from everyday life—Ellis) (eager to escape from the army and go back to his hometown—Wecter) Flee implies haste and often abruptness in departure (there was evidence that the burglars had been frightened and had fled) It often connotes disappearance, especially when extended to things (the mists fled before the rising sun) Fly is interchangeable with flee but its use is restricted in idiomatic English to the present tense (fly, father, fly! for all your friends are fled—Shak.) Decamp usually suggests a sudden departure to elude discovery or arrest; it commonly carries a disparaging or belittling connotation (having imparted my situation to my companion, she found it high time for us to decamp—Smollett) (came to town, took orders, received advances of goods or money, and then decamped—Jones) Abscond adds to decamp the distinctive implications of clandestine withdrawal and concealment usually to avoid the consequences of fraudulent action (he had the appearance of a bankrupt tradesman absconding—Meredith) (determined to be a poet at any price, he absconded from college with his clothes and took refuge in a lonely farmhouse—Brooks) Con *follow, chase, pursue, trail, tag 2 Escape, avoid, evade, elude, shun, eschew are comparable...
when meaning to get away or to keep away from something which one does not wish to incur, endure, or encounter. **Escape** when referred to persons (sometimes to animals) usually implies a threat to their liberty or well-being; in this sense it may not imply running away from or even an effort to miss what threatens, but it does suggest the latter's imminence or likelihood **elude** escape suspicion **escape discovery** escape the family tendency to tuberculosis escape annoyance **escape** a blow by dodging it (few fish can escape this net) When extended to things and especially to inanimate or intangible things escape connotes something comparable to a net which holds and confines yet permits passage through it (details which escape the mind) nothing escaped the kind eyes—Deland (the exquisite beauty of this passage, even in translation, will escape no lover of poetry—Dickinson) **Avoid** in contrast with escape, suggests a keeping clear of what one does not wish to risk or knows to be a source of danger, rather than getting away from what actually threatens; thus, one may escape suspicion by avoiding persons or places that are being watched; one may avoid all seekers of disgusting yet not escape infection. he kept himself somewhat aloof, seeming to avoid notice rather than to court it—Arnold Avoid, however, is often used interchangeably with escape; it may be preferred when a danger is averted by forethought, prudence, or caution (mother and son avoided an open rupture by never referring to their differences—Santayana) by pooling our difficulties, we may at least avoid the failures which come from conceiving the problems of government to be simpler than they are—Frankfurter **Evade** implies escape or the intent to escape, but it also commonly suggests avoidance by the use of adroit, ingenious, or, sometimes, underhand means; thus, one evades suspicion who escapes it by spreading rumors that throw others off the scent; one evades a question one does not wish to answer by seeming not to hear it (the exacting life of the sea has this advantage over the life of the earth, that its claims are simple and cannot be evaded—Conrad) wisdom consists not in premature surrender but in learning when to evade, when to stave off and when to oppose head on—Howe **Elude** comes closer to escape than to avoid but stresses a slippery or baffling quality in the thing which gets away or cannot be captured (whose secret presence, through creation's veins running quicksilverlike, eludes your pains—FitzGerald) for are we not all fated to pursue ideals which seem eternally to elude us—L. P. Smith Elude, however, is sometimes used in place of evade when there is a strong suggestion of shiftness or unreliability or of the use of stratagems (she is adept in eluding her obligations) in the game of hide-and-seek the players try to evade discovery by the one seeking their hiding places. Shun differs from avoid chiefly in its added implication of an abhorrence or aversion that is sometimes temperamental in its origin but oftentimes rational and dictated by conscience, experience, or sense of prudence (lepers shunned and rebuffed by the world—Heiser) to shun for his health the pleasures of the table—Quiller-Couch (thus have I shunned the fire for fear of burning—Shak) (I used to live entirely for pleasure. I shunned suffering and sorrow of every kind—Wilde) **Eschew** comes very close to shun in meaning but tends to stress practical, moral, or prudential rather than temperamental reasons for the avoidance (trained to eschew private passions and pursuits—Mowrer) what cannot be eschewed must be embraced—Shak (observers... thought that capitalists would eschew all connection with what must necessarily be a losing concern—Macaulay)
in their use, except that *theme* is more often employed in colleges and high schools and *composition* in the lower schools, there can be a real difference in the implications of the words. *Theme* may imply the development and elaboration of a definite subject; its tests are chiefly adequacy, as evinced by its completeness of treatment within limitations, and readability, as evinced by its power to interest those who read it and impress its points on their minds. *Composition*, on the other hand, implies organization of details, facts, and ideas or sometimes of sentences and paragraphs so that the result is a unified and clear piece of writing.

**essential adj 1* inherent, intrinsic, constitutional, ingrained

*Ana* innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: *inner, inward*

*Ant* accidental —*Con* adventitious, fortuitous, incidental (see *ACCIDENTAL*): *contingent, dependent, conditional

2 *Essential, fundamental, vital, cardinal* mean so important as to be indispensable. Something is *essential* which belongs to the very nature or essence of a thing and which therefore cannot be removed without destroying the thing itself or its distinguishing character (the *essential* doctrines of Christianity) (the *essential* ingredient in a medicine) (the most *essential* characteristic of mind is memory—Russell) Something is *fundamental* upon which everything else is in a system, institution, or construction is built up, by which the whole is supported, or from which each addition is derived and without which, therefore, the whole construction would topple down (certainly all those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation—John Marshall) (the power of concentrated attention as a cardinal source of the prodigious productiveness of great workers—Eliot) Something is *vital* which is as necessary to a thing's existence, continued vigor, or efficiency as food, drink, and health are to living things (a question the solution of which is *vital* to human happiness) (the *vital* interests of a people) (the capture of the fortified town was *vital* to the invaders) (Germany is extremely important to Russia, but Poland, the gateway of invasion, is *vital*—Hartmann) Something is *cardinal* upon which something else turns or hinges or actively depends; thus, the *cardinal* virtues (prudence, fortitude, temperance, justice, and sometimes, patience and humility) are not, in Christian theology, the highest virtues (which are the Christian virtues faith, hope, and charity), but they are fundamental and without them moral progress would be impossible (arguments in a brief) (the *cardinal* defects in a character) (events are not to be forgotten—De Quincey) (I repeat this sentence, with emphasis on its *cardinal* words—Darrow)

*Ana* basic, baseline, underlying, *fundamental*: principal, foremost, capital, *chief, main, leading: prime,* primary, primal

*Ant* subordinate, secondary, dependent: *auxiliary, subsidiary, accessory, contributory, subservient

3 *indispensable, requisite, necessary, needful

*Ana* required, needed, wanted (see *LACK vb*

*Ant* nonessential

**establish** 1 *set, settle, fix

*Ana* implant, inculcate, instill: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor

*Ant* uproot (a tree, a habit, a practice): abrogate (a right, a privilege, a quality) —*Con* eradicate, extirpate, wipe, *exterminate

2 *found, institute, organize

*Ana* start, inaugurate, *begin, commence, initiate

*Ant* abolish (a society, an institution)

**esteem** n respect, admiration, *regard

*Ana* *honor, homage, reverence, deference, obeisance: veneration, reverence, worship, adoration (see under *REVERE*)

*Ant* abomination: contempt —*Con* despite, scorn, disdain (see under *DESPISE*): abhorrence, loathing, hatred, hate, destestation (see under *HATE vb*

**esteem vb** respect, admire, regard (see under *REGARD n*)

*Ana* prize, value, *appreciate, treasure, cherish: *revere, reverence, venerate

*Ant* abominate —*Con* abhor, loathe, *hate, detest: contempt, *despise, scorn, disdain

**estimate** vb 1 *Estimate, appraise, evaluate, value, rate, assess, assay are comparable when meaning to judge a thing with respect to its worth. *Estimate* usually implies a personal and sometimes a reasoned judgment which, whether considered or casual, is by the nature of the case neither thoroughly objective nor definitive (we have first to *estimate* their effects upon complicated social conditions (largely a matter of guesswork)—Dewey) (small and manageable numbers of birds must be counted precisely; huge flocks can only be *estimated*—Time) (to *estimate* the Frenchwoman's moral nature with any approach to adequacy it is necessary . . . to avoid viewing her from an Anglo-Saxon standpoint—Brownell) *Appraise* implies the intent to fix definitely and in the capacity of an expert the monetary worth of the thing in question usually in terms of the price it ought to bring in the market if sold, or in case of its loss (as by fire or theft) the monetary compensation due its owner (from an insuring company) *appraise* the decedent's real estate (appraise a fire loss) In extended use *appraise*, in contrast to *estimate*, implies an intent to give a final, an accurate, or an expert judgment of a thing's worth; *estimate*, therefore, is often preferred by persons speaking of their own judgments because *appraise* seems presumptuous or pretentious (it is not my business to *appraise* Appraisements imply censures and it is not one writer's business to censure others—F. M. Ford) (this difficulty of *appraising* literature absolutely inheres in your study of it from the beginning—Quiller-Couch) The participial adjective *appraising* is often used to qualify eye, glance, look; it then suggests close, critical inspection or scrutiny (addressing him with a watchful *appraising* stare of his prominent black eyes—Conrad) (the monumental and encyclopedic critic is to be regarded with a carefully *appraising* eye—T. S. Eliot) *Evaluate*, like *appraise*, suggests an intent to arrive at a mathematically correct judgment; it seldom suggests, however, an attempt to determine a thing's monetary worth, but rather to find its equivalent in other and more familiar terms (a teacher evaluates a student's work by marks in numbers or in letters) (many persons find it impossible to *evaluate* a work of art except in terms of morals) (conventional ethical codes are assumed to be invalid or at least impractical for *evaluating* life as it is—Walcutt) *Value* (see also *APPRECIATE 2*) comes very close to *appraise* in that it also implies an intent to determine or fix the market price but differs from *appraise* in that it carries no implication of an authoritative or expert judgment and must depend on the context to make that point if it is essential (the appraiser *valued* at $10,000 condemned property which had already been *valued* by the owner at $15,000 and by the city at $8000) (experts were called in to *appraise* the gems which the alleged smuggler had *valued* at $1000) In extended use and in
estimate 

reference to things not marketable, value is often found with a negative or with a restrictive word such as only (the values success only as a stepping-stone) (who values his own honor not a straw—Browning) (valued himself on his tolerance of heresy in great thinkers—Frost) Rate often adds to estimate the implication of fixing in a scale of values (rate one profession above another in usefulness) (rate one person's qualifications as superior to another's) (we English are capable of rating him far more correctly if we knew him better—Arnold) Assess implies valuing for the sake of determining the tax to be levied; in extended use it implies a determining of the exact value or extent of a thing prior to judging it or to using it as the ground for a decision (the task of defining that influence or of exactly assessing its amount is one of extraordinary difficulty—Huxley) (striving to assess the many elements upon which Rome's future depended—Buchan) Assay basically implies chemical analysis for the sake of determining a substance's (usually a metal's) quality, quantity, or value; in extended use it implies a critical analysis for the sake of measuring, weighing, and appraising (to assay . . . changes which the great reformers within and without the Catholic Church accomplished—Randall) 

Ana *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: determine, *discover, ascertain: settle, *decide, determine 2 reckon, *calculate, compute Ana *figure, cast, sum (see ADD) *count, enumerate, conjecture, surmise, guess 

estimate n estimation Ana valuation, evaluation, appraisal, assessment (see corresponding verbs at ESTIMATE): cost, expense, *price 

estimation, estimate both mean the act of valuing or appraising, but they are rarely interchangeable. In general, estimation implies the manner or measure in which a person or thing is valued or esteemed (the degree in which he is held in estimation by scholars cannot be appreciated by the average man) (men's estimation follows us according to the company we keep—Steele) Often the term comes close to personal opinion or point of view, especially in respect to a thing's value (in my estimation the article, though interesting, is not in keeping with the policies and purposes of this periodical) (the crown . . . in the . . . estimation of law . . . had ever been perfectly irresponsible—Burke) In general, estimate applies to the result of an appraisal or an evaluation (as of a thing's worth, its cost, its size, or its prospects). It may connote an approximation to the truth that has been reached either by guessing or conjecture or as the outcome of careful consideration, expert knowledge, or profound study (his estimate of the value of the stolen jewels was $50,000) (the young man has justified the high estimate of his promise expressed some years ago by his teachers) (a scientific estimate of the distance between the earth and Saturn) (economic forecasts are at best mere estimates) In a technical sense estimate implies the sum for which a piece of work (as the erection or repair of a building) can or will be undertaken. 

Ana esteem, *regard, respect: *opinion, view: conjecture, guess, surmise (see under CONJECTURE vb) 

estrange, alienate, disaffect, wean are comparable when meaning to cause one to break a bond or tie of affection or loyalty. Estrange implies separation with consequent indifference or hostility; alienate may or may not suggest actual separation, but it does imply loss of affection or interest or withdrawal of support and often connotes a diversification of that affection or interest to another object (a little knowledge often estranges men from religion, a deeper knowledge brings them back to it—Inge) (the colossal impudence of his comment on his former and now alienated associate—Lucas) Estrange is preferable when the indifference or hostility is mutual, alienate when the blame can be fixed on one person or on a third person (Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been estranged for a year) (she alienated him by her extravagance) (his affections were alienated by another woman) Disaffect is more often used with reference to groups from whom loyalty is expected or demanded; it stresses such effects of alienation without separation as unrest, discontent, or rebellion (the workers were disaffected by paid agitators) (the disloyalists tried to disaffect the militia, preching treason—Bowers) Wean implies separation from something which has a strong hold on one or on which one depends in the manner of a nursling on its mother. Unlike the other words, it often suggests merit rather than fault in the person who breaks the bond (wean a person from a bad habit) (to wean your minds from hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch) (low prices of movies may have weaned large sections of the public away from the legitimate theater—Messenger) 

Ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce 

Ant reconcile —Con conciliate, propitiate, appease, *pacify: unite, *join, link 

etch vb incise, engrave, *carve, chisel, sculpture, sculpt, sculpt 

ethereal semipernal, *infinite, boundless, illimitable, unconfined—

Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable: lastimg, perdurable, perpetual, permanent: *immortal, deathless, undying 

Ant mortal 

ether atmosphere, *air, ozone 

ethereal *airy, aerial 

Ana *celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal: tenuous, rare, *thin 

Ant substantial 

ethical *moral, virtuous, noble 

Ant unethical —Con iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious (see VICIOUS): unbecoming, improper, unseemly, *indecorous, indecent 

ethnology *anthropology, archaeology 

evitolate vb decolorize, bleach, *whiten 

etiquette propriety, *decorum, decency, dignity 

Ana deportment, demeanor, mien, *bearing 

euologize extol, acclaim, laud, *praise 

Ana *exalt, magnify, aggrandize: commend, applaud, compliment 

Ant calumniate, vilify —Con *malgn, traduce, asperse, defame, slander, libel 

eulogy *encomium, panegyric, tribute, citation 

Ana *compliment, flattery, adulation: lauding (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE) 

Ant calumnny: tirade —Con *abuse, invective, obloquy 

Ana *compliment defame, slander, libel 

Ana *exalt, magnify, aggrandize: commend, applaud, compliment 

Ant calumniate, vilify —Con *malign, traduce, asperse, defame, slander, libel 

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Ana *compliment defame, slander, libel 

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
**even** adj 1 smooth, *level, flat, plane, plain, flush

**event** 1 incident, *occurrence, episode, circumstance

**everlasting** adj Everlasting, endless, *interminable, unceasing are comparable when they mean continuing on and on without end. Unlike *eternal, infinite, and similar words (see *INFINITE), these terms do not presuppose the absence of a beginning, and therefore usually have reference only to continued extent or duration. However, everlasting is often used interchangeably with *eternal, differing from it only in placing more stress on the fact of enduring throughout time than on the quality of being independent of time or of all similar human limitations *(the eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms—Deut 33:27) and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal—Mt 25:46) Therefore, in serious use, everlasting, rather than eternal, is applied to material things or earthly conditions which endure, or seem to endure, forever *(see Cromwell damned to everlasting fame—Pope) these mighty gates of everlasting rock—De Quincey) each man dreamed of a square meal, new boots, a full powder horn, an end to the everlasting shortages—Mason) In lighter use the word is little more than a hyperbolic term expressing loss of patience or extreme boredom and more often applying to recurrence than to duration or extent *(these everlasting headaches) *(his everlasting stupidity) Endless is applicable not only to things which continue in time but also in extent; the word is used especially when a circular form or construction is implied *(endless belt) or it may imply no known or apparent or determinable end *(an endless chain of letters) *(an endless road through the mountains) *(there has been endless discussion whether we have a distinct faculty for the knowledge of God—Inge) *(endless masses of hills on three sides, endless weald or valley on the fourth—Jeffries) *Interminable is somewhat uncommon in its sense of having no end or incapable of being brought to an end or termination *(the forest trees above were wild with the wind, but the interminable thickets below were never still—Thope) More often it applies to something so extended or prolonged or protracted that it is exceedingly wearisome or exhausting one's patience *(the weeks were interminable, and papa and mamma were clean forgotten—Kipling) *(spleen, chagrin, . . . discontent, misanthropy, and all their interminable train of fretfulness, querulousness, suspicions, jealousies—Peacock) *Unceasing, like interminable, suggests undue prolonging or protracting, but it emphasizes the extraordinary capacity for going on and on rather than the psychological effect produced (usually on others) by long-continuing activity or continual recurrence *(unceasing effort) *(Jules de Goncourt . . . died from the mental exhaustion of his unceasing struggle to attain an objective style adequate to express the subtle texture of the world as he saw it—Ellis)

**evidence** n Evidence, testimony, deposition, affidavit are, in their legal senses, closely related but not synonymous terms. The last three designate forms of evidence, or material submitted to a competent legal tribunal as a means of ascertaining where the truth lies in a question of fact. Evidence also implies the intention of the side offering the material to use it as a basis for inference and argument and as a medium of proof. Testimony is evidence offered by persons (as eyewitnesses or experts) who are in a position to provide pertinent information. It implies declaration under oath or affirmation, usually on the stand in open court. Testimony does not necessarily constitute favorable evidence for the side that calls the witness, for its effect may vary with such matters as inferences that may be drawn from the words used, the opposition's reactions and emphases elicited by cross-examination. Deposition, though occasionally used interchangeably with testimony, is more usually used to designate a form of testimony that replaces testimony in open court or, more often, provides information for pretrial procedures and is given orally in response to questioning by competent officers, taken down in writing, and sworn to or properly affirmed. Affidavit designates a written declaration made upon solemn oath before a recognized magistrate or officer. An affidavit may sometimes be used as testimony, but when so used it is as a rule because a witness cannot take the stand. An affidavit submitted as testimony may be distinguished from a deposition; when used specifically and in contrast with deposition, affidavit always implies that the declaration has been obtained by one side to the dispute and that there has been no cross-examination.

**evident** adj evince, manifest, demonstrate, *show

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
error is *patent* on the face of the record, as when he is tried on a defective indictment—Justice Holmes} \{three very *patent* reasons for the comparatively slow advance of our children—Grandgent} *Distinct* (see also DISTINCT) implies such sharpness of outline or of definition that the thing requires no effort of the eyes to see or discern \{DISTINCT features\} \{his handwriting is unusually distinct\} or of the ears to hear or interpret \{DISTINCT utterance\} \{DISTINCT enunciation\} or of the mind to apprehend or comprehend without confusion \{the course of his reasoning is not only evident, it is distinct\} \{he gave a distinct account of everything that occurred\} *Obvious* stresses ease in discovery or, sometimes, in accounting for and often connotes conspicuousness in what is discovered or little need of perspicacity in the discoverer; it is therefore often applied to something not successfully concealed or something crudely manifest \*obvious heirs he had none, any more than he had obvious progenitors—Sackville-West\} \{the avidity with which he surrendered himself to the perfectly obvious methods—Mary Austin\} \{acting on the conviction of Mr. Justice Holmes that "at this time we need education in the obvious more than investigation of the obscure"—Frankfurter\} *Apparent* (see also APPARENT 2) is often so close to evident in meaning that the two words are difficult to distinguish. But *evident* usually implies inference directly from visible signs or effects, and *apparent* from evidence plus more or less elaborate reasoning; therefore *apparent* is especially applicable to something which is apprehended through an induction, a deduction, or a similar course of reasoning \{the absurdity of their contention is apparent to one who knows the effects produced by the same causes in the past\} \*as experience accumulated it gradually became apparent that the oils of any of the trees... were equally efficacious—Heiser\} \*deposits of transported material... are perhaps the most widely apparent results of the glaciation—Amer. Guide Series: N. H.\} *Palpable* (see also PERCEPTIBLE) basically implies perceptibility through the sense of touch; it is often extended to perception by the other senses, excluding sight, or by the mind and typically suggests ease of perception or readiness of interpretation \*tis probable that you hast never lived, and palpable that thou hast never loved—Garnett\} \*yet, despite these precautions, a palpable un easiness persists—Moorehead\} \*beneath it all was a hush, almost palpable—Mailer\} *Plain and clear* are less formal than literal and preceding terms. Both are applied to something that is immediately apprehended or unmistakably understood, but *plain* implies familiarity or distinctionness or a lack of intricacy or complexity, while *clear* suggests an absence of whatever confuses or muddles the mind or obscures the issues \*a plain answer to a direct question—Crothers\} \*yes, that makes much which was dark quite clear to me—Galsworthy\} *proof as sharp and clear as anything which is known—Darrow\} *Ana* \*perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, palpable: conspicuous, prominent, *noticeable *evil adjective \*bad, ill, wicked, naughty *Ana* \*base, low, vile: iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious, vicious, villainous, infamous: *pernicious, baneful: *ex ceivable, damnable *Ant* \*empyrial: salutary *vil n* *Evil, ill* are comparable when they mean whatever is harmful or disastrous to morals or well-being. *Evil* is the ordinary term capable of use in all contexts and referable not only to deeds and practices actually indulged in or to conditions actually suffered \*lead a life of evil\} \*the evils of war\} \*correct the evils in a system of government\} but also to motivating desires or acting causes of such deeds, practices, or conditions \*think no evil\} *shun evil* and to their harmful effects or consequences \*the evil that men do lives after them—Shak.\} \*evils which our own misdeeds have wrought—Milton\} *Evil* is also the term in general use for the abstract conception of whatever is the reverse of good, especially of the morally good, or as a designation of whatever is thought of as the reverse of a blessing \*able to distinguish good from evil\} \*the origin of evil\} \*St. Francis of Assisi accounted poverty a blessing rather than an evil\} \*evil no nature hath; the loss of good is that which gives to sin a livelihood—Herrick\} \*evil is not a quality of things as such. It is a quality of our relation to them—Lippmann\} *Although ill, like evil, may imply an antithesis to good, it is seldom used to designate the abstraction except in a poetic context and in direct contrast to good—O, yet we trust that somehow good will be the final goal of ill—Tennyson\} Also, it is now rare in the sense of moral evil. In present use, as in the past, *ill* is applied chiefly to whatever is distressing, painful, or injurious and is more often used in reference to what is actually suffered or endured than to what may be inflicted or imposed on one \*and makes us rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of—Shak.\} \*they could never in such a Utopian State feel any other ills than those which arise from bodily sickness—Hume\} \*there mark what ills the scholar's life assail—toll, envy, want, the patron, and the jail—Johnson\} *servitude, the worst of ills—Cowper\} *Ant* *good* *evince* manifest, evidence, demonstrate, *show *Ana* betoken, *indicate, attest, prove, argue, bespeak: display, exhibit, expose, *shows: disclose, reveal, discover, betray *Con* *suppress, repress: hide, conceal * evoke* elicit, *educate, extract, export *Ana* *provoke, excite, stimulate: arouse, rouse, rally, awaken, waken, *stir *evolution* \*development *evolve* \*unfold, develop, elaborate, perfect *Ana* progress, *advance: mature, develop, ripen *exact* \*require, *demand, claim *Ana* *ask, request, solicit: compel, *force, constrain, coerce, oblige *exact* \*accurate, *correct, right, precise, nice *Ana* *careful, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious: agreeing, squaring, tallying, jibing, conforming (see AGREE) *exacting* \*onerous, burdensome, oppressive *Ana* *severe, stern: rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent: arduous, difficult, *hard *Ant* \*easy* lenient *exaggeration, overstatement, hyperbole* all mean an overstepping of the bounds of truth, especially in describing the goodness or badness or the greatness or the smallness of something. *Exaggeration* does not always or even often imply dishonesty or an intent to deceive on the part of one making a statement, a representation, or a claim; it may merely imply an often temperamental unwillingness to be held down by the facts or a bias, whether favorable or unfavorable, so great that one cannot clearly see or accurately estimate the exact state of affairs depicted \*men of great conversational powers almost universally practise a sort of lively sophistry and exaggeration which deceives for the moment both themselves and their auditors—Macaulay\} \*to say that Mrs. Ralston's son and daughter were pleased with the idea of Tina's adoption would be an exaggeration—Wharton\} *Unlike exaggeration, overstatement* rarely carries any hint of depreciation; it is therefore often the term chosen by one desiring to stress the fact of exceeding the truth without any additional implications \this... is one of those overstatements of a true principle, *Ana* analogous words *Ant* antonyms *Con* contrasted words *See also* explanatory notes facing page 1
often met with in Adam Smith—J. S. Mill) (if all costs applicable to revenue are charged thereto, overstatement of net income . . . is avoided—Paton & Littleton) (he invariably avoids overstatement; not for him is the heavy underlining of a musical phrase—N. Y. Times) Hyperbole implies the use of exaggeration as a literary device. Though such use may arise from overpowering emotion, it more often suggests a desire to create a planned impression or particular effect; in either case hyperbole implies obvious extravagance in statement often producing a rhetorical effect that could not be gained otherwise (the speaking in a perpetual hyperbole is comely in nothing but in love—Bacon) (an Arabic interpreter expatiated, in florid hyperbole, on the magnanimity and princely qualities of the Spanish king—Prescott) (that rather startling "terrible" is not hyperbole; it is precisely what Mr. Blackmur means—Mizener) Hyperbole is often used as the name of a figure of speech that produces its effect by overstatement as its opposite, litotes, does by understatement. 

Ana misrepresentation, untruth (see LIE): *fallacy, sophistry

exalt, magnify, aggrandize are comparable when meaning to increase in importance or in prestige. Exalt and magnify above view in comparison their older sense of to exalt or to glorify (O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together—Ps 34:3) In modern general use exalt retains its implication of lifting up but emphasizes a raising in a scale of values without necessarily affecting the quality of the thing raised. Therefore one exalts something above another or at the expense of another (Rousseau's readiness to exalt spontaneity even at the expense of rationality—Babbitt) (there is a valid reason for not preventing games, but . . . not . . . for exalting them into a leading position in the school curriculum—Russell) Magnify stresses increase in size; it commonly suggests an agency (as an optical device) which affects the vision and causes enlargement of apparent size or one (as a vivid imagination) which affects the judgment and leads to exaggregation (kind, quiet, nearsighted eyes, which his round spectacles magnified into lambent moons—Deland) (the public opinion which . . . magnifies patriotism into a religion—Brownell) Aggrandize emphasizes increase in greatness or mightiness; it implies efforts, usually selfish efforts, directed to the attainment of power, authority, or worldly eminence (if we aggrandize ourselves at the expense of the Maharrattas—Wellington) (have we a satisfaction in aggrandizing our families . . . ?—Fielding) (to those of us who are engaged in constructive research and in invention, there is serious moral risk of aggrandizing what we have accomplished—Wiener)


Ant base—Con demean, debase, degrade, humble, humble, humble (see ABASE): disparage, depreciate, detract, derogate, *decry, belittle, minimize

examination inspection, scrutiny, scanning, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE vb)

Ana questioning, interrogation, inquiry, catechism, quizzing or quiz (see corresponding verbs at ASK)

examine 1 inspect, *scrutinize, scan, audit

Ana *analyze, dissect, resolve: contemplate, observe, survey *view, notice, note (see SEE)

2 question, interrogate, quiz, catechize, *ask, query, inquire

Ana penetrate, probe (see ENTER): test, try (see PROVE)

example 1 sample, specimen, *instance, case, illustration

Con anomaly, *paradox

2 *model, exemplar, pattern, ideal, standard, beau ideal, mirror

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
exceptional, exceptionable, although not synonyms, are displayed against bad points (defects or faults) (Mr. Wright's version of the Iliad, repeating in the main the merits and defects of Cowper's version—Arnold) (the faculty of discerning and using conspicuous merit in other people distinguishes the most successful administrators, rulers, and men of business—Eliot) Virtue, because of the long association of the term with moral goodness (for this sense see goodness) is chiefly applied to a moral excellence or a conspicuous merit of character (one is inclined to ask whether, when the right path is so easy to them, they really have any virtues—Ellis) (reverence for age and authority, even for law, has disappeared; and in the train of these have gone the virtues they engendered and nurtured—Dickinson) But the term may also apply to the quality or feature that is the source of a person's or thing's peculiar or distinctive strength, power, or efficacy (the special virtue of a newly discovered remedy for pneumonia) (that unspiring impartiality which is his most distinguishing virtue—Macaulay) Perfection suggests an attainment of the ideal and is usually found in less restrained writing or speech than the other terms when it applies to an excellence in the highest degree (but eyes, and ears, and ev'ry thought, were with his sweet perfections caught—Spenser) (what tongue can her perfections tell?—Sidney) (Fitzgerald's perfection of style and form, as in The Great Gatsby, has a way of making something that lies between your stomach and your heart quiver a little—Thurber) Ana value, *worth: property, *quality, character Ant fault —Con *blemish, defect, flaw: failing, frailty, foible, vice (see FAULT) exceptional *exceptional Ana *offensive, repugnant, loathsome, repulsive, revolting: repellant, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious, *repugnant Ant unexceptionable: exemplary —Con pleasing, agreeable, gratifying, *pleasant, grateful, welcome exceptional, exceptionable, although not synonyms, are liable to confusion. Something is exceptional which is itself an exception, and so is out of the ordinary, being either extraordinary or unusual (this is an exceptional opportunity) (the bath was habitual in the twelfth century and exceptional at the Renaissance—Henry Adams) Something is exceptional to which exception may be taken (that is, to which an objection may be made) and which is therefore displeasing or offensive to others (there was nothing exceptionable in his comment) (this is something of a tour de force, in which the only exceptional thing is a schoolboy brand of mild vulgarity—Times Lit. Sup.) Ana outstanding, remarkable, *noticeable, conspicuous, prominent, salient, signal: rare, *infrequent, uncommon, scarce: singular, unique, *strange: anomalous, *irregular Ant common (sense 3): average —Con ordinary, familiar, popular, vulgar (see COMMON) excerpt n *extract excess n Excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage, overplus denote something which goes beyond a limit or bound. Excess applies to whatever exceeds a limit, measure, bound, or accustomed degree (in measure rein thy joy; scant this excess—Shak.) (the proper point between sufficiency and excess—Henry James) (I think poetry should surprise by a fine excess—Keats) Often it specifically implies intemperance or immoderation (early excesses the frame will recover from—Meredith) (restrain the excesses of the possessive instinct—Ellis) Superfluity applies to an excess (as of money, clothes, or possessions) that is above or beyond what is needed or desired (the inventory of thy shirts, as, one for superfluity, and another for use!—Shak.) (I succumb easily to anyone who asks me to buy superfluities and luxuries—Huxley) Surplus applies to the amount or quantity of something that remains when all that has been needed has been disposed of (as by using, spending, or selling) (his salary was so small that there was no surplus for investment) (the problem is how to dispose of the large surplus in this year's cotton crop) (huge unused surpluses pile up beyond the reach of consumers—La Barre) Surplusage may be used in place of surplus but may especially imply wasteful or useless excess (the subsequent part of the section is mere surplusage, is entirely without meaning, if such is to be the construction—John Marshall) (say what you have to say . . . with no surplusage—Pater) Overplus is often used in place of surplus, but it less often implies a remainder than an addition to what is needed (the overplus of a great fortune—Adams) (there was no overplus this year) (the wild overplus of vegetation which was certainly not that of a normal garden—Wyndham Lewis) Ana lavishness, prodigality, profuseness or profusion, luxuriance, exuberance (see corresponding adjectives at PROFUSE): inordinateness, immoderation, extravagance (see corresponding adjectives at EXCESSIVE) Ant deficiency: dearth, paucity —Con meagerness, scantiness, scantiness, exiguousness (see corresponding adjectives at MEAGER) excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extravagant, exorbitant, extreme are comparable when meaning characterized by going beyond or above its proper, just, or right limit. Excessive implies an amount, quantity, or extent too great to be just, reasonable, or endurable (the excessive heat of a midsummer afternoon) (excessive lenity and indulgence are ultimately excessive rigor—John Knox) (an excessive penchant for intellectual and verbal hairsplitting —Beach) Immoderate is often used interchangeably with excessive (immoderate heat) but, distinctively, it may imply lack of restraint especially in the feelings or their expression (immoderate zeal) (immoderate laughter) (Mass gave him extreme, I may even say immoderate, satisfaction. It was almost orgiastic—T. S. Eliot) Inordinate implies an exceeding of the bounds or limits prescribed by authority or dictated by good judgment (the great difficulty of living content is the cherishing of inordinate and unreasonable expectations—T. E. Brown) (I am always staggered . . . by the inordinate snobbery of the English press—Huxley) Extravagant often adds to excessive or immoderate the implications of a wild, lawless, prodigal, or foolish wandering from proper restraints and accustomed bounds (make extravagant claims for an invention) (abandoned herself to all the violations of extravagant emotion—Stoker) (went off in a second extravagant roar of laughter—Hudson) The term often specifically implies prodigality in expenditure (she was rapacious of money, extravagant to excess—Fielding) Exorbitant implies excessiveness marked by a departure from what is the customary or established amount or degree; it typically connotes extortion or excessive demands on the part of the agent or the infliction of hardships on the person affected (a resolution to con-
tract none of the exorbitant desires by which others are enslaved—<Spectator> (the men who worked in the brick-kilns lived in this settlement, and paid an exorbitant rent to the Judge—<Deland>) (the law for the renegotiation of war contracts—which will prevent exorbitant profits and assure fair prices to the government—<Roosevelt>) Extreme implies an excessiveness or extra- 
ganism that seems to reach the end of what is possible; it is often hyperbolic in actual use (the result gave him extreme satisfaction) (the extreme oddness of existence is what reconciles me to it—<L. P. Smith>) (the most extreme . . . statement of such an attitude would be: nothing is poetry which can be formulated in prose—<Day Lewis>) (the fascination of crime is perpetual, especially in its extreme form as murder—<A. C. Ward>) 

**exchange** vb Exchange, interchange, bandy mean to give a thing to another in return for another thing from him. Exchange may imply a disposing of one thing for another by or as if by the methods of bartering or trading (exchange horses) (the hostile forces exchanged prisoners of war) (exchange farm products for manufactured goods) Sometimes the term specifically implies a substitution of one thing for another without any definite suggestion of bartering or trading (wedding presents are often exchanged by the bride for things of which she has greater need) (well satisfied to exchange the stratified suburb of Hyde Park for the amorphous neighborhood of Halsted Street—<Lovett>) or an alternation of things by two, sometimes more, persons (exchange letters) (exchange a few words with each other) Interchange is rarely used in place of exchange except when alternation (as in reciprocal giving and receiving) is implied, often with the connotation of a continuous succession (the townspeople and the summer residents interchanged courtesies with each other) (there were repeated cheeerings and salutations interchanged between the shore and the ship—<Irving>) Bandy may imply a careless or casual tossing back and forth or from one to another (a firearm is no toy to be bandied about) and it is often used in place of interchange when vigorous, rapid, and more or less prolonged action is implied (bandy hasty words) (bandy compliments) The term also may imply heated or active discussion or a passing of information from one to another (your name is . . . frequently bandied at table among us—<Irving>) (the stories they invent . . . and bandied from mouth to mouth!—<Dickens>)

**excit**a—sufficient, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: redundant (see WORDY)

**Ant** deficient—<Con> (meager, scanty, scant, skimpy, deficient)

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**excite** *stimulus, stimulant, incitement, impetus

**Excit**e *provoke, stimulate, pique, quicken, galvanize

**Ant** soothe, quiet (persons): allay (fears, anxiety)

**exclude, debar, blackball, eliminate, rule out, shut out, suspend** are comparable when meaning to prevent someone or something from forming part of something else as a member, a constituent, or a factor. Exclude implies a keeping out of what is already outside; it therefore suggests a prevention of entrance or admission (exclude light from a room by closing the shutters) (exclude a subject from consideration) (exclude a class from certain privileges) Debar implies the existence of a barrier which is effectual in excluding someone or something on the outside from entering into a group, body, or system, from enjoying certain privileges, powers, or prerogatives, or from doing what those not so restrained do naturally or easily (<high wall debarred boys from entering>) (the qualifications demanded . . . would be likely to debar 99 percent of the secondary school instructors in America—<Grandgent>) (the Japanese designer was debarred by instinct and tradition from using the resources of texture and of light and shade—<Binyon>) Blackball basically implies exclusion from a club or society by vote of its members (originally by putting a black ball into a ballot box) (<he was very nearly blackballed at a West End club of which his birth and social position fully entitled him to become a member—<Wilde>) The term has some extended use, but it usually implies a deliberate decision or effort to exclude a person from social, professional, or economic intercourse. Eliminate differs from the preceding words in implying a getting rid of, or a removal of what is already in, especially as a constituent element or part (eliminate a quantity from an equation) (eliminate a subject from a curriculum) (eliminate a poison from the system) (<it is always wise to eliminate the personal equation from our judgments of literature—<J. R. Lowell>) (in most poets there is an intermittent conflict between . . . the critic self and the rest of the thing) and it is by reconciling the two, not by eliminating the one, that they can reach their full stature—<Day Lewis>) Rule out may imply either exclusion or elimination, but it usually suggests a formal or authoritative decision (<rule a horse out of a race) (rule out certain candidates for a position) (<rule such subjective and moral judgments out of our biology—<Kroeker>) Shut out may imply exclusion of something by preventing its entrance or admission (<close the windows to shut out the rain) or, in sports use, to prevent from scoring (<the home team was shut out in the second game>) Disbar (often confused with debar) implies the elimination by a legal process of a lawyer from the group of those already admitted to practice, thereby depriving him for cause of his status and privileges. Suspend implies the elimination of a person who is a member of an organization or a student at a school or college, often for a definite period of time and, usually, because of some offense or serious infraction of the rules; the term seldom if ever implies that the case is closed or that readmission is impossible (<suspend ten members of a club for nonpayment of dues) (<there was but one course: to suspend the man from the exercise of all priestly functions—<Cather>)

**Ana** hinder, bar, block: preclude, obviate, ward, *prevent* (<banish, exile, ostracize, deport

**Ant** admit (persons): include (things)—<Con> comprehend, embrace, involve (see INCLUDE)

**exclusive** *select, elect, picked

**Exclusive** excluding, eliminating, debarring, shutting out, ruling out (see EXCLUDE): aristocratic, patrician (see corresponding nouns at GENTLEMAN)

**Ant** inclusive—<Con> cosmopolitan, universal: *common, ordinary, familiar, popular, vulgar

**exccitate** weigh, *consider, study, contemplate

**Ant** ponder, meditate, ruminate, muse: cogitate, reflect, deliberate, speculate, *think

**excoriate** abrade, chafe, fret, gall

**Ant** strip, divest, denude, bare: flay, *skin: torture, torment, rack (see AFFLICIT): tongue-lash, revile, berate (see SCOLD)

**excruciating** agonizing, racking mean intensely and, usually, unbearably painful. All are commonly used as strong intensives and applied to pain, suffering, and torture. When used to qualify other things, they mean causing intense pain or suffering. Excruciating carries strong suggestions of acute physical torture or of exquisitely A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
painful sensation (suffered excruciating pain from an abscessed tooth) | (excruciating noises) (the hearty merrymakings of the population at large were an excruciating torment to narrow-minded folk—Amer. Guide Series: Md.) | Agonizing stresses anguish of mind even when it strongly implies physical suffering (an agonizing spasm of pain—a memento mori—shot through me and passed away—W. J. Locke) | (lives there a man so firm, who, while his heart feels all the bitter horror of his crime, can reason down its agonizing throbs—Burns)

Racking suggests sensations of pulling and straining and tearing comparable to those suffered by a person on the rack (racking pains in the chest) | (a racking headache) | (racking doubts)

Ana torturing, tormenting, racking (see AFFLICTION): *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent

exculpate, absolve, exonerate, acquit, vindicate mean to free from a charge or burden. Exculpate implies simply a clearing from blame, often in a matter of small importance (exculpate oneself from a charge of inconsistency) | (directly Harding was blameless for what was going on. Indirectly he cannot be wholly exculpated—S. H. Adams)

Absolve implies a release, often a formal release, either from obligations or responsibilities that bind the conscience or from the consequences or penalties of their violation (absolve a person from a promise) | (society cannot be absolved of responsibility for its slums) | (exonerate implies relief, often in a moral sense, from what is regarded as a load or burden | (no reason for exonerating him [a judge] from the ordinary duties of a citizen—Justice Holmes)

In general exonerate more frequently suggests such relief from a definite charge that not even the suspicion of wrongdoing remains (exonerate a person charged with theft) | (you do acquit me then of anything wrong? You are convinced that I never meant to deceive your brother . . . ?—Austen)

Vindicate, unlike the preceding words, may have reference to things as well as to persons that have been subjected to attack, suspicion, censure, or ridicule. As here compared (see also MAINTAIN) it implies a clearing from blame, often in a matter of small importance (vindicate his act from suspicion, censure, reprobation, reprehension, blame, *criticize: chastise, castigate, discipline, chasten, correct (see PUNISH))

excuse n plea, pretext, *apology, apologia, alibi | (Ana explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at EXPLAIN): palliation, extenuation, whitewashing, glossing (see corresponding verbs at PALLIATE))

execrable, damnable, accursed, cursed mean so odious as to deserve cursing or condemning. In actual use they vary little if any in force and only slightly in implications, although usage to a certain extent limits their applications. Execrable is applied chiefly to what is bad beyond description (execrable poetry) | (an execrable performance of Hamlet) | (the concurrent possession of great wealth and execrable taste—Wylie)

Dannable and accursed are applied most often either to persons, their acts, and their vices or to things that excite righteous indignation and strong condemnation (unless that man in there is to be given a chance of expiation in another life, then capital punishment is a dannable horror—Mackenzie) | (accursed tower! accursed fatal hand that hath contrived this woeful tragedy!—Shak.)

Cursed varies in dignity, sometimes being applied to what merely excites profanity and sometimes to what is intrinsically worthy of imprecation (merciful powers, restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature gives way to in repose!—Shak.)

Ana *outrageous, atrocious, heinous, monstrous: *base, low, vile: loathsome, revolting, repulsive, *offensive, repugnant

execute, curse, damn, anathematize, objure are comparable when meaning to denote violently and indigantly. Execute implies intense loathing or hatred and, usually, a fury of passion (they execute . . . their lot—Cowper) | (execrated the men who were responsible for their misery) It often suggests acts as well as words which give an outlet to these emotions (for a little while he was executed in Rome; his statues were overthrown, and his name was blotted from the records—Buchan)

Curse in reference to earlier custom may imply an invocation to the Supreme Being to visit deserved punish—
execute 308

exhibition

ment upon a person or to affright him for his sins (the that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it—Prov 11:26) In more general use curse and damn (see also sentence) do not markedly differ in meaning. Both usually imply angry denunciation by blasphemous oaths or profane imprecations (I heard my brother damn the coachman, and curse the maids—Defoe) Anathematize implies solemn denunciation (as of an evil, a heresy, or an injustice). It is used chiefly in reference to the impassioned denunciations of preachers or moralists (anathematize the violation of a treaty—<anathematize graft in politics—a quasi idealism which has been anathematized by the empirical foundations and purposes of realistic philosophy—Nemeth) Objureate implies a vehement decrimal or criticism (objurgated the custom of garnishing poems with archaisms—T. R. Weiss) and often suggests the use of harsh or violent language in the expression of one's views so that it may approach curse or damn in some of its uses (command all to do their duty. Command, but not objureate—Taylor) (violently had he objureated that wretch of a groom—Vaughan) Ana denounce, condemn, reprobate, censure, reprehend (see criticize); revile, berate, rate (see scold) Cure *commend, approve, compliment, recommend: *praise, laud, extol, acclaim, eulogize

execute 1 effect, fulfill, discharge, *perform, accomplish, achieve Ana complete, finish, conclude, *close: *realize, actualize, externalize, objectify 2 *kill, dispatch, slay, murder, assassinate exemplar pattern, ideal, beau ideal, example, *model, mirror, standard Ana apotheosis, *paragon, nonpareil, nonesuch: type, *symbol

exemplify, illustrate are comparable when they mean to use in speaking or writing concrete instances or cases to make clear something which is difficult, abstract, general, or remote from experience or to serve as an instance, case, or demonstration of a point or matter under examination. Exemplify implies the use of examples for clarification of a general or abstract statement or as aid in revealing the truth of a proposition or assertion (a good preacher usually exemplifies each point that he seeks to impress upon his congregation) (the notes of Coleridge exemplify Coleridge's fragmentary and fine perceptions—T. S. Eliot) (each, in his way, exemplifies the peril that besets a highly gifted poetic nature—Lowers) Illustrate implies the use not only of concrete examples but also sometimes of pictures or sketches and the intent not only to clarify but to make vivid or real what is being explained or to drive home most effectively a point that is being made (the textbook is adequately illustrated with photographs and diagrams) (I will illustrate the word a little further—J. R. Lowell) (the assertion . . . leans for support . . . upon the truth conveyed in those words of Cicero, and wonderfully illustrates and confirms them—Arnold) (the world was no more made to serve us by illustrating our philosophy than we were made to serve the world by licking its boots—Santayana)

exemption, immunity are comparable when meaning the act or fact of freeing or the state of being free or freed from something burdensome, disagreeable, or painful. Exemption is more restricted in its meaning, for it applies usually to a release from some legal or similarly imposed obligation or burden to which others in the same circumstances and not similarly freed are liable (married men with families may apply for exemption from military service) [(they] have no vices, but they buy that exemption at a price, for one is inclined to ask whether . . . they really have any virtues—Ellis) Immunity covers all cases for which an exemption may be given or obtained, but the term carries so strong an implication of privilege and of freedom from certain common restrictions that it is often used in reference to persons or classes of persons especially favored by the law or by nature (entitled to the rights of a citizen, and clothed with all the rights and immunities which the Constitution and laws of the State attached to that character—Tane) (the question of the immunities of the clergy had been publicly raised—Froude) (the man of creative imagination pays a ghastly price for all his superiorities and immunities—Mencken)

exercise n practice, drill (see under practice vb) Ana *action, act, deed: using or use, employment, utilization, application (see corresponding verbs at use): operation, functioning, behavior (see corresponding verbs at act)

exercise vb *practice, drill Ana *use, employ, utilize: display, exhibit, *show: wield, ply, manipulate, *handle

exertion *effort, pains, trouble Ana labor, toil, travail, *work, grind, drudgery: struggle, striving, endeavor (see under attempt vb) Con relaxation, *rest, repose, leisure, ease: inactivity, inertia or inertia, idleness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive)


exhibit vb display, expose, *show, parade, flaunt Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: *show, manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate Con *suppress, repress: *hide, conceal, secrete, bury

exhibit n *exhibition, show, exposition, fair are comparable when meaning a public display of objects of interest. Exhibition and, less often in strictly formal use except in art circles, show are applicable to any such display of objects of art, manufacture, commerce, or agriculture or to a display (as by pupils, members, or associates) of prowess or skill (as in gymnastics, oratory, or music) (the annual exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts) (an exhibition of Navaho blankets) (a one-man show of paintings) (a gymnastic exhibition) (a cattle show) (an industrial exhibition) Exhibit typically denotes an object or collection displayed by a single person, group, or organization in an exhibition (our club had a fine exhibit in the school fair) but in some uses it is not clearly distinct from exhibition or show, since the scope of an exhibit may vary from a single object to a collection coextensive with an exhibition; thus, an artist might present a one-man show which would be at once an exhibition and an exhibit of his work. Exposition is the usual term for a very large exhibition, especially one involving the participation of many states and countries (the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893) (the annual Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Massachussets) Fair may be equivalent to exposition (a world's fair) or it may apply to a small exhibition of wares, produce, or stock sometimes for the promotion of sales, sometimes in competition for prizes for excellence; it suggests a variety of kinds of display and entertainment

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
and usually an outdoor setting (a county fair)

**exhort** urge, egg, goad, spur, prod, prick, sic

**Ana** plead, appeal (see under PRAYER); entreat, implore, beseech (see BEG); stimulate, excite, *provoke*; advise, counsel (see under ADVICE n)

**exigency** 1 pass, emergency, pinch, strait, crisis, contingency, juncture

**Ana** difficulty, vicissitude, rigor, hardship; *predicament, plight, fix, quandary, dilemma, jam, pickle, scrape 2 necessity, *need

**Ana** demanding or demand, requirement, exacting or exactation, claiming or claim (see corresponding verbs at DEMAND); compulsion, coercion, constraint, duress (see FORCE n)

**exigent** pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, imperative, *imperative, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, pressing, 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ness (as in character or quality) (he displayed a Miltonic amplitude of ambition and style—Bush) (a red-curtained English inn . . . stood sideways in the road, as if standing aside in the amplitude of hospitality—Chesterton) but in technical contexts in which the word is specifically applied to the range of a variable (as wavelength or a statistical array) the notion of amplitude has given way to that of magnitude, and amplitude means no more than size or extent (the size or extent of the swing is known as the amplitude of the pendulum—Taffel) (the maximum distance the curve rises above or falls below the horizontal axis . . . is known as its amplitude—F. E. Seymour & P. J. Smith) Spread is applied to an expance drawn out in all directions (the water . . . a ripply spread of sun and sea—Browning) (a trackless spread of moor—Blackmore) (under the immense spread of the starry heavens—Stevenson) Stretch is applied to an expance in one of its two dimensions (the beach was a narrow stretch of sand) (a stretch of farmland extending as far as the distant mountains) (the great stretches of fields that lay beside the road—Anderson) Ana *range, reach, scope, compass, sweep, orbit: domain, territory, sphere, *field expansive *elastic, resilient, buoyant, volatile, effervescent Ana exuberant, luxuriant, lavish, prodigal (see prosperous) generous: *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, open-handed: exalted, magnified, aggrandized (see exalt) Ant tense: reserved—Con *stiff, inflexible, rigid: stern, austere, *severe: taciturn, *silent, reticent expatiate *discourse, descant, dilate Ana *speak, talk, converse: *expand, amplify: *discuss, argue, dispute: expand: *explain: *relate, narrate, recount, recite, rehearse expatiate vb exile, *banish, ostracize, deport, transport, extradite Ana *repatriate expect, hope, look, await are comparable when they mean to have something in mind as more or less certain to happen or come about. They vary, however, so greatly in their implications and in their constructions that they are seldom interchangeable. Expect usually implies a high degree of certainty, but it also involves the idea of anticipation (as by making preparations or by envisioning what will happen, what one will find, or what emotions one will feel) (he told his mother not to expect him for dinner) (she had reason to expect that the trip would be exciting) (he seems to require and expect goodness in one—Anderson) hope (often with for) implies some degree of belief in the idea that one may expect what one desires or longs for; although it seldom implies certainty, it usually connotes confidence and often especially in religious use implies profound assurance (he dared not hope that he would succeed in his venture, for he feared disappointment) (what I hope for and work for today is for a mess more favorable to artists than is the present one—Forster) (encouraged to hope for a college education—Scudder) look (usually followed by to with an infinitive and sometimes also by to with a personal object) is less literary than expect: it often also suggests more strongly than expect a counting upon or a freedom from doubt (they look to profit by their investment) (they looked to their son to help them in their old age) (I never look to have a mistress that I shall love half as well—Brooke) With for, on the other hand, look does not imply as much assurance; it suggests rather an attitude of expectancy and watchfulness (they are looking for news in the next post) (there is no use looking for their return tonight) (finality is not to be looked for in . . . translation—Swaim) await often adds to look for the implication of being ready mentally or, sometimes, physically for the event; it also suggests waiting, often patient waiting (we await your reply with interest) (the two armies are eager for action, each awaiting an attack by the other) (I . . . had known it would happen to me, and now it was there with all the strangeness and dark mystery of an awaited thing—Wolfe) await also differs from the other words in this group in its capacity for taking as subject the thing expected and as object the person who is expecting (good fortune awaits you) (death awaits all men) Ana *foresee, foreknow, anticipate, apprehend, divine Ant despair of expedient adj Expedient, politic, advisable are comparable when they are used to imply a choice (as of course, action, or method) and to mean dictated by practical wisdom or by motives of prudence. Something is expedient from which definite and usually immediate advantages accrue. Originally and still occasionally the word carries no derogatory implication (it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you—Jn 16:7) In its sense development expedient came to imply determination by immediate conditions and to mean necessary or suitable under present circumstances (there shall be appointed . . . such number of . . . justices of the peace as the president of the United States shall, from time to time, think expedient—John Marshall) As a result expedient now commonly implies opportuneness (sometimes with a strong hint of timeserving) as well as advantageousness (they decided that it was not expedient (that is, neither opportune nor of advantage) to interfere now) Very frequently also it connotes such an ulterior motive as self-interest (purely for expedient reasons he let the Iroquois alone—Hervey Allen) Consequently expedient is often opposed to right, the former suggesting a choice determined by temporal ends, the latter one determined by ethical principles (too fond of the right to pursue the expedient—Goldsmith) Something is politic which is the judicious course, action, or method from the practical point of view. Though often used interchangeably with expedient, politic may be applied discriminatively to choices involving tactics or the effective handling of persons, and expedient to choices involving strategy, or the gaining of objectives (the move was a politic one, for it served to win friends to the cause and to placate its enemies) (community of race . . . is mainly a politic fiction, at least in countries of European civilization, in which the races are inextricably mixed up—Encyc. Brit.) Like expedient, however, politic often implies material motives (whether it is not your interest to make them happy . . . —Burke) Is a politic act the worse for being a generous one?—Burke) Something is advisable which is expedient in the original, underwigious sense of that word. Advisable has now nearly lost its original derivative sense and is preferred by writers or speakers who wish to avoid any of the unpleasant implications of expedient or of politic (I don't think that it's altogether advisable to mention Dickens in a sermon . . . . Some people might be offended at mentioning a novelist in church—Mackenzie) (he was told it was not advisable to drive on through the mountains because of the night fogs—Sylvester) Ana advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: useful, utilitarian (see corresponding nouns at use): *seasonable, opportune, timely, well-timed: feasible, practicable, A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
### expedient

**possible**

*Ant* inexpedient — *Con* detriment, deleterious (see PERNOCIOUS): harming or harmful, hurting or hurtful, injuring or injuries (see corresponding verbs at INJURE)

*futile, vain, fruitless

**expedient**

*n* resource, resort, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate

*Ana* device, contrivance, contraption: *mean, agency, instrument, instrumentality, medium

#### expedition

1 dispatch, speed, haste, hurry

*Ana* celerity, legerity, alacrity: agility, nimbleness, briskness (see corresponding adjectives at AGILE)

*Ant* procrastination — *Con* delaying or delay, retarding or retardation, slowing, slackening (see corresponding verbs at DELAY)

2 journey, voyage, tour, trip, jaunt, excursion, cruise, pilgrimage

**expedient**

*device, contrivance, contraption: *mean, agency, instrument, instrumentality, medium

**expert**

*device, contrivance, contraption: *mean, agency, instrument, instrumentality, medium

#### experience

*spend, disburse, expend

*eject, oust, dismiss, evict

*expel

*expedient* resource, resort, shift, makeshift, stopgap, surrogate

*Ana* analogous words

### analogous words

*Ana*

### antonyms

*Ant* inexpedient

### contrasted words

*Con*
expiate vb Expiate, atone mean to make amends or give satisfaction for an offense, a sin, a crime, or a wrong. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in their derivative nouns expiation and atonement. Expiate and expiation imply an attempt to undo the wrong one has done by suffering a penalty, by doing penance, or by making reparation or redress (let me here, as I deserve, pay on my punishment, and expiate, if possible, my crime—Milton) (unless that man in there is to be given a chance of expiation in another life, then capital punishment is a damnable horror—Mackenzie) Aton e and atonement have been greatly colored in their meanings by theological controversies. The basic implication of reconciliation became mixed with and sometimes subordinated to other implications (as appeasement, propitiation, or reparation). In general use atone (usually with for) and atonement emphasize a restoration through some compensation of a balance that has been lost. When the reference is to an offense, sin, or crime the words usually imply expiation, but they stress the rendering of satisfaction for the evil that has been done by acts that are good or meritorious. Thus, one expiates a sin by doing penance for it, but one atones for it by leading a good life afterwards (she hated herself for this movement of envy . . . and tried to atone for it by a softened manner and a more anxious regard for Charlotte's feelings—Wharton) Sometimes a deficiency or a default rather than an offense may be atoned for (as by an excess of something else that is equally desirable) (for those who knew beside us at altars not Thine own, who lack the lights that guide us, Lord, let their faith atone!—Kipling) A redress, remedy, rectify, *correct, amend: redeem, expiate, atone for by leading a good life afterwards (construe are comparable when they mean to make oneself plain or intelligible to someone by whom it was previously not known or clearly understood (explain a to a boy the mechanism of an engine (the teacher explained the meanings of the new words in the poem) (a poet whose words intimate rather than define, suggest rather than . . . explain—Edman) Expound implies careful, elaborate, often learned setting forth of a subject in order to explain it (as in a lecture, a book, or a treatise) (a clergyman expounding a biblical text) (explain a point of law (Sir A. Eddington in two masterly chapters . . . expounds the law of gravitation—Alexander) Expound the duties of the citizen (a poem) Explicate, a somewhat learned term, adds to expound the idea of development or detailed analysis (the mind of a doctor of the Church who could . . . explicate the meaning of a dogma—T. S. Eliot) Elucidate implies a throwing light upon something obscure (as a subject, a work, or a passage) especially by clear or luminous exposition or illustration (elucidate an obscure passage in the text) (the simplicity of the case can be added . . . when the object is to addle and not to elucidate—Shaw) (the author's linguistic erudition has allowed him to consult the original sources and to elucidate and interpret them authentically—Reinhardt) Interpret implies the making clear to oneself or to another the meaning of something (as a poem, a dream, an abstraction, or a work in a foreign language) which presents more than intellectual difficulties and requires special knowledge, imagination, or sympathy in the person who would understand it or make it understood (I have tried in this all too hasty sketch to interpret . . . the indwelling spirit and ideal of the art of the Far East—Binyon) (it is a sophistry to interpret experience in terms of illusion—Sullivan) (an inscription which no one could understand or rightly interpret—Hudson) Construe is preferred to interpret when the difficulties are textual either because of the strangeness of the language (as being foreign, ancient, dialectal, or technical) or because of ambiguities or equivocations in it. It therefore may suggest either translation involving careful analysis of grammatical structure (construe ten lines of Vergil) or a highly individual or particular interpretation (the phrase "every common carrier engaged in trade or commerce" may be construed to mean "while engaged in trade or commerce" without violence to the habits of English speech—Justice Holmes) (had construed the ordinarily polite terms of his letter of engagement into a belief that the Directors had chosen him on account of his special and brilliant talents—Kipling) As I deserve, pay on my punishment, and expiate, if possible, my crime (often implied an attempt to excuse or to set oneself right with others (one can do almost anything . . . if one does not attempt to explain it—Wharton) One accounts for something, rather than explains it, when one shows how it fits into a natural order or a logically consistent pattern (we fail, we are told, to account for the world. Well, the world is a solid fact, which we have to accept, not to account for—Inge) (going about her business as if nothing had happened that needed to be accounted for—Wharton) (their presence could not be accounted for by some temporary catastrophe, such as the Mosaic Flood—S. F. Mason) One justifies himself or another when he explains certain acts or behavior in an attempt to free himself or another from blame. It may or may not imply consciousness of guilt or a definite accusation (Powell . . . began to justify himself. "I couldn't stop him," he whispered shakily. "He was too quick for me"—Conrad) (so far is he from feeling the pangs of conscience that he constantly justifies his act—Dickinson) (in her heart she did not at all justify or excuse Cyril—Bennett) One rationalizes something that is or seems to be contrary to reason when he attempts an explanation that is in accord with scientific principles or with reality as known to the senses (rationalize the Greek myths) (rationalize the Genesis story of creation) Rationalize may come close to justify without, however, so strong an implication of blame and with the added implication of self-deception and, at times, of hypocrisy (in other countries the plutocracy has often produced men of reflective and analytical habit, eager to rationalize its instincts—Mencken) (easy for men of principle to rationalize lapses from high standards where the cause seems to them good—Pimlott) Ana *excuse, condone: *exculpate, exonerate, acquit, absolve explicate vb *explain, expound, elucidate, interpret,
explicit

explicit, express, specific, definite, categorical are comparable when applied to statements, utterances, and language and when meaning perfectly clear in significance or reference. Something is explicit which is stated so plainly and distinctly that nothing is left to be inferred or to cause difficulty by being vague, equivocal, or ambiguous (\textit{explicit} directions or promises) \{to give an explicit and determinate account of what is meant—Bentham\}. Something is express which is both explicit and is uttered or expressed with directness, pointedness, or force (\textit{an express prohibition}) \{the defendant should be enjoined from publishing news obtained from the Associated Press for—hours after publication by the plaintiff unless it gives \textit{express} credit to the Associated Press; the number of hours . . . to be settled by the District Court—Justice Holmes\} \{she sent me the now famous drawings, with the \textit{express} injunction that I was to show them to no one—Pollitzer\}. Something is specific which is perfectly precise in its reference to a particular thing or in its statement of the details covered or comprehended. \{he made two specific criticisms of the school, one deal with its lack of a playground, the other with the defective ventilation of certain rooms\} \{government workers, by specific law, must be fired if they resort to the Fifth Amendment—Time\}. Something is definite which leaves no doubt as to its reference or to its details or as to what is excluded; definite, far more than specific, suggests precise and determinate limitations \{he was asked to make a definite statement concerning the young man's prospects with the company\} \{it was a simple, clear, definite question—Sinclair Lewis\}. In practice specific and definite are often used interchangeably without loss; but specific may be preferred when the intent is to stress particularization of reference or specification of details, and definite when it is to emphasize clear limitations; thus, a worker may be given specific instructions about the sequence in which his tasks are to be performed but a definite order not to smoke on the job. \textit{Categorical} (see also \textit{Ultimate 2}) implies explicitness without the least suggestion of a qualification or condition; thus, a categorical answer is demanded of a person testifying in court when he is compelled to answer yes or no; a categorical denial is a denial that is complete and contains not the slightest reservations \{it is perilous to make categorical assertions—Lowers\}.

\textit{Ana} precise, exact, accurate (see \textit{Correct}): \{clear, lucid, perspicuous\}

\textit{Ant} ambiguous —\textit{Con} equivocal, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, dark, \{obscure: \{implicit, virtual, constructive\}

\textit{exploit} \{feat, achievement\}

\textit{Ana} act, deed, \{action: \{adventure, enterprise, quest\}

\textit{expose} display, exhibit, \{show, parade, flaunt\}

\textit{Ana} reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: demonstrate, evince, manifest, evidence, \{show: air, ventilate, vent, voice, utter, \{express: publish, advertise, proclaim, broadcast, \{declare\}

\textit{expose} \{exposure, *exposition\}

\textit{exposed} open, \{liable, subject, prone, susceptible, sensitive\}

\textit{Ana} threatened, menaced (see \textit{Threaten})

\textit{Con} protected, shielded, guarded, safeguarded, defended (see \textit{Defend})

\textit{exposition} \{fair, *exhibition, exhibit, show\}

2 \textit{Exposition, exposure, exposé} are comparable when they mean a setting forth or laying open of a thing or things hitherto not known or fully understood. \textit{Exposition} (see also \textit{Exhibition}) often implies a display of something (as wares, manufactures, or a collection of rarities or antiquities); more often it implies a setting forth of something which is necessary for the elucidation or explanation of something else such as a theory, a dogma, or the law \{you know the law, your \textit{exposition} hath been most sound—Shak\} or the events or situations preceding a story or play \{the first quarter of the first act is devoted to the \textit{exposition}\}. In a more general sense, especially in academic use, \textit{exposition} applies to the type of writing which has explanation for its end or aim and is thereby distinguished from other types in which the aim is to describe, to narrate, or to prove a contention. \textit{Exposure} is now preferred to \textit{exposition} as a term implying a laying bare or open especially to detrimental or injurious influences or to reprobation, contempt, or severe censure \{fabrics faded by \textit{exposure} to the sun\} \{\textit{exposure} to a contagious disease\} \{the \textit{exposure} of a candidate's unsavory past\} \{the \textit{exposure} of a person's motives\}. \textit{Exposure} is the term for the time during which the sensitive surface of a photographic film is laid open to the influence of light \{an \textit{exposure} of two seconds\} \textit{Exposé} is often used in place of \textit{exposure} for a revealing and especially a formal or deliberate revealing of something that is discreditable to a person or group \{an \textit{exposé} of an allegedly charitable association\} \{an \textit{exposé} of the judge's graft\}.

\textit{expostulate} remonstrate, protest, \{object, kick\}

\textit{Ana} oppose, \{resist, combat, fight: argue, debate, dispute, *discuss\}

\textit{exposure} \{exposed, *exposition\}

\textit{Ant} cover: covering —\textit{Con} shelter, refuge, asylum, retreat

\textit{exposed} \{explain, explicate, elucidate, interpret, construct\}

\textit{Ana} dissociate, break down, \{analyze, resolve: illustrate, \{exemplify\}

\textit{express} \{adj: \{explicit, definite, specific, categorical\}

\textit{Ana} expressed, voiced, uttered (see \textit{Express vb}); lucid, \{clear, perspicuous: distinct, plain (see \textit{Evident})\}; precise, exact, accurate (see \textit{Correct})

\textit{Con} \{implicit, constructive, virtual: vague, \{obscure, cryptic, enigmatic, ambiguous, equivocal\}

\textit{express vb} \{Express, vent, utter, voice, broach, air, ventilate\}

\textit{Ana} comparable when they mean to let out what one feels or thinks. \textit{Express}, the most comprehensive of these words, implies an impulse to reveal not only thoughts or feelings but also experiences, imaginative conceptions, and personality; it implies revelation not only in words but also in gestures, in action, in dress, or in what one makes or produces, especially as works of art \{once again I have to \textit{express} surprise and satisfaction—Lucas\} \{in speaking or writing we have an obligation to put ourselves into the hearer's or reader's place . . . .\}. \textit{To express ourselves is a very small part of the business—Quiller-Couch}\} \{there were so many different moods and impressions that he wished to \textit{express} in verse—Joyce\}

\textit{Vent} stresses such an inner compulsion to expression as a pent-up emotion that seeks an outlet or a powerful passion that cannot be controlled \{he \textit{vented} his spleen in libelous caricatures\}; \{his heart's his mouth: what his breast forges, that his tongue must \textit{vent}—Shak\}. \{by means of mercurial jokers . . . he could \textit{vent} his hatred of pioneer life and all its conditions—Brooks\}. \textit{Utter} stresses the use of 'voice; it does not, however, always imply speech \{\textit{utter} a yell\}; \{\textit{utter} one's relief by sobbing\}. When speech is implied, it is typically both short and significant \{\textit{utter} a command\} \{his tongue and pen \textit{uttered} heavenly mysteries—Walton\} and the context may suggest a reason for secrecy as well as for revelation \{he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to \textit{utter}—2 Cor 12:4\} \{begin by encouraging him to \textit{utter}\}

\textit{Ana} analogous words \textit{Ant} antonyms \textit{Con} contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell> Voice does not necessarily imply vocal utterance, but it invari-
ibly suggests expression in words (I revealed in being able to
voice my opinions without being regarded as a danger-
ous lunatic—MacKenzie> Very often voice suggests that
the writer or speaker serves as a spokesman expressing a
shared view (the editorial voices the universal longing for
peace) (one, bolder than the rest, voiced their disapproval
of the proposal) (Webster contributed a pamphlet . . .
which effectively voiced the Federalist opposition—Cole)
Broach stresses mention for the first time, especially of
something long thought over and awaiting an opportune
moment for disclosure (the mayor did not broach the
project until he felt that public opinion was in its favor)
(the idea of religious radio broadcasts was first broached
in 1923—Current Bio.) Air implies exposure, often in the
desire to parade one's views, sometimes in the hope of
attracting attention or sympathy (air one's opinions of
the government) (air a grievance) (he did not air his politics
in the pulpit—Murdoch) Ventilate implies exposure also
but usually suggests a desire to get at the truth by dis-
covering the real issues or by weighing the evidence pro
and con; it often means to investigate freely, openly, and
thoroughly (the question [the future of literature] has thus
been ventilated from every point of view—Times Lit.
Sup.)

Amp. *speak, talk; pronounce, *articulate, enunciate: *re-
veal, disclose, divulge, tell: *declare, proclaim, announce
Ant imply —Con hint, intimate, *suggest, insinuate

eexpression *phrase, locution, idiom

expressive, eloquent, significant, meaningful, pregnant, sen-
tentious mean clearly conveying or manifesting a thought,
idea, or feeling or a combination of these. Something is
expressive which vividly or strikingly represents the
thoughts, feelings, or ideas by which it intends to convey or
when in form or animate it; the term is applicable not only
to language but to works of art, to performances (as of
music or drama), and to looks, features, or inarticulate
sounds (a forcible and expressive word) (an expressive
face) (he laid great stress on the painting of the eyes, as
the most expressive and dominating feature—Binyon)
(a growing emphasis on the element [in beauty] that is
described by such epithets as vital, characteristic, pic-
turesque, individual—in short, on the element that may
be summed up by the epithet expressive—Babbitt) Some-
thing is eloquent (see also vocal 2) which reveals with
great or impressive force one's thoughts, ideas, or feelings
(there was a burst of applause, and a deep silence which
was even more eloquent than the applause—Hardy) (I
could scarcely remove my eyes from her eloquent coun-
tenance: I seemed to read in it relief and gladness mingled
with surprise and something like vexation—Hudson) or
which gives a definite and clear suggestion of a condition,
situation, or character (a tremulous little man, in greenish-
black broadcloth, eloquent of continued depression in
some village retail trade—Quiller-Couch) (a sidewalk
eloquent of official neglect—Brownell) Eloquent is also
applicable to words, style, and speech when a power to
arouse deep feeling or to evoke images or ideas charged
with emotion is implied (words eloquent of feeling) (a
simple but deeply eloquent style) Something is significant
which is not empty of ideas, thoughts, or purpose but con-
veys a meaning to the auditor, observer, or reader. The
term sometimes is applied to words that express a clearly
ascertainable idea as distinguished from those words (as
prepositions and conjunctions) that merely express a
relation or wholeness. This honored client had a mean-
ing and so deep it was, so subtle, that no wonder he ex-
perienced a difficulty in giving it fitly significant words—

Meredith> (those who lay down that every sentence
must end on a significant word, never on a preposition—
Ellis) or to works of art or literature that similarly express
a clearly ascertainable idea (as a moral, a lesson, or a
thesis) as distinguished from works that exist purely for
their beauty or perfection of form and have no obvious
purpose or import (art-for-art's-sake men deny that any
work of art is necessarily significant) More often, signifi-
cant applies to something (as a look, gesture, or act) that
suggests a covert or hidden meaning or intention (by many
significant looks and silent entreaties, did she endeavor
to prevent such a proof of complaisance—Austen) (she
could not feel that there was anything significant in his
attentions—Deland) Something is meaningful which is
significant in the sense just defined; the term is often
preferred when nothing more than the presence of mean-
ing or intention is implied and any hint of the importance
or momentousness sometimes associated with significi-

cant would be confusing (of two close synonyms one word
may be more meaningful because of its greater richness
in connotations than the other) (it was a . . . meaningful
smile—Macdonald) (I suppose the most meaningful
thing that can be said of her is that she has restored de-
light (repeat, delight) to poetry—Charles Jackson) Some-
thing is pregnant which conveys its meaning with richness
or with weightiness and often with extreme consciousness
or power (it is pretty and graceful, but how different from
the grave and pregnant strokes of Maurice's pencil—
Arnold) (the pregnant maxim of Bacon that the right
question is the half of knowledge—Ellis) (he had no talent
for revealing a character or resuming the significance of
an episode in a single pregnant phrase—Maugham)
Something is sententious which is full of significance:
when applied, as is usual, to expressions, the word basi-
cally connotes the force and the pithiness of an aphorism
(sententious and oracular brevity—Gibbon) (sententious
maxims) But even as an aphorism may become hack-
neyed, so has sententious come to often connote platitude
ousness or triteness ("Contentment breeds happiness"
. . . a proposition . . . sententious, sedate, obviously true—
Quiller-Couch)

Ana revealing or revelatory, disclosing, divulging (see
corresponding verbs at reveal): *graphic, vivid, pictur-
esque, pictorial: suggesting or suggestive, adumbrating,
shadowing (see corresponding verbs at suggest)
Con *stiff, wooden, rigid, tense, stark: stern, austere,
*severe: inane, jejune, flat, banal, rapid, *insipid: vacuous,
empty

expunge *erase, cancel, efface, obliterate, blot out, delete
Ant wipe, eradicate, extirpate (see exterminate)

exquisite adj 1 *choice, recherché, rare, dainty, delicate,
elegant

Ant precious, valuable, priceless, *costly: *consume,
finished: flawless, *impeccable, faultless: *perfect, intact,
whole, entire

2 *intense, vehement, fierce, violent

Ant *consummate: *perfect: *supreme, superlative:
heightened, aggravated, intensified, enhanced (see in-
tensify): exalted, magnified (see exalt)

exquisite n *fop, coxcomb, beau, dandy, dude, buck
temporaneous, extempore, temporary, improvised,
impromptu, offhand, unpremeditated mean composed,
concocted, devised, or done at the moment rather than
beforehand. Extemporaneous, extempore, and temporary
in their more general applications stress something made
necessary by the occasion or situation and may suggest
skepticism or crudity in the thing modified (extempor-
aneous cover during the snowstorm) (the old woman who
had erected a clothesline as a sort of extemporar-
extemporary, extempore

*extemporaneous, improvised,
lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract all mean to extend in duration beyond usual or normal limits: <prolong one’s childhood> <prolong the process of digestion> <exercise prolongs life> Protract (opposed to curtail) adds to the denotation of prolong the connotations of indeterminateness, needlessness, or boredom <protracted debate> (an unduly protracted visit)

Anu *increase, enlarge, augment; *expand, amplify, distend, dilate

Ant abridge, shorten —Con abbreviate, curtail, reduce (see shorten): *contract, shrink, condense

extension wing, ell, *annex

tent *size, dimensions, area, magnitude, volume

*range, scope, compass, sweep, reach, radius: stretch, spread, amplitude, *expanse

extenuate vb 1 attenuate, *thin, dilute, *sharpen, rarefy

*diminish, lessen, reduce, *decrease: *weaken, enfeebles, debilitate: *moderate, temper, qualify

Ant intensify —Con aggravate, heighten, enhance (see intensify)

2 *palliate, glaze, gloss, whitewash, whiten

Ana condone, *excuse: rationalize, *explain, justify

*condone, *excuse: *rationalize, *explain, justify

exterior adj *outer, external, outward, outside

Ana *extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien

Ant interior —Con *inner, inward, internal, inside: intestinal: intrinsic, *inherent, ingrained

exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, uproot, deracinate, wipe are comparable when they mean to effect the destruction of or abolition of something. Extirminate implies utter extinction; it therefore usually implies a killing off (efforts to exterminate such pests as mosquitoes, rats, and ragweed have been only partly successful) <the tribe had been exterminated, not here in their stronghold, but in their summer camp . . . across the river—Cather> Extirpate implies extinction of a group, kind, or growth, but it may carry less an implication of killing off, as exterminate carries, than one of the destruction or removal of the things essential to survival and reproduction; thus, wolves might be exterminated by hunting in a particular area, but large carnivores in general are extirpated by changed conditions in thickly settled regions; a heresy is often extirpated, rather than exterminated, by the removal of the leaders from a position of influence; a vice cannot easily be extirpated so long as the conditions which promote it remain in existence <the ancient Athenians had been extirpated by repeated wars and massacres—Graves> Eradicate stresses the driving out or elimination of something that has taken root or has established itself <diphtheria has been nearly eradicated from the United States> (it is difficult to eradicate popular superstitions) <he must gradually eradicate his settled conviction that the Italians and the French are wrong—Grandon> Uproot differs from eradicate chiefly in being more definitely figurative and in suggesting forcible and violent methods similar to those of a tempest that tears trees out by their roots (hands . . . red with guiltless blood . . . uprooting every germ of truth —Shelley) (end forthwith the ruin of a life uprooted thus —Browning) <refugees from the peoples uprooted by war>

Deracinate basically is very close to uproot <disemboweling mountains and deracinating pines—Steven- son> (he fascinated the young Anderson’s intellect and deracinate certain convictions—Benson) but in much recent use it denotes specifically to separate (as oneself or one’s work) from a natural or traditional racial, social, or intellectual group <although the author is himself a Negro, his book is . . . deracinated, without any of the lively qualities of the imagination peculiar to his people —Commentary> Wipe (in this sense used with out)
often implies extermination (the entire battery was wiped out by shellfire) but it equally often suggests a canceling or obliterating (as by payment, retaliation, or exhaustion of supply) <wipe out a debt> <wipe out an old score> <wipe out a disgrace> (the fall in share prices wiped out his margin)

**Ana** *abolish, extinguish, annihilate, abate: obliterate, efface, expunge, blot out, *erase*: destroy, demolish, raze

**external adj** *outer, exterior, outward, outside*

**Ant** *extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien*

**exteriorize** materialize, actualize, *realize, embody, incarnate, objectify, hypothesize, reify

**extinction** see under *extinguish at abolish*

**exterminate** 1 *crush, quell, suppress, quench, quash*

**extinguish** see under *extinguish at abolish*

**extol** laud, *praise, eulogize, acclaim*

**extreme** *crush, quell, suppress, quench, quash*

**extinguish** *abolish, annihilate: obliterate, efface, expunge, *erase*: destroy, demolish, raze

**extremity** *inner, inward, inside: intrinsic, ingrained, *inherent*

**extract, *educe, elicit, evoke**

**externalize, disentangle, untangle, disencumber** are comparable when meaning to free or release from what binds or holds back. **Extricate**, the most widely useful of these words, implies a situation in which someone or something is so entangled (as in difficulties or perplexities) or so restrained (as from freedom of action or movement) that great force or ingenuity is required to bring about a release (the fly was not able to extricate itself from the spider’s web) <extract himself from financial difficulties> (extricate his car from the mud into which its wheels had sunk) <my success in having extricated myself from an awkward predicament—Heiser> **Disentangle** adheres far more closely than *extricate* to its basic sense of to free from what entangles; also, it is used typically of things rather than of persons and therefore seldom involves the ideas of difficulty or perplexity except for the person who seeks to free the thing entangled or to unravel what is intricately complicated <dismantle a strand from a twisted skein> (Seneca) (drank, set down his glass, and untangled his legs—Basso) **Disencumber** implies a freeing from what weighs down, clogs, or imposes a very heavy burden <he called a spade a spade, and knows how to disencumber ideas of their worldly frippery—George Eliot> (the trees, laden heavily with their new and humid leaves, were now suffering more damage than during the highest winds of winter, when the boughs were specially disencumbered to do battle with the storm—Hardy) **Dismembarrass** implies a release from what embarrasses by or as if by impeding, hampering, or hindering (dismembarrass himself of his companion—Scott) <dismembarrass ourselves of the curse of ignorance and learn to work together—Alvin Johnson> (Chamberlain, at several critical junctures, preferred to disembarrass himself of trained, expert advisers—Na-
extrinsic

mier) *disengage, *detach, abstract: liberate, release, *free: *rescue, deliver
Con *hamper, fetter, trammel, shackles, clog, hog-tie, manacle: impede, obstruct, *hinder, block

extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien are comparable when they mean external to something or someone or to the true nature or original character of such thing or person. Extrinsic applies to something which is distinctly outside the thing in question or is derived from something apart from it; thus, a ring may have extrinsic value because of sentimental or historical associations; such extrinsic influences as chance or the assistance of friends may help a man to succeed (those who would persuade us . . . that style is something extrinsic to the subject, a kind of ornamentation laid on—Quiller-Couch) (even life itself might arise from lifeless matter through the influence of favorable extrinsic conditions—Conklin) Extrinsic, though often used interchangeably with extrinsic, applies more specifically to something which is introduced from outside and may or may not be capable of becoming an integral part of the thing (advance arguments extraneous to the real issue) (style . . . is not—can never be—extraneous ornament—Quiller-Couch) (whatever we gain comprehension of, we seize upon and assimilate into our own being . . .; that which had been extraneous is become a part of ourselves—H. B. Alexander) Foreign applies to something which is so different from the thing under consideration that it is either inadmissible because repellent or, if admitted, incapable of becoming identified with it, assimilated by it, or related to it (much coal contains foreign matter) (inflammation caused by a foreign body in the eye) (the mysticism so foreign to the French mind and temper—Brownell) (look round our world . . . Nothing is foreign: parts relate to whole . . .; all served, all serving: nothing stands alone—Pope) Alien applies to something which is so foreign that it can never be made an inherent or an integral part of a thing. The word often suggests repugnance or at least incompatibility or irreconcilability (a voluptuous devotionality . . . totally alien to the austerity and penetrating sincerity of the Gospel—Inge) (he would often adopt certain modes of thought that he knew to be really alien to his nature—Wilde)

Ana external, *outer, outside, exterior, outward: acquired, gained (see get)
Ant intrinsic—Con internal, *inner, inside, inward, interior intestine

exuberant lavish, *profuse, prodigal, luxuriant, lush
Ana prolific, *fertile, fruitful, fecund: *vigorous, lusty, energetic, nervous: rampant, *rank: copious (see plentiful)
Ant austere: sterile

eyewitness witness, onlooker, looker-on, *spectator, observer, beholder, bystander, kibitzer

The term denotes the normal, composed facial expression of one free from mental distress. Sometimes the word is used in place of face when a formal term is desired (that vile representation of the royal countenance—Swift) Both face and countenance may be used in personifications when the outward aspect or appearance of anything is denoted (startling transformations in the outward face of society are taking place under our very eyes—Frankfurter) (beholding the bright countenance of truth in the quiet and still air of delightful studies—Milton) Visage is a more literary term than the preceding words; it often suggests attention to the shape and proportions of the face, but sometimes to the impression it gives or the changes in mood which it reflects (black hair; complexion dark; generally, rather handsome visage—Dickens) (his visage all agrav—Tennyson) (the very visage of a man in love—Millay) Physiognomy may be preferred when the reference is to the contours of the face, the shape of the features, and the characteristic expression as indicative of race, character, temperament, or disease (he has the physiognomy of an ascetic) (nor is there in the physiognomy of the people the slightest indication of the Gaul—Landor) The term may be extended to the significant or sharply defined aspect of things (not exactly one of those styles which have a physiognomy . . . which stamp an indelible impression of him on the reader's mind—Arnold) (the changing yet abiding physiognomy of earth and sky—Lowery) Mug, used in informal context, usually carries a suggestion of an ugly but not necessarily displeasing physiognomy (getting your mug in the papers is one of the shameful ways of making a living—Mailer) (among all the ugly mugs of the world we see now and

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See also explanatory notes facing page
then a face made after the divine pattern—L. P. Smith>

Puss sometimes denotes a facial expression (as of anger or pouting) (she put on a very sour puss when she saw the priest along with me—Frank O'Connor) but it more often denotes the physiognomy (it had the head of a bear, the very head and puss of a bear—Gregory)

face vb 1 *meet, encounter, confront

2 Face, brave, challenge, dare, defy, beard are comparable because all carry the meaning to confront with courage or boldness. Face carries no more than this general sense; basically it suggests the confrontation of an enemy or adversary (here we are together facing a group of mighty foes—Sir Winston Churchill) but in its extended use it implies a recognition of the power of a force, a fact, or a situation which cannot be escaped to harm as well as to help and a willingness to accept the consequences (must face the consequences of your own wrongdoing) (strict justice, either on earth or in heaven, was the last thing that society cared to face—Henry Adams) (like . . . a tailor's bill, something that has to be faced as it stands and got rid of—Montague) Brave may imply a show of courage or bravado in facing or encountering (i must hence to brave the Pope, King Louis, and this turbulent priest—Tennyson). More often, however, it implies fortitude in facing and in enduring forces which ordinarily would strike the spirit with terror (firemen braving danger and death to rescue persons trapped in the blazing hotel) (women . . . for his sake had braved all social censure— Wilde) (the search for truth . . . makes men and women content to undergo hardships and to brave perils—Eliot) (if you find yourself in trouble before then, call on your courage and resolution: brave out every difficulty—Kenneth Roberts) Challenge generally implies a confrontation of a person or thing opposed in such a way that one seems an accuser implying weakness or fault in the one confronted. Often it may lose the feeling of accusation and then may mean no more than to dispute or question (our thoughts and beliefs "pass," so long as nothing challenges them—James) (that "Testament" the authenticity of which, foolishly challenged by Voltaire, is sufficiently established—Bellow) or, on the other hand, it may go farther and suggest a bold invitation to a contest (as a duel or other test of rightness or skill) which the one challenged cannot refuse (the degree of courage displayed by Malakai, the best medical practitioner turned out by the School, who once dared to challenge the power of the chief of the witch doctors—Heiser) or it may suggest bold measures inviting a response or retaliation (challenge criticism) (challenge attention) Dare also usually emphasizes boldness rather than fortitude, but it rarely suggests the critical or censorious attitude so frequently evident in challenge. Rather, it implies venturesomeness, love of danger, or moral courage and may connote great or especial merit or mere rashness in the action (dare the perils of mountain climbing) (dare to be true: nothing can need a lie—Herbert) (and what they dare to dream of, dare to do—J. R. Lowell) (to wrest it from barbarism, to dare its solitude—Century) (among the newspapers only the Irish Times dared to discuss the issue frankly—Blanshard) (no American dared to be seen reaching for a sandwich by the side of a known Communist—Sulzberger) Defy, like the others, usually implies a personal agent, but it may be said of things as well. When the idea of challenging is uppermost, the notion of daring one to test a power which the challenger believes undefeatable or to do what the challenger believes impossible is usually its accompaniment. In either case there is a stronger implication of certainty in one's belief than there is in challenge, and often a clearer suggestion of mockery (from my walls I defy the pow'rs of Spain—Dryden) (fiend, I defy thee! . . . foul tyrant both of gods and humankind, one only being shalt thou not subdue—Shelley) (I defy the enemies of our constitution to show the contrary—Burke) (I defy him to find the gate, however well he may think he knows the city—Kipling) When the idea of resistance is uppermost, there is a suggestion in defy of a power to withstand efforts, opposition, or rules. It is in this sense that a personal agent is most often not implied, for resistance does not always suggest an exercise of will (scenes that defy description) (words that defy definition) (a wooden seat put together with nails—a flimsy contrivance, which defies all rules of gravity and adhesion—Jeffries) (the tall erect figure, defy ing age, and the perfectly bald scalp defying the weather—Upton Sinclair) Beard, although it implies defiance, often differs from defy in suggesting resolution rather than daring or mockery as its motive; in that way it comes somewhat closer to face and to brave (what! am I dared and bearded to my face?—Shak.) (a bold heart yours to beard that raging mob!—Tennyson) (for years she led the life of a religious tramp, bearding bishops and allowing herself many eccentricities—Coulton) Ana confront, encounter, meet: oppose, withstand, resist: contend, fight

Ant avoid — Con evade, elude, shun, escape

facet aspect, side, angle, phase

facious humorous, jocose, jocular, witty

Ana joking, jesting, quipping, wisecracking (see corresponding nouns at JOKE): jolly, jovial, jocund, merry, blithe: comical, comic, droll, funny, ludicrous, laughable

Ant lugubrious — Con grave, solemn, somber, serious, sober, sedate, staid

facile easy, smooth, light, simple, effortless

Ana adroit, deft, dexterous: fluent, voluble, glib (see VOCAL): superficial, shallow, uncritical, cursory

Ant arduous (with reference to the thing accomplished): constrained, clumsy (with reference to the agent or his method)

facility ease, dexterity, readiness

Ana spontaneity, unconstraint, abandon: address, poise, tact: lightness, effortlessness, smoothness (see corresponding adjectives at EASY)

Con ineptness, clumsiness, awkwardness, maladroitness (see corresponding adjectives at AWKWARD): stiffness, rigidity,woodenness (see corresponding adjectives at STIFF): effort, exertion, pains: difficulty, hardship

facsimile copy, carbon copy, reproduction, duplicate, replica, transcript

faction bloc, party, combination, combine, ring

Ana clique, set, coterie, circle

factious contumacious, sedulous, mutinous, rebellious, insubordinate

Ana contending, fighting, waiting (see CONTEND); contentious, quarrelsome (see BELLIGERENT); disaffected, estranged, alienated (see ESTRANGE)

Ant cooperative — Con companionable, gregarious, sociable: compliant, acquiescent: loyal, true, faithful

factitious *artificial, synthetic, ersatz

Ana manufactured, fabricated (see MAKE vb): forced, compelled, constrained (see FORCE vb): simulated, feigned, counterfeited, shammed, pretended, affected, assumed (see ASSUME)

Ant bona fide, veritable — Con authentic, genuine: natural, simple, artless, naive, unsophisticated
failing are failure, neglect, default, miscarriage, dereliction

*vanish, evanesce, evaporate, disappear
fade
*power, function
shabby, dilapidated, dingy, seedy, threadbare
faded

factor 1 *agent, attorney, deputy, proxy
2 constituent, *element, component, ingredient

Ana determinant, *cause, antecedent: *influence:
agency, agent, instrument, instrumentality, *mean

faculty 1 *power, function
2 *gift, aptitude, knack, bent, turn, genius, talent
Ana *ability, capacity, capability: property, *quality:
penchant, flair, propensity, proclivity, *leaning: *pre-
dilection

fak
*excellent, merit, virtue

failure, neglect, default, miscarriage, dereliction are comparable when they mean an omission on the part of someone or something of what is expected or required of him or of it. Failure basically implies a being found wanting; it implies a lack or absence of something that might have been expected to occur or to be accomplished, performed, or effected. There was a general failure of crops that year. A distressing confusion in discussions of the human-interest story has been caused by a common failure to define the term—Mott. You will hear a great deal of talk about the failure of Christianity; but where in the Holy Gospels ... do you find any suggestion that Christianity is to be an easy triumph?—Mackenzie

Neglect (see also NEGLIGENCE) implies carelessness and inattentiveness on the part of a person, so that what is expected or required of him is either left unattended to or is not adequately performed. In wartime a charge of neglect of duty is a very serious one. His neglect of his health is a source of much worry to his friends. We made a nice tidy cleanup. If I hadn't done it I ought ... to have been shot for neglect—H. G. Wells

Default is now chiefly found in legal use, where it implies a failure to perform something required by law (as a failure of a plaintiff or of a defendant to appear at the appointed time to prosecute or defend an action or a proceeding) In case of default on the part of the plaintiff, he may be nonsuited. In case of default on the part of the defendant, he may have a judgment rendered against him, this being called a judgment by default. Default may also imply a failure to pay one's debts at the appointed time. (Convicted of default in the payment of a fine) or in extended use a failure to perform something required, usually by total omission of pertinent action. (Betraying by default the privileges of citizenship in a democratic society—Dean)

Lose a tennis match by default

Misconduct does not so definitely point the blame for a failure of someone or something to live up to expectations or to accomplish certain ends as do the preceding words; it is often used when there are no definite persons or things to which culpability can be assigned or when for some reason or other there is a desire to avoid casting of blame (There was a serious misconduct of justice in that trial) (The causes of the misconduct of the project were not clear) (We fear ... some miscarriage in the details of our plan—Krutch)

These various miscarriages cannot all be ascribed to ill fortune—Grenfell

Dereliction, of all these terms, carries the strongest implication of a neglect that amounts to an abandonment of, or a departure from, the thing and especially the duty, the principle, or the law that should have been uppermost in a person's mind; ordinarily it implies a morally reprehensible failure rather than one resulting from carelessness and inattention or from mishap. They would be answerable with their lives for any further dereliction of duty—Ainsworth

It revealed in him ... the indisputable signs of a certain dereliction from some path of development his nature had commanded him to follow—Brooks

Ana *fault, failing: shortcoming, deficiency, *imperfection: *lack, want, absence, privation, dearth: negligence, laxness, slackness, remissness (see corresponding adjectives at NEGLIGENCE): indifference, unconcernedness or unconcern (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)

Fair adj indolent, slothful, *lazy


fair adj 1 comely, lovely, *beautiful, pretty, bonny, handsome, beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking
Ana delicate, dainty, exquisite (see CHOICE): charming, attractive, enchanting (see under ATTRACT): pure, *chaste

Ant foul: ill-favored

2 Fair, just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, objective are comparable when they are applied to judgments or to judges or to acts resulting from or involving a judgment and mean free from undue or improper influence. Fair, the most general term, implies the disposition or the intention to regard other persons or things without reference to one's own interests, feelings, or prejudices, often even to the point of conceding every reasonable claim of the weaker side or of giving oneself or the stronger side no undue advantage A fair distribution of one's estate A fair decision by a judge A fair play When we consider how helpless a partridge is ... it does seem fairer that the gunner should have but one chance at the bird—Jeffreys (I believe you will find them a fair solution of this complicated and difficult problem—Roosevelt)

Just implies no divergence from the standard or measure of what has been determined or is accepted as right, true, or lawful and dealings that are exactly in accordance with those determinations, no matter what one's personal inclinations or interests may be or what considerations in favor of the person or thing judged may be adduced A just judge Some just prince perhaps had ... safe restored me to my native land—Pope (How much easier it is to be generous than just—Junius) To divert interest from the poet to the poetry ... would conduct to a juster estimation of actual poetry, good and bad—T. S. Eliot

Equitable implies a freer and less rigid standard than just, often the one which guides a court of equity as distinguished from a court of law and which provides relief where rigid adherence to the law would make for unfairness (He has an equitable claim to the property)

More often the word implies fair and equal treatment of all concerned A form of society which will provide for an equitable distribution of ... riches—Krutch It depended wholly on their individual characters whether their terms of office were equitable or oppressive—Buchan

Impartial implies absence of favor for or absence of prejudice against one person, party, or side more than the other An impartial tribunal
faithful
adj
faith 1 *belief, credence, credit
exposition, *exhibition, show, exhibit

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

faithful description
Encounter
of the observed facts—
assurance, certitude (see CERTAINTY)
assurance, conviction, *certainty, certitude: assent-
The term is also used when only firm adherence to actual-
faithful
likeness) <the
faithful story
of a battle) <an
record of one's experiences)
Uncolored (see also COLORLESS) implies freedom
feeling, often also implying great temperateness or
faithless, false, disloyal, traitorous, treacherous, per-
fidious mean untrue to a person, an institution, or a
unity. Although often used interchangeably with the
faithless, false, disloyal, traitorous, treacherous, per-
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faulting
strongest of the terms here discriminated, then implying a betrayal of a person or cause, it is also capable of implying untrustworthiness, unreliability, or loss or neglect of an opportunity to prove one's devotion or faith (and hopeless, comfortless, I'll mourn a faithless woman's broken vow—Burns) (the remnant...have been abandoned by their faithless allies—Shelley) (he abandoned one wife and was faithless to another—J. R. Green)

False differs from faithless in its greater emphasis upon a failure to be true or constant in one's devotion or adherence than upon an actual breach of a vow, pledge, sworn promise, or obligation; however it may, like faithless, carry varying connotations with respect to the gravity or heinousness of that failure (betrayed by a false friend) (never was Plantagenet false of his word—Marlowe) (we hope that we can give a reason for the faith that is in us without being false to the strictest obligations of intellectual honesty—Inge) (the conception of a lordly spent destiny for the human race, to which we are false when we revert to wars and other atavistic follies—Russell) Disloyal implies lack of faithfulness in thought, in works, or in actions to one (as a friend, superior, sovereign, party, or country) to whom loyalty is owed (a disloyal subject) (good party people think such open-mindedness disloyal; but in politics there should be no loyalty except to the public good—Shaw) (assumed a tone in their correspondence which must have seemed often disloyal, and sometimes positively insulting, to the governor—Motley)

Traitorous implies either actual treason or a serious betrayal of trust or confidence (a traitorous general) (a traitorous act) (traitorous breach of confidence) (by the traitorous connivance of the Bulgarian King and Government, advance parties of the German Air Force...were gradually admitted to Bulgaria—Sir Winston Churchill)

Treachery is of wider application than traitorous; as used of persons it implies readiness, or a disposition, to betray trust or confidence (a treacherous ally) and as used of things it suggests aptness to lead on to peril or disaster by false or delusive appearances (treacherous sands) (the treacherous ocean—Shelley) (up steep crags, and over treacherous morasses, he moved...easily—Macaulay)

Perfidious is a more contemptuous term than treacherous; it implies baseness or vulgarity as well as an incapacity for faithfulness in the person concerned (perfidious violation of a treaty) (perfidious dealings) (Spain...to lavish her resources and her blood in furtherance of the designs of a perfidious ally—Southey)

Ana *inconstant, unstable, fickle, capricious: wavering, fluctuating (see SWING vb): *changeable, changeful Ant faithful—Con loyal, true, staunch, steadfast, resolute, constant (see FAITHFUL)

fake adj counterfeit, spurious, bogus, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony

Ana fabricated, forged (see MAKE): framed, invented, concocted (see CONTRIVE)

Con *authentic, bona fide, genuine, veritable: true, real, actual

faker *impostor, mountebank, charlatan, quack

Ana defrauder, cheater or cheat, swindler, cozen (see corresponding verbs at CHEAT)

fall, drop, sink, slump, subside are comparable when they mean to go or to let go downward freely. They are seldom close synonyms, however, because of various specific and essential implications that tend to separate and distinguish them. Fall, which in the relevant sense is intransitive, suggests a descent by the force of gravity and implies a loss of support opposing gravity; in extended use fall may apply to whatever extends downward or gives an effect of going in a downward direction (let a glass fall to the ground and shatter) (the supports gone, the structure fell in a heap) (the roof had fallen in on another speaker—Cerf) (chair falling over a woman's shoulders) (the birthrate fell over a 6-month period, then rose) (let fall a remark about the weather) Drop may suggest a falling drop by drop or bit by bit, but usually it stresses a speed, directness, unexpectedness, or casualness in falling or allowing to fall (dropped a coin into a pond) (dropped seeds into holes) (dropping to the ground at the sound of an air-raid warning) (dropping a hint of coming trouble) (income dropped during the slow winter season) Sink fundamentally implies a gradual descending motion, especially into something, often to the point of total submersion (the ship sank gradually into the placid sea) (the float on the fish line sank a moment, then bobbed furiously) (the thermometer sank to far below zero—Carruthers) but in frequent somewhat extended use the stress is so strongly on a slow or gradual falling or descent that the notion of submergence is largely or wholly lost (sinking to her knees from exhaustion) (the sun is sinking in the west) (his voice sank to a whisper) Slump usually implies a sudden falling or collapsing (as of someone suddenly powerless or suddenly totally enervated) (slumping to the ground unconscious) (slumped in his seat) (prices slumped badly in the winter) (when a bird falls asleep, it relaxes and slumps down until its body rests against the perch—J. H. Baker) Subside suggests a gradual descent or return to a normal or usual position, action, or condition after an undue rising, expanding, or boiling up; often it can suggest a sinking below a normal or usual level (a wind rising, then subsiding) (he lost a quarter of an hour waiting for the flood to subside—Mary Austin) (the bustle subsides and relative calm is resumed—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) (the child's quick temper subsided into listlessness—Reppier) (after the boom prices subsided to a level far below normal) (their voices subsided to a whisper)

Ana *descend, dismount, alight: *drop, sag, flag, wilt: ebb, *abate, wane: *recede

Ant rise—Con *lift, raise, elevate, hoist: ascend, arise, mount, soar, tower (see RISE)

fallacious sophistical, casuistical (see under FALLACY)

Ana *irrational, unreasonable: *misleading, deceptive, delusive, equivocal: equivocal, ambiguous (see OBSOURE)

Ant sound, valid

fallacy, sophism, sophistry, casuistry are comparable when meaning unsound and misleading reasoning or line of argument. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are distinguishable in the corresponding adjectives fallacious, sophistical, casuistical. Fallacy and fallacious in specific logical use imply an error or flaw in reasoning that vitiates an entire argument; thus, a syllogism in which one argues from some accidental character as though it were essential and necessary (as, The food you buy, you eat; you buy raw meat; therefore you eat raw meat) contains a fallacy or is fallacious (the many fallacies that lurk in the generality and equivocal nature of the terms "inadequate representation"—Burke) In more general use fallacy and fallacious apply to a conception, belief, or theory that is erroneous and logically untenable, whether it has been arrived at by reasoning or by conjecture or has been taken over from others (the arguments of the Federalist are intended to prove the fallacy of these apprehensions—John Marshall) (the separatist fallacy, the belief that
false adj 1 False, wrong mean not in conformity with what is true or right. False in all of its senses is colored by its original implication of deceit; the implication of deceiving or of being deceived is strong when the term implies a contrariety between what is said, thought, or concluded and the facts or reality false statements (see CONTRARY): (thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor—Exod 20:16) (whether it is a genuine insight into the workings of his own mind or only a false explanation of them—Day Lewis) (you can take a chessboard as black squares on a white ground, or as white squares on a black ground, and neither conception is a false one—James) An intent to deceive or a deceptive appearance is implied when the term connotes an opposition to what is real or genuine or authentic false tears false pearls (a box with a false bottom) (a false arch is an architectural member which simulates an arch in appearance but does not have the structure or serve the function of a true arch) The term is applied in vernacular names of plants to a kind related to, resembling, or having properties similar to another kind that commonly bears the unqualified vernacular the pinkster flower is sometimes called false honeysuckle Even when the word stresses faithlessness (see FAITHLESS) there is usually a hint of a deceptive appearance of faithfulness or loyalty or of self-deception in one's failure to be true false friends Only in the sense of incorrect or erroneous (a false note (a false policy) is this implication obscured, though there is often a suggestion of being deceived into believing that the thing so described is true or right. Wrong, on the other hand, is colored in all of its senses by its original implication of wryness or crookedness; in general it implies a turning from the standard of what is true, right (especially morally right), or correct to its reverse. In comparison with false, wrong is simple and forthright in its meaning; thus, a wrong conception is one that is the reverse of the truth, but a false conception is not only wrong but the result of one's being deceived or of one's intent to deceive; a wrong answer to a question is merely an erroneous answer, but a false answer to a question is one that is both erroneous and lying; wrong principles of conduct are the reverse of ethically right principles, but false principles of conduct are not only wrong but are bound to lead astray those who accept them give a person wrong advice through bad judgment (believed that a lie is always wrong) (there is something wrong about his appearance) (there is something false in his courtesy) (he may be wrong in his opinions, but he is not false to his country in trying to impress them upon others) (the book is a chic little piece . . . often amusing, always arch and clever, and usually wrong—Farrell) (the man who, having out of sheer ignorance eaten the wrong end of his asparagus, was thencefore compelled to declare that he preferred that end—Ellis) Ana *misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory; fallacious, sophistical (see under FALLOACY): mendacious, deceitful, dishonest, untruthful: factitious (see ARTIFICIAL) Ant true —Con real, actual: veritable, *authentic, genuine, bona fide: veracious, truthful (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH) 2 perfidious, disloyal, traitorous, treacherous, *faithless Ana recreant, apostate, renegade, backsliding (see corresponding nouns at RENEGADE): *inconstant, unstable: *crooked, devious Ant true —Con staunch, steadfast, loyal, *faithful, constant, resolute falsehood untruth, *lie, fib, misrepresentation, story Ant truth (in concrete sense) falsify *misrepresent, belie, garble Ana *change, alter, modify, vary: distort, contort, warp (see DEFORM): pervert, corrupt (see DEBASE): contradict, contravene, traverse, *deny falter vb waver, vacillate, *hesitate Ana flinch, blench, *recoil, quail, shrink: fluctuate, oscillate, *swing: *shake, tremble, quake, shudder Con *persevere, persist: resolve, determine, *decide fame n Fame, renown, honor, glory, celebrity, reputation, repute, notoriety, éclat are comparable when they mean the character or state of being widely known by name for one's deeds and, often, one's achievements. Fame is the most inclusive and in some ways the least explicit of these terms, for it may be used in place of any of the others, but it gives no clear suggestion of how far the knowledge of one's name extends, of the reasons for it, or of the creditableness of those reasons; although the term often implies longevity and usually implies a cause or causes to one's credit, it does not invariably carry these favorable implications acquired some fame for his inventions (his fame was short-lived) (fame is the spurt that the clear spirit doth raise . . . to scorn delights and live laborious days—Milton) fame . . . that second life in others' breath—Hazlitt (fame is the thirst of youth—Shelley is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise . . . to scorn delights and live laborious days—Milton) fame . . . that second life in others' breath—Pope (popularity is neither fame nor greatness—Hazlitt) fame is the thirst of youth—Byron (I had won a great notoriety and perhaps even a passing renown—Maughan) Renown implies widespread fame and widespread acclamation for great achievements (as in war, in government, in science, or in art) (those other two equalled with me in fame, so were I equalled with them in renown—Milton) (Niten's paintings are prized, but it is as a swordsman that he won supreme renown—Binyon) (the renown of Walden has grown; schools and colleges have made it required reading—Frank) (he once achieved a singular
famed *famous, renowned, celebrated, eminent, illustrious

familiar 1 Familiar, intimate, close, confidential, chummy, thick are comparable when meaning near to one another because of constant or frequent association, shared interests and activities, or common sympathies, or, when applied to words or acts, indicative of such nearness. Familiar suggests relations or manifestations characteristic of or similar to those of a family, where long-continued intercourse makes for freedom, informality, ease of address, and the taking of liberties; consequently familiar may apply to the relations, words, and acts of persons actually in such a situation and to the attitude or the style of speaking or writing of persons who assume the freedom and ease of address of those who are familiar essays (a simpler and more familiar speech, able to express subtleties or audacities that before seemed inexpressible—Ellis) (the familiar, if not rude, tone in which people addressed her—Hawthorne) (she was a fearless and familiar little thing, who asked disconcerting questions—Wharton) Intimate suggests relations characteristic of those who are in close contact with one another (as through ties of blood, of friendship, or of common interests or aspirations) and who have opened their hearts or their minds to such a degree that they deeply know and understand one another (the intimate political relation subsisting between the president of the United States and the heads of departments, necessarily renders any legal investigation of the acts of one of those high officers peculiarly... delicate—John Marshall) (they establish and maintain... more intimate and confiding relations with us—J. R. Lowell) (though Farfars must have so far forgiven him as to have no objection to... him as a father-in-law, intimate they could never be—Hardy) Intimate may also apply to a connection between a person and a thing, especially something he says, does, wears, or uses; it then implies a very close relation between that thing and his inmost thoughts or feelings or his life in the privacy of his home (official receptions were few, but small, intimate teas were frequent in the governor's home) (the indecency of publishing intimate letters which were never written to be published—Ellis) (her eyes, lively, laughing, intimate, nearly always a little mocking—Cather) (a shirt-sleeved populace moved... with the intimate abandon of boarders going down the passage to the bathroom—Wharton) As applied directly or indirectly to knowledge, intimate differs from familiar not only in idiom but also in implying not merely acquaintance but close or deep study (he has an intimate knowledge of the situation) (he is familiar with the facts pertaining to the situation) (he is familiar with the poem in question) (he has gained, through long study, an intimate knowledge of the poem) Close is often used in place of intimate when one wishes to imply an intimate relation existing persons together in such a way as to suggest the exclusion of others or a very strong degree of affection between them (close friends) (a close friendship) (seeing them so tender and so close—Tennyson) (too close to Theodore Roosevelt ever to receive the confidence of Woodrow Wilson—Paxson) Confidential implies a relationship based upon mutual trust or confidence or upon a willingness to confide intimate matters (as one's hopes, thoughts, or feelings) (the growing harmony and confidential friendship which daily manifest themselves between their Majesties—Chatham) (he slipped his arm through his father's with a confidential pressure—Wharton) Chummy and thick are less formal terms and usually convey some degree of contempt, derision, or envy of a close association. Chummy suggests an easy informal intimate

mechanical triumph that won him wide renown—Anderson) Honor (see also honor 2, honesty) implies a measure of fame (as in a section, a country, a continent, or the civilized world), but it also implies that the knowledge of one's achievements has earned for one esteem or reverence (length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor—Prov 3:16) (one must learn to give honor where honor is due, to bow down... before all spirits that are noble—Benson) Glory usually suggests renown, but more especially it implies a position that attention is fixed on one's brilliance of achievement and the accomplishment of enthusiastic praise or of high honor (the paths of glory lead but to the grave—Gray) (to be recognized... as a master... in one's own line of intellectual or spiritual activity, is indeed glory—Arnold) (no keener hunter after glory breathes. He loves it in his knits more than himself; they prove to him his work—Tennyson) Celebrity is often used in place of fame when the widespread laudation of one's name and accomplishments in one's own time is implied; the term usually carries with stronger implication of famoussness and of popularity than it does of deep-seated or long-lived admiration and esteem (the lonely precursor of German philosophy, he still shines when the light of his successors is fading away; they had celebrity. Spinoza has fame—Arnold) (made a sensational debut as a pianist at the age of six... but by adolescence her celebrity was finished—Tunley) Reputation often denotes nothing more than the character of a person or place, not necessarily as it really is but as it is conceived to be by those who know of or him of it (he has a good reputation in the community) (it is a shame to injure a man's reputation) but in the sense in which it is here particularly considered, the term implies a measure of fame, typically for creditable reasons (his reputation for wit was countrywide) (a man of doubtful reputation) (a painter of growing reputation) (the purest treasure mortal times afford is spotless reputation—Shak) (the fame (reputation is too chilly a word) of Arnold J. Toynbee is a phenomenon in itself worth noting—Brogan) Repute is sometimes used interchangeably with reputation in either sense (only a general of repute could get recruits—Buchan) More often, however, repute suggests a relation that is closer to honor than to fame, and denotes rather the degree of esteem accorded to a person or thing than the measure of fame it acquires (the book has no little repute among the best critics) (his work is held in high repute) (he won a great deal of repute for his bravery) Notoriety implies public knowledge of a person or deed; it usually suggests a meretricious fame and imputes sensationalism to the person or thing that wins such repute (he achieved notoriety as the author of a most salacious novel) (that brilliant, extravagant, careless Reverend Doctor Dodd who acquired some fame and much notoriety as an eloquent preacher—Ellis) Eclat may be used in place of renown or of notoriety. To either idea is added the connotation of great brilliancy or display, but when the basic meaning is renown, illustriousness is especially suggested (consider what luster and éclat it will give you... to be the best scholar, of a gentleman, in England—Chesterfield) and when it is notoriety, flashiness or ostentation is usually implied (his success in such a pursuit would give a ridiculous éclat to the whole affair—Scott) Ana acclaim, acclamation, *applause: recognizing or recognition, acknowledgment (see corresponding verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE): eminence, illustriousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAMOUS)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
fanatic

bigot, *enthusiast, zealot

Ant

Ana

*fictitious, fabulous, mythical, apocryphal, legendary-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

famous

famed, renowned, celebrated, eminent, illustrious

are comparable when meaning known far and wide among men. Famous and famed apply chiefly to men, events, and things that are much talked of or are widely or popularly known throughout a section, a country, a continent, or a cultural tradition; they also imply good repute or a favorable reputation. Normally these terms are applied without qualification only to those persons or things that are still so known or that were so known in the time under consideration—(the once famous poems of Owen Meredith) (a famous American aviator) (some of our most famous physicians have had to struggle pitiably against insufficient means until they were forty or fifty—Shaw) (time has spiraled them from rebellion to eminence. They are respectively famous, and the poet Edith even fashionable—W. T. Scott) (a corpulent, jolly fellow, famed for humor—Hawthorne) Renowned implies more glory or honor and more widespread acclamation than either famous or famed; it is, however, often employed as a stronger or more emphatic term than famous with little actual difference in meaning except for a suggestion of greater longevity of fame (royal kings . . . renowned for their deeds—Tennyson) (the celebrated stresses reception of popular or public notice or attention and frequent mention, especially in print; it may also suggest public admiration or popular honor (the celebrated kidnapping of Charley Ross) (the most celebrated of the cases pending before the Supreme Court) (Benjamin Franklin’s celebrated kite) (the greatest, but the least celebrated, general in the war) (it is characteristic that in this whole “Notebook” Maugham seldom mentions any of his celebrated friends—Behrman) Eminent implies conspicuousness for outstanding qualities; it is applicable chiefly to persons or things that are recognized as topping others of their kind (the age produced no eminent writers) (many eminent men of science have been bad mathematicians—Russell) (eminent manifestations of this magical power of poetry are very rare and very precious—Arnold) Illustrious carries a stronger implication of renown than eminent; it also imparts to the thing so described a gloriousness or splendor that increases its prestige or influence (illustrious deeds of great heroes) (his right noble mind, illustrious virtue—Shak.) (boast the pure blood of an illustrious race—Pope)

Ant

obscure

fanatic

n

bigot, *enthusiast, zealot

fanciful

*impractical, visionary, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic

Ana

*fictitious, fabulous, mythical, apocryphal, legendary-bizarre, grotesque, *fantastic: preposterous, absurd (see FOOLISH): *false, wrong

Ant

realistic —Con matter-of-fact, *prosaic: truthful, veracious (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH)

fancy

n

1 *caprice, freak, whim, whimsy, conceit, vagary, crotchet

2 *imagination, fantasy

Ant

experience

3 Fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare are comparable when they denote a vivid idea or image, or a series of such ideas or images, present in the mind but having no concrete or objective reality. Fancy (see also IMAGINATION) is applicable to anything which is conceived by the imagination, whether it recombines the elements of reality or is pure invention (surely this great chamber . . . did not exist at all but as a gigantic fancy of his own—Galsworthy) (the status of archaeological fact and fancy in the world today—W. W. Taylor) Fantasy applies to a fancy and especially to an organized series of fancies (as one presented in art) that is the product of an unrestrained imagination freed from the bonds of actuality (Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream is a pure fantasy) (a thousand fantasies begin to throng into my memory, of calling shapes, and beckoning shadows dire, and airy tongues that syllable men’s names—Milton) Phantasy, though sometimes used in place of fantasy, both as the power of free inventive imagination and as a product of that power, may apply particularly to the image-making power of the mind, whether the image is the result of sense perception or of the imagination, or to a product of that power and then may be strongly antonymous to truth and reality (probably in his life, certainly in his poetry, there is no sharp boundary between phantasy and reality—Canby) (phantasies created by the reading of Kubla Khan) Phantasm may be applied either to a phantasy, the mental image (figures . . . of which the description had produced in you no phantasm—Taylor) or to a fantasy, especially to one that is hallucinatory (the phantasms of a disordered mind) Vision often implies an imagining, but it as frequently implies a seeing or a revelation. Specifically, however, the term is applied to something which the mind perceives as clearly or concretely as if revealed to it by a supernatural or mysterious power (see REVELATION), or as if viewed by a kind of spiritual sight or intuition, or as if seen in a dream; vision therefore often suggests a sight of something that is actually spiritual in essence or is beyond the range or power of the eyes or mind to grasp as a whole (a whole life . . . devoted to the patient pursuit of a single vision seen in youth—Eliot) (each word’s . . . power of touching springs in the mind and of initiating visions—Montague) (our vision of world law and some sort of worldwide law-enforcement agency—Sat. Review) Dream is the general term for the ideas or images present to the mind in sleep (thus have I had thee, as a dream doth flatter, in sleep a king, but waking no such matter—Shak.) (your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions—Joel 2:28) In extended use dream, like daydream, suggests vague or idle, commonly happy, imaginations of future events or of nonexistent things (childhood’s sunny dream—Shelley) (a busy person has no time for daydreams) Nightmare applies to a frightful and oppressive dream which occurs in sleep or, by extension, to a vision or, sometimes, an actual experience which inspires terror or which cannot easily be shaken off (how many of our daydreams would darken into nightmares, were there a danger of their coming true!—L. P. Smith)

Ana

figment, fabrication, fable, *fiction: notion, conception, *idea, concept

Ant

reality (in concrete sense)

fancy

vb

1 dote, *like, love, enjoy, relish
fantastic

**Ana** *approve, endorse, sanction

**Con** *disapprove, deprecate

2 imagine, conceive, envisage, envision, realize, *think

**Ana** *conjecture, surmise, guess

fantastic

1 chimerical, visionary, fanciful, *imaginary, quixotic

**Ana** extravagant, extreme (see EXCESSIVE); incredible, unbelievable, implausible (see affirmative adjectives at PLAUSIBLE); preposterous, absurd (see FOOLISH); *irrational, unreasonable: delusory, delusive, deceptive, *misleading

**Con** familiar, ordinary, *common: usual, customary

2 Fantastic, bizarre, grotesque, antic are comparable when they describe works of art, effects produced by nature or art, ideas, or behavior and mean conceived or made, or seemingly conceived or made, without reference to reality, truth, or common sense. **Fantastic** stresses the exercise of unrestrained imagination or unlicensed fancy. It therefore variously connotes absurd extravagance in conception, remoteness from reality, or merely ingenuity in devising <fantastic figures, with bulbous heads, the circumference of a bushel, grinned monstrously in his face—Hawthorne> <one need not have a very fantastic imagination to see spirits there—Gray> <he wove fantastic stories of the hunting bride—Kipling> **Bizarre** is applied to what is unduly, often sensationally, strange or queer; it suggests the use of violent contrasts (as in color, in sound, or in emotional effects) or of strikingly incongruous combinations (as of the tragic and the comic or of the horrible and the tender) <it was bizarre in the extreme. It was as if a judge, wearing the black cap, had suddenly put out his tongue at the condemned—Powys> <temple sculpture became bizarre—rearing monsters, fiery horses, great pilared halls teeming with sculptures—Atlantic> **Grotesque** emphasizes distortion of the natural to the point either of comic absurdity or of aesthetically effective ugliness. Technically the word is applied to a type of painting or sculpture of ancient Roman origin which serves a decorative rather than a pictorial purpose and which employs natural details (as animals, men, flowers, and foliage) and conventional designs and figures (as scrolls, garlands, and satyrs) in unnatural combinations or to the comic exaggerations or distortions of human and animal figures in the sculptured decorations and especially the gargoyles of Gothic architecture. It is from the latter association that the adjective in general use derives its leading implications of ridiculous ugliness or ludicrous caricature <the camel was crouching . . . with his grotesque head waving about in dumb protest to the blows—Hoffman> <she differed from other comedians. There was nothing about her distinguishable from exaggeration—Kahn> <the incident happened farther back than I can remember> <circumstances such as the present . . . render further reserve unnecessary—Shaw> In spite of this fundamental distinction in meaning, there are many occasions where it is difficult to make a choice, since the ideas of distance from a given point and of advance in movement may both be implied. In such cases either word may be used <to go further and fare worse—Old Proverb> <my ponies are tired, and I have further to go—Hardy> <as we climb higher, we can see further—Inge> <“What! . . . was Pat ever in France?” “Indeed he was,” cries mine host; and Pat adds, “Ay, and further—Lover> **fascinate** charm, bewitch, enchant, captivate, allure, *attract

**Ana** influence, impress, *affect, sway, strike, touch: delight, rejoice, gladden, *please

**fascinating** charming, bewitching, enchanting, captivating, alluring, attractive (see under ATTRACT)

**Ana** *delightful, delectable: luring, enticing, seducing

**Con** *repugnant, repellent, distasteful, obnoxious, abhorrent

**fashion**

n 1 manner, way, *method, mode, system

**Ana** practice, *habit, custom, usage, wont

2 Fashion, style, mode,ogue, fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, *ery are comparable when denoting a way of dressing, of furnishing and decorating rooms, of dancing, or of behaving that is generally accepted at a given time by those who wish to follow the trend or to be regarded as up-to-date. **Fashion** is thought of in general as the current conventional usage or custom which is determined by polite society or by those who are regarded as leaders especially in the social, the intellectual, the literary, or the artistic world <the dictates of fashion> <follow the fashion> <nowhere . . . is fashion so exacting, not only in dress and demeanor, but in plastic art itself—Brownell> <took the view . . . that externals count for much, since they sway opinion, and opinion sways fashion, and fashion is reflected in conduct—Buchan> **Fashion** is also applicable to the particular thing (as costume, furniture, behavior, or subject in literature or art) which is dictated by fashion <this poem . . . provided . . . the fake-progressive

**Ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
with a new fashion—Day Lewis} (it is the latest fashion in hats) Style, in this as in its other senses (see LANGUAGE 2, NAME) implies a manner or way that is distinctive; though often interchangeable with fashion (a dress in the latest style) it particularly suggests the elegant or distinguished way of dressing, furnishing, and living characteristic of those who have wealth and taste (live in style) (judging from the style they keep, they are both wealthy and cultivated) (their clothes, their homes, their tables, their cars have that somewhat elusive quality called style) (an authentic opera queen, temperamental, colorful, obstreperous, who considered traveling in style as important as singing in tune—Kupferberg) Mode, especially in the phrase "the mode," suggests the peak of fashion or the fashion of the moment among those who cultivate elegance in dress, behavior, and interests (the easy, apathetic graces of the man of the mode—Macaulay) (that summer Russian refugees were greatly the mode—Rose Macaulay) (sleeping on top of television sets is the mode of the day for cats—New Yorker) Vogue stresses the prevalence or wide acceptance of the fashion and its obvious popularity (the slender, undeveloped figure then very much in vogue—Cather) (the word morale, in italics, had a great vogue at the time of the War—Montague) (yet I am told that the vogue of the sermon is passing—Quiller-Couch) Fad, rage, craze, dernier cri all apply to an extremely short-lived fashion. Fad stresses caprice in taking up and in dropping (many people are inclined to see in the popularity of this new subject a mere university fad—Babbitt) (a fashion is not in France the mere "fad" it is in England and with us—Browne) Rage and craze imply short-lived and often markedly senseless enthusiasm (Mr. Prufrock fitted in very well with his wife's social circle, and was quite the rage—Day Lewis) (dog racing had begun as an enthusiasm, worked through to being a craze, and ended as being a habit—Westerby) Dernier cri or its equivalent cry (especially in "all the cry") applies to whatever is the very latest thing in fashion (a woman whose clothes are always the dernier cri) (open-toed shoes were all the cry that summer) 

Ana trend, drift, *tendency: convention, *form, usage 

fashion vb form, shape, *make, fabricate, manufacture, forge Ana devise, contrive (see corresponding nouns at DEVICE): design, plan, plot (see under PLAN n): produce, turn out (see BEAR) 

fashionable *stylish, modish, smart, chic, dashing Ant unFashionable: old-fashioned 

fast, rapid, swift, fleet, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious mean moving, proceeding, or acting with great celerity. Fast and rapid are often used without distinction; but fast frequently applies to the moving object and emphasizes the way in which it covers ground, whereas rapid is apt to characterize the movement itself and often to suggest its astonishing rate of speed (a fast horse) (a fast train) (a fast boat) (a rapid current) (a rapid gait) (rapid progress) (a fast worker) (rapid work) 

Swift suggests great rapidity, frequently coupled with ease or facility of movement (fleeter than arrows, bullets, wind, thought, swifter things—Shak) (more swift than swallow shears the liquid sky—Spenser) (the flight of his imagination is very swift; the following of it often a breathless business—Day Lewis) Fleet, which is chiefly in poetic or journalistic use, connotes lightness or nimbleness as well as extreme fastness or rapidity (antelope are fleet of foot) (how the fleet creature would fly before the wind—Melville) Quick (see also quick 2) applies especially to something that happens promptly or occupies but little time; it suggests alacrity or celerity, especially in action, rather than velocity of movement (quick thinking saved him from the trap) (thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die—Shak) (slow to resolve, but in performance quick—Dryden) 

Speedy, when applied to persons or their motions or activities, implies extreme quickness and often hurry or haste; when applied to things and their motion or movement, it also often suggests great velocity; in general, it is opposed to dilatory (no mode sufficiently speedy of obtaining money had ever occurred to me—De Quincey) (hope for their speedy return) (be speedy, darkness—Keats) (make speediest preparation for the journey—Shelley) Hasty suggests hurry or precipitance rather than speed and often connotes the resulting confusion, disorder, or inattention (gobbled down a hasty meal) (we must, this time, have plans ready—instead of waiting to do a hasty, inefficient, and ill-considered job at the last moment—Roosevelt) Expeditious adds to quick or speedy the implication of efficiency; it therefore implies the absence of waste, bungling, and undue haste (an expeditious movement of troops) (there is no expeditious road to pack and label men for God, and save them by the barrel load—Thompson) 

Ant slow 

fasten, fix, attach, affix mean to make something stay firmly in place or in an assigned place. All but fix (and that sometimes) imply a uniting or joining of one thing to another or of two things together. Fasten implies an attempt to keep a thing from moving by uniting it (as by tying, binding, nailing, or cementing) to something else or by restraining it by means of some mechanical device (as a lock, a screw, or a hook and eye) (fasten a horse to a post) (fasten down the lid of a box) (fasten a calendar to a wall) (fasten a door) (fasten a dress in the back) Fix implies an attempt to keep something from falling down or from losing hold; it suggests such operations as driving in or implanting deeply, usually with care and accuracy (fix a stake in the ground) (unless their roots are deeply fixed, plants will not be strong) It is more common in its extended than in its basic sense, but the implications remain the same (fix a face in one's memory) (fix facts in one's mind) (fix a color in a fabric by use of a mordant) 

In some phrases where fasten and fix are used interchangeably there may be a distinction in meaning which is subtle but justified; thus, to fix one's affections on someone implies concentration and fidelity while to fasten one's affections on someone may, and often does, suggest covetousness or an attempt to hold or control; to fix the blame upon a person implies solid grounds for the accusation, but to fasten the blame upon someone often suggests factitious grounds or selfish motives (his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord—Ps 112:7) (society wanted to do what it pleased; all disliked the laws which Church and State were trying to fasten on them—Henry Adams) 

Attach stresses connection or union in order to keep things together or to prevent their separation; it usually implies a bond, link, or tie (the lid is attached to the box by hinges) (attach loose sheets by means of a staple) (the collarbone is attached to the shoulder blade at one end and to the breastbone at the other) (he attached himself to the cause in his youth) (in some countries little odium is attached to drunkenness) (attach to a promise) (she undertakes to attach him to her by strong ties: a child, or marriage—Parshley) Affix usually implies imposition of one thing upon another; it may convey no further information (affix a seal to a document) (Felton affixed this bull to the gates of the bishop of London's palace—Hallam) but it more often than not suggests 

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
either attachment by an adhesive (as paste, gum, or mucilage) \(<\text{affix to a stamp on an envelope}>\) or subscription (as of a name to a document) \(<\text{he's old enough to affix his signature to an instrument}>\) —Meredith

**Ana**

- *unfasten*: loosen, loose —Con *separate, part, sever, unnerve, divorce, divide

**fastidious**

- finicky, finicking, finical, particular, fussy, *nice, dainty, squeamish, persnickety, prickly

**fat**

- *fleshy, stout, portly, plump, corpulent, obese, robust, strong
- *secure, rivet, moor, anchor: *join, connect, link, unite: adhere, cleave, cling, *stick, cohere: bind, *tie
- *unfasten*: loosen, loose —Con *separate, part, sever, unnerve, divorce, divide

**fastness**

- stronghold, *fort, fortress, citadel

**fatally**

- dangerously, perilously, *ominously, portentously, inauspiciously, unpropitiously

**fatuous**

- 

**fate**

- *sexually, virile, virginal, effeminate, effeminate, effeminate, effeminate*
- *secure, rivet, moor, anchor: *join, connect, link, unite: adhere, cleave, cling, *stick, cohere: bind, *tie
- *unfasten*: loosen, loose —Con *separate, part, sever, unnerve, divorce, divide

**fatum**

- *fate, destiny, lot, portion, doom: analogous words* See also explanatory notes facing page 1
weakness of character for which one is not entirely responsible or of which one may not be aware (pride . . . is a very common failing, I believe—Austen) (a knowledge of his family failings will help one man in economizing his estate—Quiller-Couch) (while in other statesmen these failings are usually thought of as sorrowful necessities, in Lloyd George they are commonly held to show his essential nastiness—Sykes) Frailty often implies a weakness in character which makes one prone to fall when tempted (God knows our frailty, pities our weakness—Locke) The term therefore often denotes a pardonable or a petty fault (a purely human frailty, like a fondness for detective stories—Lowes) Foible denotes a harmless, sometimes an amiable, sometimes a temperamental, weakness or failing (I can bear very well to hear my foibles exposed, though not my faults—Shenstone) (he had all the foibles of the aesthetics—Buchan) Vice (see also OFFENSE) is stronger than fault and failing in its suggestion of violation of the moral law or of giving offense to the moral senses of others, but it does not necessarily imply corruptness or deliberate defiance of the law and may be rather a general term attributable to an imperfection or flaw that impairs the soundness of a character or an ability (knowledge . . . of all the virtues and vices, tastes and dislikes of all the people—Galsworthy) (she had been proud. She was criminally proud. That was her vice—Bennett) (as Professor Whitehead has lately said, the intolerant use of abstractions is the major vice of the intellect—Inge) Ana weakness, infirmity (see corresponding adjectives at WEAK): flaw, defect, *blemish Ant merit —Con *excellence, virtue, perfection 3 *blame, culpability, guilt Ana responsibility, answerability, accountability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE): sin, *offense, crime faultfinding adj captious, caviling, carping, censorious, hypercritical, *critical Ana exacting, demanding, requiring (see DEMAND vb): fussy, particular, finicky, perrickety (see NICE) Con appreciating or appreciative, valuing, prizing, cherishing (see corresponding verbs at APPRECIATE): approving, endorsing (see APPROVE) faultless *impeccable, flawless, errorless Ana *correct, right, nice, accurate, exact, precise: *perfect, intact, entire, whole Ant faulty faux pas blunder, slip, *error, mistake, lapse, bull, howler, boner favor n boon, largess, *gift, present, gratuity Ana token, *pledge, earnest: concession, *allowance: *honor, homage, deference: benefaction, *donation, contribution favor vb 1 Favor, countenance, encourage are comparable when they mean to give the support of one's approval to. Favor may be used in reference to a well-disposed inclination, an expressed preference, or active support or sometimes to a circumstance or agency conducive to a result (a number of wealthy and influential Newport folk favored dramatic performances, although a majority of their fellow citizens continued to condemn them—Amer. Guide Series: R. I.) (in general the marshmen favor a broad, roomy canoe—Thesiger) (we had been favored by tail winds and would put down at Idlewild—Cefyn) for the summer weather at Maudheim favored the formation of this type of snow—Schartz) Countenance may indicate mere toleration; more often it implies a positive favoring (really fail to see why you should countenance immorality just to please your—Kaye-Smith) (her popularity had been retrieved, grievances against her silenced, her past countenanced, and her present irradiated by the family approval—Wharton) (several of them appeared at the bar to countenance him when he was tried at the Horsham assizes—Macaulay) Encourage carries the notion of heartening stimulation, inciting or inducing especially by expressions of approval, confidence, liking, or comfort (openly encouraged from Germany and Italy, fascist organizations, although from time to time banned, carried on insidious and demoralizing propaganda—Ogg & Zink) (encouraged her in her ambition to be an actress—Current Bio.) Ana *approve, endorse: *support, uphold, back Ant disapprove —Con *decry, depreciate, disparage 2 accommodate, *oblige Ana *help, aid, assist: *indulge, pamper, humor: *benefit, profit Con foil, thwart, baffle, circumvent, *frustrate: *inconvenience, incommode, discommode favorable, benign, auspicious, propitious mean being of good omen or presaging a happy or successful outcome. Favorable implies that the persons or circumstances involved tend to assist in attaining one's ends—persons by being kindly disposed or actually helpful and circumstances by being distinctly advantageous or encouraging (send a favorable ear to a request) (it was feared that many of the small countries were favorable to the enemy) (a favorable breeze) (a hot dry summer, favorable to contemplative life out of doors—Conrad) (they won't take a chance of battle unless they can feel sure of most favorable conditions—Alexander Forbes) Benign (see also KIND) is applicable chiefly to someone or to something that has power to make or mar one's fortunes by his or its aspect and is thought of as looking down with favor on one or of presenting a favorable countenance to one (so shall the World go on, to good malignant, to bad men benign—Milton) (on whose birth benign planets have certainly smiled—Bronie) (a benign rather than a malevolent phenomenon—Margaret Halsey) Auspicious, like the related augur (see under FORETELL), suggests the presence of signs or omens and is applicable to something that is marked by favorable signs or is in itself regarded as a good omen (an auspicious beginning of what proved to be a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horoscope to shine—Dryden) (pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling) Propitious suggests an allusion to favoring gods or powers more strongly than favorable but not quite so explicitly as auspicious; it may therefore be preferred to favorable when such a connotation is desired (if the fates are propitious, there is no doubt of his success) (they looked upon the present moment as propitious for starting their project) (after so propitious an opening it seemed that aceberities might be quelled, rivalries mitigated—S. H. Adams) Ana advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: salutary, wholesome, *healthful: benignant, kindly, *kind Ant unfavorable: antagonistic favorite n sycophant, toady, lissipattle, * parasite, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, sponger fawn vb Fawn, toady, truckle, cringe, cower are comparable when they mean to act or behave with abjectness in the presence of a superior. Fawn implies a courting of favor by such acts of a sycophant as servile flattery and exaggerated deference (they fawn on the proud feet that are starting their lying low—Shelley) (courtiers who fawn on a master while they betray him—Macaulay) (they fawn and slaver over us—Jeffers) (died, still fawning like the coward that he had always been—Pares) Toady carries a strong
implication of a menial as well as of a fawning attitude in an attempt to ingratiate oneself; often also it suggests the close following of a hanger-on or parasite or the vulgarly imitative behavior of a social climber (toadying to the rich boys in his school) (her generosity encouraged toadying among her neighbors) (he toadied and worshipped and worried: he became timid and obsequious, feeling himself to be a fluff, a little scratching cinder among immensities—Enright) (in proportion as he submits and toadies, he also will dominate and bully—Mead) (Truckle implies subordination of self or submission of one’s desires, judgments, or opinions to those of a superior (everybody must defer. A nation must wait upon her decision, a dean and chapter to_truckle to her wishes—Sackville-West) (there are people who will always _truckle to those who have money—Archibald Marshall) (Cringe implies obsequious bowing or crouching as if in awe or fear; it usually connotes abject abasement (we are sneaking and bowing and cringing on the one hand, or bullying and scurrying on the other—Thackeray) (she is very humble and careless of self. “My poor, humble self” . . . is often on her lips; but she never cringes or loses dignity—Symonds) (Cower always implies abject fear, often cowardly fear, especially in the presence of those who tyrannize or domineer (the whole family cowered under Lady Kew’s eyes and nose, and she ruled by force of them—Thackeray) (having found . . . every incentive to cower and cringe and hedge, and no incentive . . . to stand upright as a man—Brooks) (Ana) blandish, cajole, wheedle, *coax: defer, bow, cave, *yield, submit: court, woo, *invite (Ant) domineer (faze) disconcert, discomfit, rattle, *embarrass, abash (ana) nonplus, confound, dumbfound, perplex, mystify, *puzzle: *confuse, muddle: fluster, flurry, perturb, *dis-compose (fealty) *fidelity, loyalty, devotion, allegiance, piety (Ana) faithfulness or faith, trueness or truth, constancy, staunchness, steadfastness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL): *obligation, duty (Ant) perfidy —Con perfidiousness, treacherousness or treachery, traitorishness, faithlessness, disloyalty, falsehood (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

fear n 1 Fear, dread, fright, alarm, dismay, consternation, panic, terror, horror, trepidation denote the distressing or disordering agitation which overcomes one in the anticipation or in the presence of danger. Fear is the most general term: like _dread, it implies apprehension and anxiety, but it also frequently suggests a loss of courage amounting to cowardice (_fear came upon me, and trembling—Job 4:14) (he had, indeed, an awful _dread of death, or rather “of something after death”—Boyswel) (do you know what _fear is? Not ordinary fear of insult, injury or death, but abject, quavering _dread of something that you cannot see—Kipling) (the only thing we have to fear is _fear itself—Roosevelt) (Fright implies the shock of sudden, startling, and usually short-lived fear; _alarm suggests the fright which is awakened by sudden awareness of imminent danger (she had taken _fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad) (she stared at her husband in _alarm; her golden-hazel eyes were black with apprehension—Wylie) (they were all in—Defoe) (Panic is overmastering and unreasoning, often groundless, fear or fright (a blockhead, who was in a perpetual _panic lest I should expose his ignorance—De Quincey) (Terror suggests the extremity of consternation or dread (_the terror by night—Ps 91:5) (frozen with _terror—Beckford) (soul-chilling _terror—Shelley) (Horror adds the implication of shuddering abhorrence or aversion, for it usually connotes a sight, activity, or demand rather than a premonition as a cause of fear (_the horror of supernatural darkness—Pater) (shrank from the task with all the horror of a well-bred English gentleman—Woolf) (Trepidation adds to _dread the implication of timidity, especially as manifested by trembling or by marked hesitation (_the Stubland aunts were not the ladies to receive a solicitor’s letter calmly. They were thrown into a state of extreme _trepidation—H. G. Wells) (it is often used for a polite pretense of fear or timidity (_I take up with some _trepidation the subject of program music—Babbit) (Ana) *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment: anxiety, worry, concern (see CARE) (Ant) fearlessness —Con boldness, bravery, intrepidity, valiancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE) *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution: *confidence, assurance, aplomb 2 awe, *reverence (Ana) veneration, worship, adoration (see under REVERE): admiration, *wonder, amazement: respect, esteem (see REGARD n) (Ant) contempt (fearful) 1 Fearful, apprehensive, afraid are comparable when they mean inspired or moved by fear. In such use they are normally followed by of, that, or lest, afraid being never and fearful and apprehensive infrequently used attributively in this sense. Fearful carries no suggestion of a formidable cause of fear; it often connotes timorousness, a predisposition to worry, or an active imagination (the child is fearful of loud noises) (they were fearful that a storm would prevent their excursion) (fearful lest his prize should escape him—J. R. Green) (Apprehensive suggests a state of mind rather than a temperament and grounds for fear that at least seem reasonable. It always implies a presentiment or anticipation of evil or danger (in July 1914 all civilized peoples were apprehensive of war) (had driven before them into Italy whole troops of . . . provincials, less apprehensive of servitude than of famine—Gibbon) (Afraid may or may not imply sufficient motivation of fears, but it typically connotes weakness or cowardice and regularly implies inhibition of action or utterance (the trained reason is disinterested and fearless. It always connotes sufficient apprehension, and a loss of courage in the face of possible or imminent danger (under CARE n): hesitant, reluctant, *disinclined (Ant) fearless: intrepid —Con bold, audacious, *brave, courageous, dauntless, valiant, unafraid 2 Fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful, terrible, terrific, horrible, horrid, shocking, appalling are comparable in that all and especially their adverbs are used informally as intensives meaning little more than extreme (or extreme-ly), but each term has a definite and distinct value when applied to a thing that stimulates an emotion in which fear or horror is in some degree an element. Something is fearful which makes one afraid or alarmed. In literary or formal use the word usually implies a deep and painful emotion and a loss of courage in the face of possible or imminent danger (call torment, trouble, wonder and amazement inhabits here: some heavenly power guide us out of this
fearful country!—Shak.} A sight too fearful for the feel of fear—Keats} Our fearful trip is done, the ship has weathered every rack—Whitman In less formal English fearful may not imply apprehension of danger, but it may at least imply that the thing so qualified is a cause of disquiet—the fearful tenacity of a memory—a fearfully distressing situation. Something is awful which impresses one so profoundly that one acts or feels as if under a spell or in the grip of its influence; the word often implies an emotion such as reverential fear or an overpowering awareness of might, majesty, or sublimity—and wring the awful scepter from his fist—Shak.} God of our fathers . . . beneath whose awful Hand we hold dominion over palm and pine—Kipling} Men living among the glooms and broken lights of the primeval forest, hearing strange noises in the treetops when the thunder crashed, and awful voices in the wind—Buchan With somewhat weakened force awful may be applied to qualities or conditions which are unduly weighted with significance or which strike one forcibly as far above or beyond the normal {no tribunal can approach such a question without a deep sense . . . of the awful responsibility involved in its decision—John Marshall} A moment of awful silence before the questions between two of our Countrymen—Shaw} Suddenly, the awful clarity of purpose of the innocent and intelligent, she believed in Captain Remson—McFee} Something is dreadful from which one shrinks in shuddering fear or in loathing—the dreadful prospect of another world war—cancer is a dreadful disease—she felt her two hands taken, and heard a kind voice. Could it be possible it belonged to the dreadful father of her husband?—Meredith} Dreadful things should not be known to young people until they are old enough to face them with a certain poise—Russell} In weakened use dreadful is applicable to something from which one shrinks as disagreeable or as unpleasant to contemplate or endure—A dreadful necessity—wouldn't it be dreadful to produce that effect on people—L. P. Smith} Something is frightful which, for the moment at least, paralyzes one with fear or throws one into great alarm or consternation {a frightful sound broke the quiet of the night}—A frightful tornado—the Ghost of a Lady . . . a scar on her forehead, and a bloody handkerchief at her breast, frightful to behold—Meredith} Frightful is also often employed without direct implication of fright, but in such use it imputes to the thing so qualified a capacity for startling the observer (as by its enormity, outrageousness, or its shocking quality) a frightening disregard of decency a frightening scandal this frightful condition of internal strain and instability—Shaw} The labor of sifting, combining, constructing, expunging, correcting, testing: this frightening toil is as much critical as creative—T. S. Eliot} Something is terrible which causes or is capable of causing extreme and agitating fear or which both induces fright or alarm and prolongs and intensifies it mentally—voices arise. The clamor became terrific—confused the minds of all men—Anders} One of those terrible women produced now and then by the Roman stock, unsexed, implacable, filled with an insane lust of power—Buchan} I have never read a more terrible exposure of human weakness—of universal human weakness—that the last great speech of Othello—T. S. Eliot} A human being devoid of hope is the most terrible object in the world—Heiser} When the word carries no implication of terrifying or of capacity for terrifying, it usually suggests that the thing so described is almost unendurable in its excess (as of force or power) or too painful to be borne without alleviation or mitigation {knowledge . . . is no longer thought to be a secret, precious, rather terrible possession—Benson} An evil passion may give great physical and intellectual powers a terrible efficiency—Eliot} Saint-Beuve believed that the truth is always terrible—L. P. Smith} Something is terrific which is fitted or intended to inspire terror (as by its size, appearance, or potency) {eyes and hairy mane terrific—Milton} Assumes a terrific expression {one little tool . . . transforms the spark [of electricity] from a form too brief and bright and terrific to be intelligible into one of the most tractable and lucid of the phenomena . . . of Nature—Darrow} Terrific may be preferred to terrible when there is an implication of release of stored-up energy, physical, emotional, or intellectual, and of its stunning effect a terrific explosion} A terrific outburst of rage} The most admired single phrase that Shakespeare ever wrote—Ripeness is all . . . derives a terrific and pure dramatic impact from its context—Day Lewis} Something is horrible the sight of which induces not only fear or terror but also loathing and aversion; thus, a fearful precipice may not be horrible; in the practice of the ancient Greek dramatists, murder on the stage was avoided as horrible (now that wars are between nations, no longer between governments or armies, they have become far more horrible—Inge} Horrible, like the other words, may be used in a mawkish sense; in such cases it seldom suggests horror, but it does suggest hideousness {a horrible suspicion arose in his mind} a horribly shrill voice} A horrible taste} Horrible emphasizes the effect produced on a person, horrific the possession of qualities or properties fitted or intended to produce that effect that horrific yarn [Stevenson's] “The Body-Snatcher”} His yearning for the horrific, the revolting, the transcendent mystery of whatever is not “nice”—Times Lit. Sup.} Something is shocking which startles or is capable of startling because it is contrary to one's expectations, one's standards of good taste, or one's moral sense {likes to tell shocking stories} {find a shocking change in a friend's appearance} The treatment should begin by encouraging him to utter freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell} Often in extended use shocking does not imply a capacity for startling so much as a blamable or reprehensible character {it is shocking of me, but I have to laugh when people are pompous and absurd—Rose Macaulay} A solemnis of this kind . . . would have seemed a shocking thing to . . . so accurate a scholar—L. P. Smith} Something is appalling which strikes one with dismay as well as with terror or horror {her overthrow would have been the most appalling disaster the Western world had ever known—Henry Adams} {the defects are alarmingly prolific—Shaw} Sometimes appalling comes close to amazing but then retains the notion of dismaying and carries a stronger suggestion of dumbfounding than of surprising {his appalling quickness of mind} He was squatting in some sepulchral Indian village talking to unwashed old men, and eating the most appalling food—La Farge} Ana frightening, terrifying, alarming (see FRIGHTEN): ghastly, gruesome, grisly, grim, macabre, lurid: {sinister, baleful, malign: sublime (see SPLENDID) fearful unafraid, dauntless, undaunted, bold, intrepid, audacious, {brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, doughty Ana daring, venturesome, *adventurous: heroic, gallant (see corresponding nouns at HEROISM): plucky, gritty (see corresponding nouns at FORTITUDE) Ant fearful —Con timid, timorous feasible *possible, practicable Ana practical, *practicable: advisable, *expedient, political: advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: suitable, appropriate, fitting, *fit Ant unbelievable, infeasible: chimerical (schemes, projects, suggestions) —Con fantastic, visionary, quixotic (see
feast 331 feeling

imaginary): utopian, *ambitious, pretentious

feast *dinner, banquet

feast n Feast, exploit, achievement denote a remarkable deed or performance. Feast applies particularly to an act involving physical strength, dexterity, and often courage; an exploit is an adventurous, heroic, or brilliant deed; achievement emphasizes the idea of distinguished endeavor especially in the face of difficulty or opposition; all are used frequently with some degree of irony (sights of art and feats of strength went round—Goldsmith) (feats of daring) (I must retreat into the invalided corps and tell them of my former exploits, which may very likely pass for lies—Scott) (great is the rumor of this dreadful knight, and his achievements of no less account—Shak) (achievements of science)


feature n *characteristic, trait
ana detail, particular, *item: specialty, particularity (see corresponding adjectives at special): *quality, character, property

fecund fruitful, prolific, *fertile
ana bearing, producing, yielding (see bear): breeding, propagating, reproducing, generating (see generate)

ant barren—con *sterile, unfruitful, infertile, impotent

fecundity fruitfulness, prolificacy, fertility (see under fertile)

ana producing or productiveness (see corresponding verb at bear): profuseness or profusion, luxuriance, lavishness, prodigality, lushness, exuberance (see corresponding adjectives at profuse)

ant barrenness

federation confederacy, confederation, coalition, fusion, *alliance

fee stipend, emolument, salary, *wage or wages, pay, hire
ana remuneration, compensation (see corresponding verbs at pay): charge, *price, cost, expense

feebie *weak, infirm, decrepit, frail, fragile
ana unnerved, energized, emancipated, unnanoned (see unnerv): debilitated, weakened, enfeebled, disabled, crippled (see weaken): powerless, impotent

ant robust—con *strong, sturdy, stout, stalwart: *vigorous, lusty, energetic: hale, *healthy

feed vb Feed, nourish, pasture, graze are comparatively good to animals and especially to domestic animals (as cattle, sheep, or horses) fed on grass (cattle are pastured on the ridges and mounds that rise . . . above the swamps—Amer. Guide Series: La.)

graze is often preferred specifically to pasture when the emphasis is on the use of growing herbage for food (a field or two to graze his cows—Swift) (graze sheep on the common)

ana *nurse, nurture, foster, cherish: support, sustain, maintain (see corresponding nouns at living)

ant starve

feed n fodder, forage, provender, *food, victuals, viands, provisions, comestibles

feel vb *touch, palpate, handle, paw

ana *apprehend, comprehend: perceive, observe, notice (see see)

feel n feeling, *atmosphere, aura
ana see those at feeling 3

feeling n 1 sensibility, *sensation, sense
ana reacting or reaction, behaving or behavior (see corresponding verbs at act): responsiveness (see corresponding adjective at tender): sensitiveness, susceptibility (see corresponding adjectives at liable)

2 feeling, affection, emotion, sentiment, passion. Feeling, the general term, denotes a partly mental and partly physical, but not primarily sensory, reaction or state that is characterized by an emotional response (as pleasure, pain, attraction, or repulsion). Unless it is qualified or a clue is given in the context, feeling gives no indication of the nature, the quality, or the intensity of the response (whatever feelings were in Sophia's heart, tenderness was not among them—Bennett) (a feeling of sadness and longing—Longfellow) Often feeling implies a contrast with judgment and connotes lack of thought (her humanity was a feeling, not a principle—Henry Mackenzie) (she had a feeling that all would be well—Parker) Affection is applied mainly to such feelings as are also inclinations or likings; the word therefore sometimes suggests desire or striving (the heart . . . we are, by foolish custom . . . impelled to call the seat of the affections—Rose Macaulay) (that serene and blessed mood, in which the affections gently lead us on—Wordsworth) (music played with affection and understanding—Kolodin) Emotion usually suggests a condition that involves more of the total mental and physical response than does feeling or implies feelings marked by excitement or agitation ( eagerness for emotion and adventure—Sydney Smith) (means of exciting religious emotion—Ruskin) (a sensation of strength, inspired by mighty emotion—George Eliot) Sentiment connotes a larger intellectual element in the feeling than any of the others; it often is applied specifically to an emotion inspired by an idea (his own anti-slavery sentiments were sincere—Boatfield) Commonly the word suggests refined, sometimes romantic, occasionally affected or artificial, feeling (that moral sentiment which exists in every human breast—Bancroft) (his opinions are more the result of conviction than of sentiment—J. R. Lowell) (Sterne has been called a man overflowing with sentiment on paper but devoid of real feeling)

Passion suggests powerful or controlling emotion; more than affection, it implies urgency of desire (as for possession or revenge) (hark! how the sacred calm, that breathes about, bids every fierce tumultuous passion cease—Gray) (the ruling passion, be it what it will, the ruling passion conquers reason still—Pope) (give me that man that is not passion's slave—Shak)

ana impressing or impression, touching, affecting or affection (see corresponding verbs at affect vb 1): *mood, humor, temper, vein

ana analogous words

ant antonyms

con contrasted words

see also explanatory notes facing page 1
Female, woman, lady are comparable when meaning *criminal, convict, malefactor, culprit, delinquent* felon

felicitous
adj
fell
felicity
*adj

felicitous
happy, apt, fitting, appropriate, *fit, suitable, meet, proper

Ana
telling, convincing (see valid): pat, timely, opportunity, *seasonable, well-timed: apposite, pertinent, *relevant

Ant
infelicitous: inept, maladroit — Con *awkward, clumsy, gauche: unfortunate, unhappy, unlucky (see affirmative adjectives at lucky)

felicity
*happiness, bliss, beatitude, blessedness

Ana
rapture, transport, *ecstasy: joy, delight, delectation, *pleasure, fruitation

Ant
misery

fell
adj
cruel, inhuman, savage, barbarous, ferocious, *fierce, truculent

Ana
baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient, *sinister: pitiless, ruthless (see corresponding nouns at sympathy): relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim, implacable

felon
*criminal, convict, malefactor, culprit, delinquent

female
n
Female, woman, lady are comparable when meaning a person and especially an adult who belongs to the sex that is the counterpart of the male sex. Female (the correlative of male) emphasizes the idea of sex; it applies not only to human beings but also to animals and plants. Its ordinary use as a synonym for woman was once frequent (three smart-looking females—Austen) to please the females of our modest age—Byron but this use is now felt as derogatory or contemptuous except in strictly scientific or statistical application, where the term may be employed to designate a person of the female sex whether infant, child, adolescent, or adult (the city's population included 12,115 males and 15,386 females). As compared with woman (the correlative of man), which emphasizes the essential qualities of the adult female, lady (the correlative of gentleman) connotes basically the added qualities implicit in gentle breeding, gracious nature, and cultivated background. Woman is preferred by many whenever the reference is to the person merely as a person (The country expects the help of its women) the following women assisted in receiving the guests a woman of culture a saleswoman a working woman society women Lady, on the other hand, is preferred when exalted social position or refinement and delicacy are definitely implied (Alfonso XI at his death left one legitimate son and five bastards by a lady of Seville, Doña Leonor de Guzmán—Altamira y Crevea) Miss Nancy had the essential attributes of a lady—high veracity, delicate honor in her dealings, deference to others, and refined personal habits—George Eliot but lady may also be used informally as a mere courteous synonym for woman (Please allow these ladies to pass) the ladies were the decisive factor in rolling up the Republican landslide Priest may I speak to the lady of the house? though its indiscriminate substitution for woman (as in wash lady, saleslady) carries courtesy into travesty from that hour to this, the Gazette has referred to all females as women except that police-court characters were always to be designated as ladies—White

female adj
Female, feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, effeminate, ladylike are comparable when meaning of, characteristic of, or like a female especially of the human species. Female (opposed to male) applies to animals and plants as well as to human beings and stresses the fact of sex (The female bee Milton) (female children were excluded from inheritance) Feminine (opposed to masculine) alone of these words may imply grammatical gender (feminine nouns and pronouns) but it characteristically applies to features, attributes, or qualities which belong to women rather than to men; it has practically displaced all except the more strictly physiological senses of female her heavenly form angelic, but more soft and feminine Milton (the domestic virtues, which are especially feminine Lecky) the strangely feminine jealousies and religiousness Steinbeck Womanly (often opposed to girlish or, from another point of view, to manly) is used to qualify whatever evidences the qualities of a fully developed woman Womanly It often specifically suggests qualities (as tenderness, sympathy, moral strength, and fortitude) which especially befit a woman and make her attractive especially in her functions as a wife and mother, or it may merely suggest the absence of such mannish qualities as aggressiveness (twas just a womanly presence, an influence unexpressed—J. R. Lowell all will spy in thy face a blushing, womanly, discovering grace Donné) Womanlike (opposed to manlike) is more apt to suggest characteristically feminine faults or foibles womanlike, taking revenge too deep for a transient wrong done but in thought to your beauty Tennison Womanish (compare mannish, childish) is a term of contempt, especially when applied to what should be virile or masculine art thou a man? Thy form cries out thou art; thy tears are womanish Shak womanish or wailing grief—Cowper Effeminate emphasizes the idea of unmanly delicacy, luxuriously, or enervation a woman impudent and mannish growth is not more loathed than an effeminate man in time of action—Shak an effeminate and unmanly foppery Hurd something feminine not effeminate mind is discoverable in the countenances of all men of genius Coleridge Ladylike is sometimes used sarcastically, especially of men, to imply a dainty and finical affectation of the proprieties tops at all corners, ladylike in mien Cowper that ladylike quality which is the curse of Southern literature—Leechy As applied to girls and women or to their conduct, habits, or manners, ladylike implies conformity to a standard appropriate to a lady your daughter may be better paid, better dressed, more gently spoken, more ladylike than you were in the old mill Shaw

Ant
male — Con masculine, manly, manlike, manful, manish, virile (see male)

feminine
female, womanly, ladylike, womanish—
fertile, *fierce, truculent, barbarous, savage, inhuman, *fierce

vb 1 *enclose, envelop, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall

Ana confine, circumscribe, *limit: *surround, gird, environ

2 *dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, shirk, malinger

Ana evade, avoid, shun, elude (see ESCAPE): maneuver, feint (see corresponding nouns at TRICK): baffle, foil, outwit (see FRUSTRATE)

feral *brutal, brute, brutish, bestial, beastly

Ana *fierce, ferocious

ferocious *fierce, brutal, savage, inhuman, cruel, fell

Ana infuriated, maddened, enraged (see ANGER vb): rapacious, *voracious, ravenous: relentless, implacable, merciless, *grim

Con *tame, subdued, submissive

ferret out vb *seek, search, scour, hunt, comb,ransack, rummage

Ana extract, elicit (see EDUCE): penetrate, probe, probe (see ENTER)

fertile, *fertile, fruitful, prolific mean having or manifesting the power to produce fruit or offspring. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in their corresponding nouns fertility, fecundity, fruitfulness, prolificacy. Fertile (opposed to sterile, in-fertile) applies particularly to something in which seeds take root and grow or may take root and grow because it contains the elements essential to their life and development. <fertile soil> <fertility of alluvial land> <past fields where the wheat was high . . . ; it was a fertile country—S. V. Benét> Consequently the term often applies to something in which ideas take root and thrive <a fertile mind> (in the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian—Hardy) (in him were united a most logical head with a most fertile imagination—Boswell) Fertile is also applicable to something which has in itself the elements essential to its growth and development. <a fertile egg> <fertile seed> <a fertile idea> or to a person or animal or pair that is able to produce normal living young <a fertile husband> <a fertile couple> Fecund (opposed to barren) applies especially to something which actually yields in abundance or with rapidity, fruits, or fruiting, or by extension, projects, inventions, or works of art; thus, one speaks of the fecundity of a mother if one wishes to imply that she has a large family, but of her fertility if the intent is to indicate that she is not sterile; so, by extension, a fecund rather than a fertile inventive genius <a good part of these inventions came to birth—or were further nourished—in the fecund mind of Leonardo da Vinci—Mumford> (if you had been born a Dumas—I am speaking of fecundity . . . and of nothing else . . . and could rattie off a romance in a fortnight—Quiller-Couch) Fruitful may be preferred to fecund when the reference is to plants and may replace fertile in reference to soil or land, but it is especially applicable to something that promotes fertility or fecundity <a fruitful rain> In its extended sense it is applicable to whatever bears results, especially useful or profitable results <the time has always come, and the season is never unripe, for the announcement of the fruitful idea—John Morley> <the enormously fruitful discovery that pitch of sound depends upon the length of the vibrating chord—Ellis> <Darwinism . . . is a fruitful theory of the means by which nature works—Inge> <the poet . . . is apt to lack the detachment which alone makes fruitful criticism possible—Lowes> Prolific is often interchangeable with fecund, but it often suggests even greater rapidity in reproduction and is therefore more frequently used than the latter term in disparagement or derogation especially when applied to types or kinds of things or beings <the starling is so prolific that the flocks become immense—Jeffreys> <uncultivated, defective people . . . are appallingly prolific—Shaw> (the flabby pseudoreligions in which the modern world is so prolific—Krutch)

Ana producing, bearing, yielding (see BEAR): inventing or inventive, creating or creative (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): quickening, stimulating, provoking, exciting, galvanizing (see PROVOKE)

Ant infertile, sterile —Con barren, impotent, unfruitful (see STERILE)

fertility fruitfulness, fecundity, prolificacy (see under FERTILE)

Ant infertility, sterility —Con impotence or impotency, barrenness, unfruitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at STERILE)

fervent ardent, fervid, perervid, *impassioned, passionate

Ana *devout, pious, religious: warm, warmhearted, *tender, responsive: *sincere, wholehearted, heartfelt, hearty, whole-souled, unfeigned: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent

Con cool, *cold, chilly, frigid: apathetic, *impassive, phlegmatic

fervid fervent, ardent, perervid, *impassioned, passionate

Ana *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent; earnest, *serious, solemn: *sincere, heartfelt, hearty, wholehearted, whole-souled

Con collected, composed, *cool, imperturbable, non-chalant: *indifferent, aloof, detached, unconcerned

fervor ardent, enthusiasm, *passion, zeal

Ana devoutness, piousness or piety (see corresponding adjectives at DEVOUT): earnestness, seriousness, solemnity (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS): sincerity, heartiness, wholeheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at SINCERE)

fetch vb *bring, take

Ana *get, obtain, procure: transfer, shift, *move, remove: convey, transport, transmit, *carry, bear

fetid noisome, *malodorous, stinking, putrid, rank, rancid,usty, musty

Ana foul, nasty (see DIRTY): *offensive, loathsome, repulsive, repugnant, revolting

Ant fragrant —Con *odorous, aromatic, redolent, balmy

fetish, talisman, charm, amulet are comparable when they designate an object believed to be endowed with the virtue of averting evil or of bringing good fortune. Fetish is applied to an object, either natural (as a snake or an animal's tooth or claw) or artificial (as a piece of carved wood or bone), which is held sacred in the belief that a supernatural spirit has entered into it and invested it with the power to bring success, luck, and freedom from evil to its owner or worshiper. In its basic sense the word is always connected with the religion of primitive or barbarous peoples <the Ashanti fertility fetish, carried on the backs of pregnant women to help make their children beautiful—Time> In extended use it may be applied to whatever is unreasonably or irrationally regarded as sacred or sacerdoty <make a fetish of the Constitution> <the mediocre was repellent to them; cant and sentiment made them sick; they made a fetish of hard truth—Rose Macaulay> Talisman, unlike fetish, presupposes a degree of enlightenment, a knowledge of astrology and other occult sciences, and a belief in magical powers. Primarily it is applied to a cut, incised, or engraved figure or image of a heavenly constellation or planet or to its sign, or to a
gent or a piece of metal so cut, incised, or engraved. By virtue of this representation it is supposed to be endowed with the same occult influence as what it represents 〈he had stolen from Henry ... a talisman, which rendered its wearer invulnerable—Stubbis〉 In extended use it may be applied to an object felt to exert a magical, extraordinary, and usually happy influence 〈the little circle of the schoolboy's copper coin ... had proven a talisman, fragrant with good, and deserving to be set in gold and worn next her heart—Hawthorne〉 〈the more true of a leaf was a talisman to bring me under the enchantment—Jeffersis〉 〈there is no talisman in the word parent which can generate miracles of affection—Butler d. 1902〉 〈if their hearts had been opened, there would have been found, engraved within, the talisman Education—Brooks〉

Charm basically applies to something believed to work a spell repelling evil spirits or malign influences or attracting favorable ones. It may be used in reference to an incantation, a word, or a form of words as well as to an object; thus, fetishes and talismans were often carried as an incantation 〈the gallant little Abruzzi cob was decorated with ... a panoply of charms against the evil eye—Mackenzie〉 In its extended application to a quality in persons or in things it connotes a power to attract or allure that is suggestive of spell working 〈she has great charm ... did you feel the charm of the painting?〉 〈one of the great charms of Lawrence ... was that he could never be bored—Huxley〉 Amulet is usually applied to something worn or carried on the person because of its supposed magical power to preserve one in danger or to protect one from evil and especially from disease 〈the French traveler Coudreau ... expressly states that collars made of jaguars' or bush hogs' teeth, worn round the neck by small children, are amulets intended to protect them, when they grow bigger, against the attack of ferocious beasts—Karsten〉 In its rare extended use the word still implies protection 〈righteousness will give you love ... but it will not give you an invincible amulet against misfortune—Farrar〉

fetter vb shackle, *hamper, trammel, clog, manacle, hog-tie
Ana *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar, dam; *restrain, curb, check: baffle, balk, thwart, foil, *frustrate; bind; *tie
Con *free, liberate, release: *extricate, disencumber, disembarrass, disentangle, untangle; disengage; *detach
fewer *less, lesser, smaller
fib n untruth, falsehood, *lie, misrepresentation, story
fib vb equivocate, palter, *lie, prevaricate
fickle *inconstant, unstable, capricious, mercurial
Ana *changeable, changeful, variable, protean: *fitful, spasmodic: light, light-minded, frivolous, flighty, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)
Ant constant, *true —Con *faithful, loyal, staunch, steadfast

fiction, figment, fabrication, fable are comparable when meaning a story, an account, an explanation, or a construction or an assumption that serves one's own ends or that satisfies the unthinking because of its accord with outward appearances 〈the notion that a business is cloathed with a public interest and has been devoted to the public use is little more than a fiction intended to beautify what is disagreeable to the sufferers—Justice Holmes〉 〈few of the usual fictions on which society rested had ever required such defiance of facts—Henry Adams〉 or, especially in legal or scientific use, to provide a convenient assumption or method whereby one can deal with what is beyond the range of rational or objective proof 〈the Linnaean and similar classificatory systems are fictions . . . having their value simply as pictures, as forms of representation—Ellis〉 Fiction may apply to something which appears to be or is believed to be true or which accords with some higher form of truth (as "poetic truth," "philosophical truth," or "spiritual truth") or with the demands of reason when these come into conflict with fact or with the world as apprehended by the senses; figment and fabrication, on the other hand, carry no implication of justification and typically suggest a defiance of truth of whatever kind or degree. Figment usually suggests the operation of fancy or of unlicensed imagination and negation of fact 〈the rude, unvarnished gibes with which he demolished every figment of defense—Stevenson〉 (a sense of unreality was creeping over him. Surely this great Chamber . . . did not exist at all but as a gigantic fancy of his own! And all these figures were figments of his brain!—Galsworthy) Fabrication applies to something that is made up with artifice and usually with the intent to deceive; consequently it is often used of a fiction that is a deliberate and complete falsehood 〈the common account of his disappearance is a fabrication〉 〈the legend, though some of its details are obviously fictitious, cannot be dismissed as a pure fabrication〉 〈it is evidence—fact, fabrication—Partridge〉 〈the Government story was not a complete fabrication but a careful distortion—Devlin〉 Fable (see also ALLEGORY 2) applies to a fictitious narrative that is obviously unconcerned with fact, usually because it deals with events or situations that are marvelous, impossible, preposterous, or incredible 〈if we may take the story of Job for a history, not a fable—Defoe〉 〈nothing but whispered suspicions, old wives' tales, fables invented by men who had nothing to do but loaf in the drugstore and make up stories—Anderson〉

Ana narrative, *story, tale, anecdote, yarn

fictitious, fabulous, legendary, mythical, apocryphal mean having the character of something invented or imagined as opposed to something true or genuine. Fictitious commonly implies fabrication and, therefore, more often suggests artificiality or contrivance than intent to deceive or deliberate falsification 〈many authors prefer to assume a fictitious name〉 〈he was a novelist: his amours and his characters were fictitious—Gogarty〉 In an extended sense fictitious definitely connotes falseness when applied to value, worth, or significance and suggests its determination by other than the right standards 〈the furore created by this incident gives it a fictitious importance〉 〈in booms and in panics the market value of a security is often fictitious〉 Fabulous stresses the marvelousness or incredibility of what is so described; only at times, however, does the adjective imply a thing's impossibility or nonexistence 〈the fabulous mill which
ground old people young—Dickens> (the company paid fabulous dividends) <(Lincoln) grows vague and more fabulous as year follows year—Mencken> Often it is little more than a vague intensive <a house with a fabulous view of the mountains> we had a fabulous vacation trip.> 

Legend usually suggests popular tradition and popular susceptibility to elaboration of details or distortion of historical facts as the basis for a thing's fictitious or fabulous character <the legendary deeds of William Tell> the Tarquins, legendary kings of ancient Rome—Bradford's John Henry . . . took a famous legendary Negro for its hero—Van Doren Mythical, like legendary, usually presupposes the working of the popular imagination, but it distinctively implies a purely fanciful explanation of the creation of the universe and its phenomena, and the myths and events especially in accounting for natural phenomena. Therefore, mythical in its wider use is nearly equivalent to imaginary and implies nonexistence <the mythical beings called nymphs> these ancestors are not creations of the mythical fancy but were once men of flesh and blood—Frazer Apocryphal typically attributes dubiety to the source of something (as a story or account) and especially suggests that the source is other than it is believed or claimed to be (this . . . epigram, has a certain fame in its own right. It too has been attributed to Ariosto, though it is evidently apocryphal—Morby> <the apocryphal work attributed to Chaucer in the 16th century—Philip Williams> In such use it does not necessarily imply that the matter is in itself untrue, but it stresses the lack of a known responsible source. Sometimes, however, apocryphal loses its stress on source and then may imply dubiety or inaccuracy of the thing itself <taking to themselves the upper rooms formerly belonging to the apocryphal invisible lodger—Dickens> <tales, possibly apocryphal and certainly embroidered, of his feats of intelligence work in the eastern Mediterranean—Firth> 

Ana invented, created (see Invent): *imaginary, fanciful, fantastic; fabricated, fashioned (see Make) 

Ant historical —Con *real, true, actual: *authentic, veritable: veracious, truthful, verisimilar (see corresponding nouns at Truth)
that there are other domains than that of physics—

Jean's Province is used in reference not only to the arts and sciences, each of which may be said to have its own domain, but also to a person or institution that because of his or its office, aims, or special character can be said to have jurisdiction, competence, power, or influence within clearly defined limits (it is within the province of a parent rather than of a teacher to discipline a pupil for misconduct out of school) (it is often stated that art goes beyond its province when it attempts to teach morals) (the almost imperceptibly realist explorations into behavior which are the province of the psychiatrist—Sapir) Province is also used in the sense of function (see also FUNCTION

n 1) and in the sense of a part of a larger domain (I should like the reader to accept engineering as a province of physics; so that the facts of the one may serve as credentials for the discoveries of the other—Darlow Sphere, even more than do others, thrive on the clear circumscription of limits; it therefore suggests aparness rather than fundamental differences and carries no hint of danger of trespass or interference (the aesthetic and ethical spheres... were never sharply distinguished by the Greeks—Dickinson) (in the sphere of morals we must often be content to wait until our activity is completed to appreciate its beauty or its ugliness—Ellis) (in the life of a man whose circumstances and talents are not very exceptional there should be a large sphere where what is vaguely termed "herd instinct" dominates, and a small sphere into which it does not penetrate—Russell) (a long and profound process of social change... but this time in the economic sphere—Strachey) Territory comes very close to domain in implying a field possessed and controlled and regarded as one's own; it does not, however, carry the implications so strong in domain of rightful ownership, of sovereignty, and of the title to inviolability; it may even suggest that the field has been usurped or taken over by the science, art, or activity in question (prose has preempted a lion's share of the territory once held, either in sovereignty or on equal terms, by poetry—Lowes) (if passageways connect the domain of physics with the domains of life or of spirit, physics ought in time to discover these passageways, for they start from her own territory—Jean's Bailiwick, basically the jurisdiction of a bailiff, is increasingly used in an extended and playful sense in reference to an individual and the special and limited province or domain in which he may or does exercise authority. It often carries a connotation of petty yet despotic display of power (a politician whose influence does not extend beyond his own bailiwick) (he will not get along with others unless he can keep within his own bailiwick) (we may neither be angry nor gay in the presence of the moon, nor may we dare to think

within his own

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

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### figment

- Fabrication, fable, fiction

### number

- Digit, integer, figure

### fight

- Battle, war, contend, fight

### fiery

- Patterns

Huxley—diamonds, quincunxes, hexagons—

is not interchangeable with the more inclusive figure place of arranged in a series of simple and pleasing the carver's brain—

of a spray of rosebuds) paper has a well-spaced figure representation of a natural form (as a leaf, flower, or animal)

mal) <an Oriental rug with geometrical in blue a triangle, diamond, pentagon, or circle) or such an outline filled in with color, lines, or a representation of another quality <branches and leaves were disposed, not as combinations of color in mass, but as designs in line —Binyon> (your golden filaments in fair design across my diller fiber—Millay) Motif (see also SUBJECT 2) is frequently used in the decorative arts for a figure or a design which stands out not necessarily as the only one but as the leading one which gives the distinctive character of the whole <in lace for ecclesiastical use a sheaf of wheat is often the motif of the pattern> Device applies usually to a figure that bears no likeness to anything in nature but is the result of imagination or fancy. Unlike the other terms, it does not exclusively apply to a decorative unit, though it occurs frequently in that application <set in the close-grained wood were quaint devices; patterns in ambers, and in the clouded green of jades—Lowell>

### figure

- Cast, add, sum, total, tot, foot

Ana compute, calculate, reckon, estimate: count, enumerate, number

### finical

- Financial, monetary, pecuniary, fiscal are comparable to money as such and therefore often connotes the coinage of the country) <the city is in financial difficulties) Monetary implies a relation to money matters in general, especially as conducted on a large scale <the financial concerns of the company are attended to by the treasurer> <the financial position of the bank is sound> <the financial interests of the country> <the city is in financial difficulties> Monetary implies a much more direct reference to money as such and therefore often connotes the coinage, distribution, and circulation of money <the monetary unit> <the monetary systems of Europe> <the monetary standard> <monetary gifts> Pecuniary suggests a reference to the practical uses of money; it is

--Inge> Inhuman is even stronger than savage, for it suggests not so much undue violence or lack of restraint as absence of all feeling that normally characterizes a human being: on the one hand it may suggest wanton brutality, or on the other hand it may imply absence of all capacity for love, kindness, or pity <an inhuman mother> <thy deed, inhuman and unnatural—Shak.> Cruel implies indifference to the suffering of others and even a positive pleasure in witnessing it or in inflicting it <her mouth crueler than a tiger's, colder than a snake's, and beautiful beyond a woman's—Swinburne> <as cruel as a schoolboy ere he grows to pity—Tennyson> Fell, which is chiefly rhetorical or poetical, connotes dire or baleful cruelty <unsheer me here, and fill me from the crown to the toe topful of direst cruelty! . . . stop up the access and passage to remorse, that no compunctious visitings of nature shake my fell purpose—Shak.> <sinner men with . . . their own fell ends—T. I. Cook>

### Ana

- Analogous words

### Ant

- Antonyms

### Con

- Contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
often employed in preference to financial when money matters that are personal or on a small scale are being considered (to ask for pecuniary aid) (he is always in pecuniary difficulties) (he works only for pecuniary motives) Fiscal implies reference to the financial affairs of a state, a sovereign, a corporation, or an institution whose concerns with revenue and expenditures are managed by a treasurer or treasury department (the fiscal year in the United States ends on June 30) (a fiscal officer of the crown)

fine n amercement (see under penalize)

fine vb *penalize, amerce, multic

finicky, finicking, finical particular, fussy, fastidious, *nice, dainty, squeamish, persnickety, persnickety

Ana exacting, demanding (see demand vb): captious, carping, hypercritical, *critical: meticulous, punctilious, *careful: conscientious, scrupulous (see upright)

Con *slipshod, sloppy, slovenly: *slatternly, dowdy, blowsy, frowzy

finish vb complete, conclude, *close, end, terminate

Ana achieve, accomplish, effect, fulfill (see perform)

finished *consummate, accomplished

Ana *perfect, entire, intact, wholer refined, cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at culture): *suave, urbane, smooth: elegant, exquisite (see choice)

Ant crude —Con *rude, rough, raw, callow, green, uncouth

fire n Fire, conflagration, holocaust are comparable when meaning a blaze that reduces or threatens to reduce one or more buildings to ashes. Fire is the general term referable to such an event, whether it involves one or many buildings and whether it is checked or not (Chicago was nearly half destroyed by a fire that occurred in 1871) (there was a small fire on our street last night) Conflagration implies a devastating fire that must be contended with by all the available forces; it usually takes a length of time to check it or to prevent its further advance (a disastrous conflagration made 2000 persons homeless) (by quick work the firemen prevented the fire from developing into a conflagration) Holocaust basically denotes a burnt sacrifice, but in more general use it refers usually to a conflagration in which there has been a great loss of life and especially of human life (the burning of the Iroquois Theater at Chicago in 1903, in which nearly 600 persons lost their lives, was one of the worst holocausts ever known in the United States) In extended use holocaust usually stresses destruction of life, but it may blend in the notion of sacrifice (the Eire that had its birth in the holocaust of Easter Week —Richard Watts) (an assemblage of men whose maturity has been forged in the holocaust of battle —Loveman) Ana blaze, glare, flame, flare (see under blaze vb): burning, charring, scorching (see burn vb)

fire vb 1 kindle, ignite, *light

Ana *burn, scorch, char: *blaze, flame, flare, glare, glow; *illuminate, lighten

2 animate, inspire, *inform


Ant daunt —Con *dismay, appall

3 discharge, *dismiss, cashier, drop, sack, bounce

Ana *eject, oust, expel: *discard

firm adj Firm, hard, solid are comparable chiefly as meaning having a texture or consistency that markedly resists deformation by external force. Firm (opposed to loose, flabby) suggests such closeness or compactness of texture or a consistency so heavy or substantial that the substance or material quickly returns to shape or is difficult to pull, distort, cut, or displace (firm cloth)

firm flesh) (firm jellies) (firm ground) Hard (opposed to soft: see also hard 2) implies impenetrability or relatively complete resistance to pressure or tension but, unlike firm, hard rarely implies elasticity (hard as adamant) (hard as steel) (diamond is one of the hardest substances known) Solid (opposed to fluid) implies such density and coherence in the mass as enable a thing to maintain a fixed form in spite of external deforming forces (solid mineral matter) As opposed to flimsy, the term implies a structure or construction that makes a thing sound, strong, or stable (solid furniture) (a solid foundation) (the bungalow was a very solid one—Kipling) As opposed to hollow, it implies the absence of empty spaces within the structure or mass and, usually, the same or similar density and hardness of material throughout (a solid rubber tire) (a solid wall)

In extended use firm implies stability, fixedness, or resolution (a firm purpose) (a firm belief) (guide with a firm hand) (a firm and even tough diplomacy—Gautskell) Hard implies obduracy or lack of feeling (a hard master) (she was firm, but she was not hard—Archibald Marshall) (a sort of scoutmaster to a hard gang of boys —Lovett) Solid usually implies substantiality or genuineness (a solid meal) (solid facts) (solid virtues) (solid attainments) (money, the great solvent of the solid fabric of the old society, the great generator of illusion—Trilling) but it may imply absolute reliability or seriousness of purpose (solid banks) (a solid character) (his scholarship was solid and sound—McGiffert) or unbroken continuity (as in time, group feeling, or opinion) (put in a solid week on a piece of work) (the solid vote of the members)

Ana compact, *close, dense, thick: tough, tenacious, *strong: *stiff, rigid, inflexible

Ant loose, flabby —Con flaccid, *limp, floppy, flimsy, sleazy

fiscal *financial, monetary, pecuniary

fish vb Fish, angle mean to attempt to catch fish. Fish (except of the blues) (he works only by fits and starts) Occasionally it suggests nothing more than the un-
usual and passing character of the condition and is applied to things as well as to persons <enjoy a fit of laziness> 

A fit of bad weather

Attack always implies a sudden and often violent onslaught but carries no suggestion of length of duration <frequent attacks of pain> (an attack of melancholy) 

A prolonged attack of bronchitis

We have a second attack of hot weather—Whitman

Access and accession, though often interchangeable with attack, distractively imply the initiation of an attack or fit and often come close in meaning to outbreak or outburst (now and then an access of ... sudden fury 

would lay hold on a man—Kipling) one of his sudden sharp accessions of impatience at the leisurely motions of the Trujillo boy—Mary Austin Occasionally they also connote intensification (as of a mood or state of mind) to the point where control is lost or nearly lost (her evident, but inexplicable, access of misery—Meredith) In their technical medical senses paroxysm, spasm, and convulsion are sudden and usually short attacks especially characteristic of certain diseases. The distinguishing marks of a paroxysm are sudden occurrence or intensification of a symptom (as coughing) and recurrence of attacks; those of spasm are sudden involuntary muscular contraction, in some cases producing rigidity of the body or constriction of a passage and in others producing alternate contractions and relaxations of the muscles; those of convulsion are of repeated spasms of the latter kind affecting the whole or a large part of the body and producing violent contortions of the muscles and distortion of features. The implications of these technical senses are usually carried over into the extended senses. Paroxysm commonly occurs in the plural and suggests recurrent, violent attacks (the girls went into paroxysms of laughter) (throughout the night he suffered paroxysms of fear) Spasm, especially when used of emotional disturbances, often implies possession by something that for a moment grips and paralyzes (she could scarcely even look at the wall without a spasm of fear—Bennett)

When used in the plural, it usually suggests the more or less rapid alternation of contrasting moods or states of mind (he worked only by spasms) Convulsion implies definite physical effects accompanying the mood or state of mind and closely resembling those symptomatic of disease (the ragged crew actually laughed at me ... some of them literally throwing themselves down on the ground in convulsions of unholy mirth—Kipling)

fit adj 

Fit, suitable, meet, proper, appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous are comparable when they mean right with respect to the nature, condition, circumstances, or use of the thing qualified. Something is fit which is adapted or adaptable to the end in view, the use proposed, or the work to be done (good fit for a king) (but when to mischief mortals bend the will) (how soon they find fit instruments of ill!—Pope) (never even in the most perfect days of my development as an artist could I have found words fit to bear so august a burden—Wilde) (a wooden image, movable and fit to be carried in procession—San-tayana)

Sometimes, in addition, fit connotes competence or the possession of the required qualifications (men fit to command) (he is not a fit father for his children) (they do not know what the boy is fit for). Other times it suggests readiness (as in condition, state of health, mood, or inclination) (the vessel is now fit for service) (he played tennis to keep fit) Something is suitable which answers the requirements or demands of the occasion, the circumstances, or the conditions or suggests no incongruity with them (behavior suitable to his age and station in life)

will begin instinctively to arrange these institutions into suitable conventional categories—Marquand (clothes suitable for the occasion . . . tennis outfits, hiking outfits, cycling outfits—Laver) Something is meet which is not only suitable but nicely adapted to the particular situation, need, or circumstances; the word usually suggests rightness or justness rather than an absence of incongruity; thus, a punishment of a childish offense may be suitable if it is in accord with the years and mentality of the child, but it is not meet unless it suggests due proportion between the offense and its penalty (it is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord—Book of Common Prayer)

Sabbath was made a solemn day, meet only for preaching, praying, and Bible reading—Charles & Mary Beard

Something is proper (see also DECOROUS) which belongs to a thing on some justifiable grounds (as by nature, by custom, or by right reason) (water is the proper element for fish) (the proper observance of Memorial Day) (the article brought only half its proper price) When, as often happens, fitness or suitability is stressed rather than natural or rightful association, proper then implies determination of fitness or suitability by logic, reasonableness, or good judgment (the proper study of mankind is man—Pope) (according to Aristotle the thing to aim at is to be angry “on the proper occasions and with the proper people in the proper manner for the proper length of time”—Dickinson) Something is appropriate which is so eminently fit or suitable that it seems to belong peculiarly or distinctively to the person or thing with which it is associated, sometimes giving him or it a distinguishing grace or charm through its very congruity (an excitement in which we can discriminate two sorts of elements, the passions appropriate to the subject and the passion proper to the artist—Alexander) (the eighteenth-century gentleman spoke with a refined accent, quoted the classics on appropriate occasions—Russell) (we have agreed that our writing should be appropriate . . . that it should rise and fall with the subject, be grave where that is serious, where it is light not afraid of what Stevenson . . . calls “a little judicious levity”—Quiller-Couch)

Something is fitting which is in harmony with the spirit, the tone, the mood, or the purpose (news fitting to the night, black, fearful, comfortless and horrible—Shak) (it is a fitting paradox that he should live today . . . chiefly by those writings which contradict everything he believed—Stewart) Something is apt (see also APT 2; QUICK 2) which is nicely fitted by its nature or construction to attain the end desired, to accomplish the purpose in view, or to achieve the results contemplated (it was recognized that while one style was suited to one set of themes, another was apt for another set—Binyon) (Fourier . . . invented a mathematical process which was not only suitable for handling his problem, but proved to be so universally apt that there is hardly a field of science or of engineering where it has not penetrated—Darrow) Something is happy (see also GLAD, LUCKY) which is singularly appropriate and apt and therefore brilliantly successful or effective considered in its relation to the situation, the conditions, or other important factors (a happy choice of words, nicely expressing the subtlety of his thought) (whether a composite language like the English is not a happier instrument of expression than a homogeneous one like the German—Coerlidge) (of all writers he perhaps best combines in his style a felicitous elegance with a happy vernacular—Van Doren) Something is felicitous which is most opportunely, tellingly, or gracefully happy (I do not like mottoes but where they are singularly felicitous—Lamb) (some of the most felicitous turns of thought and phrase in poetry are the result of a flash of inspiration under the happy guidance of a rhyme—Lowes)

(let us inquire . . . whether the relation of the figures to

Ana analogous words 
Ant antonyms 
Con contrasted words 
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
each other and of groups to the space they occupy is a felicitous one—Binyon

Ana adapted or adaptable, adjusted or adjustable, conformed or conformable (see corresponding verbs at ADAPT); qualified, capable, *able, competent

Ant unfit

fit vb *prepare, qualify, condition, ready

Ana endow, endue (see DOWER): furnish, *provide, supply

fitful, spasmodic, convulsive are comparable when they mean lacking steadiness or regularity in course, movement, or succession (as of acts or effects). Fitful stresses variability and intermittency; it implies an irregular succession characterized by fits and starts <after life's fitful fever he sleeps well—Shak.> <the fitful gloom and sudden laments of the room by firelight—De Quincey> <a fitful, undecided rain—Kipling> <a fitful wind swept the cheerless waste—Conrad> <hitherto I've been gloomy, moody, fitful—Gilbert> Spasmodic implies fitfulness, but it further suggests marked alternations (as of violent activity and inactivity or of great effort and of negligible effort or of zeal or enthusiasm and lack of interest); it therefore implies, even more than fitful, an opposition to what is sustained at a high pitch <spasmodic efforts to reform municipal government> <spasmodic energy> <a continuous discussion of international affairs, not spasmodic action at times of crisis—Attlee> <a spasmodic movement of despair—S. S. Van Dine> <spasmodic industry> Convulsive differs from the preceding terms in not implying intermittency and in stressing unsteadiness, strain or overstrain, and the lack of such regular rhythm as is the sign of control and especially of muscular, mental, or spiritual control <convulsive rise and fall of the breast> <the convulsive movement of the earth characteristic of an earthquake> <he had a convulsive drive, a boundless and explosive fervor—Behrman> <a convulsive little hug—Turnbull>

Ana *intermittent, periodic, recurrent: desultory, hit-or-miss, *random, haphazard

Ant constant (sense 3) —Con *steady, uniform, even, equal: regular, methodical, systematic, *orderly

fitting adj appropriate, proper, meet, suitable, *fit, apt, happy, felicitous

Ana *relevant, pertinent, germane, apposite, apropos: seemly, *decorous, decent, proper: congruous, *consonant: harmonious, concordant, accordant (see corresponding nouns at HARMONY)

Ant unfitting

fix vb 1 *set, settle, establish

Ana *stabilize, steady: determine, *decide, rule, settle: *prescribe, define

Ant alter: abrogate (a custom, rule, law) —Con modify, *change, vary: supplant, supersede, displace, *replace

2 *fasten, attach, affix

Ana *install, instill, inculcate: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor

Con eradicate, uproot, extirpate (see EXTERMINATE): upset, *overturn, overthrow, subvert

3 *adjust, regulate

Ana repair, *mend, patch, rebuild: *correct, rectify, revise, amend, emend

Con derange, disarrange, disorganize, unsettle, *disorder

fix n *predicament, plight, dilemma, quandary, scrape, jam, pickle

flabbergast amaze, astonish, astonish, *surprise

Ana dumbfound, confound, bewilder, nonplus, perplex (see PUZZLE): disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit (see EM-BARRASS)

flabby flaccid, floppy, *limp, flimsy, sleazy

flag n Flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack, have are not always clearly distinguished. Flag, the comprehensive term, is applied to a piece of cloth that typically is rectangular, is attached to a staff, mast, halyard, or line, and carries an arrangement of colors, an emblematic figure, or a motto. The purpose of a flag is primarily to serve as a sign or symbol of a nation, a branch of the service, an organization, or an office, but it may also serve as a signal (as in military or naval operations) or in giving information (as of a weather change or the approach of a train) <the flag of England> <the admiral's flag> <a flag of truce> <a trainman's flag> Ensign is applied chiefly to a flag that indicates nationality and specifically to one flown by ships at sea <the Stars and Stripes is the national ensign of the United States> <of the three ensigns of Great Britain, the white ensign is flown by ships of the Royal Navy and by naval barges, the red ensign by British merchant vessels, and the blue ensign by some vessels commanded by officers of the Royal Naval Reserve and by some classes of government vessels not part of the navy> Standard and banner are more or less literary terms for the flag (as of a country, a party, or a religious, civic, or patriotic organization) thought of as a rallying point or as something to be followed. Standard especially suggests the former because the term originally designated and still often designates a flag or a sculptured figure raised on a pole so as to be a gathering point for all who belong under it <as armies at the call of trumpet... troop to the standard—Milton> Banner basically applies to a flag (often hung downward from a crosspiece instead of flying from a staff) of an individual (as an emperor, king, lord, or military leader) which was formerly flown from windows or doors or carried aloft at the head of a procession (as of troops marching to war) <hang out our banners on the outward walls; the cry is still "They come"—Shak> <tremble as an army with banners—Song of Solomon 6:4> Color (most frequently found in the plural colors) may apply to a national flag, to a flag emblematic of affiliation or partisanship, or to a flag of most military units; the term is particularly likely to suggest military activity or display <call to the colors> <hoist the colors> <trop the colors> The British colors were planted on the summit of the breach—Wellington> The remaining terms are highly specific and definite in implications. Streamer applies to a long narrow flag (as on the masthead of a government ship) that floats in the wind; pennant and pendant, the latter more English than American, apply to a streamer that is long, narrow, and tapering. Pennant even more often applies to a narrow flag, typically triangular, which is flown by ships, which is used in signaling and in decorating, or which is exhibited (as by a baseball club) as a sign of championship. Pennon may apply to a narrower flag or a small streamer suitable for attaching to a lance. Jack denotes a small oblong flag indicating nationality which is hoisted on a staff at the bow or bowsprit cap of a ship or...
glare, flame, *blaze, glow (see under BLAZE vb)  
Ana rising or rise, surging or surge, towering (see corresponding verbs at RISE): darting or dart, shooting (see corresponding verbs at FLY): flashing or flash, coruscation, scintillation (see corresponding verbs at FLASH)

flash vb Flash, gleam, glance, glint, sparkle, glitter, glister, scintillate, coruscate, twinkle mean to shoot forth light (as in rays or sparks). Flash implies a sudden and transient outbreak of light or a sudden display of something that brilliantly reflects light or seems lighted up (the head-lights . . . flashed into barnyards where fowls slept—Anderson) (flashed all their sabers bare—Tennyson) (his flashing eyes, his floating hair—Coberidge) Gleam implies a ray which shines through an intervening medium or against a background of relative darkness (1 see the lights of the village gleam through the rain and mist—Longfellow) (a light gleamed through the chimneys in the wall—Dickens) (his dislike of me gleamed in his blue eyes and in his supercilious cold smile—Rose Macaulay) Glance implies darting or obliquely reflected light; glint implies quickly glancing or gleaming light besides the glancing tears . . . some diamonds . . . glanced on the bride's hand—Dickens) (an insane light glanced in her heavy black eyes—Stowe) (specks of sail that glittered in the sunlight far at sea—Dickens) (when the first sunshine through their dewdrops glints—J. R. Lowell) (the large brass scales near the flour bins glinted—Bennett) Sparkle suggests quick, bright, brief, and innumerable small flashes of light; glitter connotes greater brilliancy or showiness than sparkle, sometimes with the implication of something sinister (the fireflies . . . sparkled most vividly in the darkest places—Irving) (the sparkling waves—Wordsworth) (everything sparkled like a garden after a shower—Cather) (eyes sparkling with amusement) (eyes glittering with greed) (glittering rings) (the sunshine sifted down and the yellow flower . . . caught it, and glittered like a topaz—Delafield) Glister implies a more or less subdued sparkle, glitter, or gleaming that suggests the lustrous shining quality of a moist surface (dew glistening in the soft morning light) (snowy mountains glittering through a summer atmosphere—Irving) (eyes glistening with heavenly tears—Carlyle) Scintillate implies the emission of sparks in a steady stream or a sparkling suggestive of such an emission; coruscate the emission of a brilliant flash or succession of flashes; both words have extended as well as literal use (a night so clear that the stars seem to scintillate) (an ornate style that coruscated with verbal epigrams—Huxley) (coruscating wit—Twinkle) Twinkle suggests a soft and intermittent sparkling, often wavered or lustre (twinkle, twinkle, little star . . . like a diamond in the sky—Jane & Ann Taylor) (sunbeams . . . twinkled on the glass and silver of the sideboard—Cather) (he looked at her and his eyes twinkled—Anderson)

flag vb *droop, wilt, sag
Ana *fall, subside, slump, sink, drop: ebb, wane, *abate
flagrant, glaring, gross, rank are comparable as derogatory intensives meaning conspicuously or outrageously bad or unpleasant. Flagrant usually applies to offenses, transgressions, or errors which are so bad that they cannot escape notice or be condoned (his treatise is marked by several flagrant errors) (a flagrant abuse of the executive power) (flagrant injustice) (open and flagrant mutiny—Kipling) (in flagrant violation of all the New York properties) Hoarse, Grating carries an even stronger implication of obtrusiveness than flagrant; the term is often applied to something which is so evidently or so conspicuously wrong, improper, or faulty as to inflict such distress or pain upon the observer as might too vividly or too harsh a light a glaring fault in a design) (a glaring inconsistency in his argument) (his second novel is in glaring contrast to his first novel) (this evil is so glaring, so inexcusable—Shaw) (glaring imperfections which go far beyond a mere lack of verbal felicity—Krutch) Gross (see also COARSE; WHOLE 2) is even more derogatory than flagrant or glaring because it suggests a magnitude or degree of badness that is beyond all bounds and wholly inexcusable or unpardonable. However, the term is not so often referred to evil acts or serious offenses as it is to human attitudes, qualities, or faults that merit severe condemnation (gross carelessness) (gross stupidity) (gross superstition) (Elizabethan and Jacobean poetry . . . had serious defects, even gross faults—T. S. Eliot) (the hero is as gross an imposition as the heroine—Shaw) (they must read as the grossest improbity and rankest treason—Sperry) (even illness cannot excuse such unflinching behavior and such gross folly—Graves) Rank (see also RANK 1) applies chiefly to nouns that are terms of reproach; it implies that the person or thing described by such a term is extremely, utterly, or violently whatever he or it is declared to be (O, my offense is rank, it smells to heaven—Shak.) (still she looked less of a rank lunatic—Meredith) (it was hatred, simple hatred, that rank poison fatal to Mr. Hazard's health, which now plagued his veins —Krutch) (a light gleamed through the chimneys in the wall—Dickens) (his dislike of me gleamed in his blue eyes and in his supercilious cold smile—Rose Macaulay) Glance implies darting or obliquely reflected light; glint implies quickly glancing or gleaming light besides the glancing tears . . . some diamonds . . . glanced on the bride's hand—Dickens) (an insane light glanced in her heavy black eyes—Stowe) (specks of sail that glittered in the sunlight far at sea—Dickens) (when the first sunshine through their dewdrops glints—J. R. Lowell) (the large brass scales near the flour bins glinted—Bennett) Sparkle suggests quick, bright, brief, and innumerable small flashes of light; glitter connotes greater brilliancy or showiness than sparkle, sometimes with the implication of something sinister (the fireflies . . . sparkled most vividly in the darkest places—Irving) (the sparkling waves—Wordsworth) (everything sparkled like a garden after a shower—Cather) (eyes sparkling with amusement) (eyes glittering with greed) (glittering rings) (the sunshine sifted down and the yellow flower . . . caught it, and glittered like a topaz—Delafield) Glister implies a more or less subdued sparkle, glitter, or gleaming that suggests the lustrous shining quality of a moist surface (dew glistening in the soft morning light) (snowy mountains glittering through a summer atmosphere—Irving) (eyes glistening with heavenly tears—Carlyle) Scintillate implies the emission of sparks in a steady stream or a sparkling suggestive of such an emission; coruscate the emission of a brilliant flash or succession of flashes; both words have extended as well as literal use (a night so clear that the stars seem to scintillate) (an ornate style that coruscated with verbal epigrams—Huxley) (coruscating wit—Twinkle) Twinkle suggests a soft and intermittent sparkling, often wavered or lustre (twinkle, twinkle, little star . . . like a diamond in the sky—Jane & Ann Taylor) (sunbeams . . . twinkled on the glass and silver of the sideboard—Cather) (he looked at her and his eyes twinkled—Anderson)

flair proclivity, propensity, *leaning, penchant
flamboyant *ornate, florid, rococo, baroque
flame n blaze, flame, glare, glow (see under BLAZE vb)
Ana elengiance, radiance, brilliance or brilliancy, refulgence, luminosity, brightness (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT): ardor, fervor, *passion: flashing, coruscation, gleaming, scintillation (see corresponding verbs at FLASH)
flash vb *blaze, flare, glare, glow
Ana *flash, gleam, glance, glint, coruscate: *burn: fire, ignite, kindle, *light
flamnable inflammable, incendiary, inflammatory, *combustible
flare vb *blaze, glare, *blaze, glow
Ana dart, shoot (see FLY): flutter, flicker (see FLIT): rise, arise, *spring: *flash, glance, glint, coruscate, scintillation

flag analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
some, savory, sapid, tasty, *palatable: zestful (see corresponding noun at TASTE)

flattery adulation, *compliment

Ana blandishment, cajolery (see corresponding verbs at COAX): fawning, toady, trickling (see FAWN vb); eulogy, panegyric, *encomium: homage, obeisance, deference (see HONOR)

flatulent *inflated, tinny, turgid

Ana empty, hollow, *vain: *superficial, shallow: bombastic, grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical

Con weighty (see HEAVY): pithy, compendious, summary (see CONCISE): cogent, telling, convincing, compelling (see VALID): forcible, forceful, potent (see POWERFUL)

flaunt parade, expose, display, exhibit, *show

Ana *boast, brag, vaunt, gasconade: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: advertise, publish, broadcast, proclaim, *declare

Con cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage: conceal, *hide, screen, secrete, bury

flavor n *taste, savor, tang, relish, smack

flavorsome toothsome, tasty, savory, sapid, relishing, *palatable, appetizing

Ana *insipid, vapid, flat, wishy-washy: bland, mild (see SOFT)

flaw n defect, *blemish

Ana cleaving or cleavage, riving, splitting or split, rending or rent, ripping or rip, tearing or tear (see corresponding verbs at TEAR)

flawless faultless, *impeccable, errorless

Ana intact, entire, whole, *perfect: *correct, accurate, precise, right, nice, exact

Con defective, *deficient: marred, impaired, damaged, injured (see INJURE): fallacious (see under FALLACY)

flay vb *skin, decorticate, peel, pare

Ana *abrade, excoriate, chafe: rack, torture, torment, *afflict: chastise, castigate, *punish

flex vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

flexed spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb)

Ana dappled, freaked, *variegated

flee fly, *escape, decamp, abscond

Ana evade, elude, avoid, *escape

fleer vb *scoff, jeer, gibe, gird, sneer, flout

Ana deride, mock, *ridicule: grin, *smile, smirk

fleet vb *while, wile, beguile

Ana *boast, brag, vaunt, gasconade: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: advertise, publish, broadcast, proclaim, *declare

Con cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage: conceal, *hide, screen, secrete, bury

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Ana deride, mock, *ridicule: grin, *smile, smirk

fleet vb *while, wile, beguile

Ana *speed, hasten, hurry, quicken, accelerate

fleet adj swift, rapid, *fast, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious

Ana *agile, brisk, nimble, spry: darting, skimming, scudding, flying (see FLY vb)

Con deliberate, leisurely, laggard, dilatory, *slow

fleeting evanescent, fugitive, passing, transitory, *transient, ephemeral, momentary, short-lived

Ant lasting

fleshy *carnal, sensual, animal

Ana physical, *bodily, corporeal, corporal, somatic: *sensuous, sensual, voluptuous, luxurious, sybaritic, epicurean

Con *moral, ethical, noble, virtuous: spiritual, divine, religious (see HOLY): intellectual, psychic, *mental

fleshy, fat, stout, portly, plump, rotund, chubby, corpulent, obese mean thick and heavy in body because of superfluous fat. Fleshy and fat are not clearly discriminated in use, although fleshy may imply overabundance of muscular tissue and fat, of adipose tissue; when a derogatory connotation is intended fat is usually preferred (the unreasonably fat woman with legs like tree trunks—K. A. Porter)

<my appetite is plenty good enough, and I am about as fleshy as I was in Brooklyn—Whitman> <a fleshy, jolly man> <a dowdy fat woman> Stout implies a thickset, bulky figure or build, but it is often merely a euphemistic substitute for fat; portly adds to stout the implication of a more or less dignified and imposing appearance (a very stout, pluffy man, in buckskins and Hessian boots—Thackeray) <one very stout gentleman, whose body and legs looked like half a gigantic roll of flannel, elevated on a couple of inflated pillow-cases—Dickens> <a large portly figure . . . the very beau ideal of an old abbthaw—J. W. Carlyle> <an elderly gentleman, large and portly, and of remarkably dignified demeanor—Hawthorne> Plump implies a pleasing fullness of figure and well-rounded curves (<the plump goddesses of Renaissance paintings> <she became plump at forty> <his wife was . . . plump where he was spare—Sayers> Rotund suggests the shape of a sphere; it often, in addition, connotes shortness or squatness (this pink-faced rotund specimen of prosperity—George Eliot) Chubby applies chiefly to children or to very short persons who are otherwise describable as rotund <a chubby cherub of a baby> Corpulent and obese imply a disfiguring excess of flesh or of fat <Mrs. Byron . . . was a short and corpulent person and rolled considerably in her gait—Thomas Moore> <a woman of robust frame, square-shouldered . . . and though stout, not obese—Bronie>

Ana *muscular, brawny, burly, husky

Ant skinny, scrawny —Con *lean, lank, lanky, gaunt, rawboned, angular, spare: *thin, slim, slender, slight

flex vb Flex, crook, bow, buckle mean to bend, but because of special implications and applications they are not freely interchangeable. Flex is used chiefly of the bending of a bodily joint especially between bones of a limb by which the angle between the bones is diminished, or it may apply to the contraction of muscles by which the bending is accomplished; in either case the word is usually opposed to extend. In the air was as if it flexed the arm at the elbow. <flex the leg at the hip joint>. <he has grown so old and stiff that he cannot easily flex his knees>. <the world . . . would jeer at any eccentric who should flex his mental muscles in public—Barzun>

Crook may replace flex <the air was so full of rheumatism that no man could crook his arm to write a sermon—Blackmore> <John, snickering, crooked his wicked thumb—Browning> but it is also used to convey an implication of circuitousness and hence of contortion or distortion <God knows, my son, by what bypaths and indirect ways I met this suggestion of submission and implies a bending under pressure—Phil 2:10> but it often means explicitly the leg at the hip <he was spare—Sayers> <a woman of robust frame, square-shouldered . . . and though stout, not obese—Bronie>

Bow (see also YIELD) may denote to bend as in reverence or submission <at the name of Jesus every knee should bow—Phil 2:10> but it often means explicitly to incline downward the head and usually the part of the body above the waist, especially as a gesture of greeting, of recognition, or of reverence <bow pleasingly to acquaintances> <bow reverently before a shrine> (grasses that now were swaying and bowing like living things in happy dance—Idriess) In a related use bow retains some suggestion of submission and implies a bending under something (as a heavy weight) that wears or oppresses <trees bowed down with ice> <an old man bowed with years>

Buckle implies a bending under stress (as from undue pressure, weight, heat, or freight) that loosens or weakens what supports and that brings on collapse, often to the point of permanent distortion <noticed the buckling of the girder of the bridge> <the freight train buckled as it left the track and fell over the embankment> <the wall buckled under the heat of the fire> <his knees buckled
and he fell down on the floor—Chandler} {the bulkhead had buckled; he had actually seen it coming forward—Crofts}

Ana bend, *curve, twist

Ant extend

flexible *elastic, supple, resilient, springy

Ana pliable, plant, maleable, ductile, *plastic: tractable (see obedient): limber, lithe, *supple

Ant inflexible —Con *stiff, rigid, wooden: tough, tenacious (see strong): brittle, crisp, fragilable, *fragile: hardened, indurated, callous

flexuous *winding, sinuous, serpentine, tortuous

flutter vb *flit, flutter, hover

Ana waver, vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, *swing: flare, flame, glare, *blaze: *flash, gleam, glance, glint, coruscate: quiver, quiver, tremble (see shake)

flightiness light-mindedness, volatility, levity, *lightness, frivolity, flippancy

Ana capriciousness, unstableness or instability, fickleness, mercurialness or mercuriality, inconstancy (see corresponding adjectives at inconstant): effervescence, buoyancy, elasticity (see corresponding adjectives at elastic): liveliness, gaiety, sprightliness (see corresponding adjectives at lively)

Ant steadiness: steadfastness —Con constancy, equableness (see corresponding adjectives at steady): seriousness, stiffness, sedateness, earnestness (see corresponding adjectives at serious)

flimsy adj *sleazy, *limp, floppy, flaccid, flabby

Ana *thin, slight, tenuous: *loose, slack: *weak, feeble

Con stout, sturdy, *strong: *heavy, weighty

flinch vb *recoil, shrink, wince, blench, quail


fling vb *hurl, *throw, sling, toss, cast, pitch

Ana thrust, shove, propel, *push: impel, drive, *move

flippancy levity, *lightness, light-mindedness, frivolity, volatility, flightiness

Ana sauciness, pertness, archness (see corresponding adjectives at saucy): impishness, waggliness, roguishness, mischievousness, playfulness (see corresponding adjectives at playful)

Ant seriousness —Con earnestness, gravity, solemnity, sobriety (see corresponding adjectives at serious)

flirt vb *coquet, daily, *trifle, toy

Ana *play, sport, disport: *caress, fondle, pet

flit vb *flit, flutter, flitter, flicker, hover suggest the movements of a bird or other flying or floating thing and mean to move in a manner like or reminiscent of such movements

Flit implies a light and swift passing from place to place or point to point {birds flitted from tree to tree} {the talk flitting from one subject to another and never dropping so long as the meal lasts—Arnold} {seemed to pass the whole of his life flitting in and out of bedrooms—Benetti} {Clare Potter, flushed and gallantly gay, flitting about from person to person—Rose Macaulay} {flapper implies the movement of a bird rapidly beating its wings or the restlessness of a moth about a light; it especially implies unsteadiness and agitation (till she felt the heart within her fall and flirted tremulously—Tennyson) {gay moods and mysterious, moth-like meditations hovering in my imagination . . . but always the rarest, those freaked with azure and the deepest crimson, flitter away beyond my reach—L. P. Smith} {a little dark shadow flitted from the wall across the floor—Cather} {her eyes . . . timidly flitting over the depths of his—Meredith} {flitter implies the lightness and quickness of movement suggested by flit but usually also suggests the uneasiness or uncertainty conned by flutter} {the poor silly flitttering woman} {children flittering here and there} {when he was pressed and irritated to condemn the Cardinal, his eyes flittered uncomfortably—Hackett} {flared and flittered around them like light gone mad—Röllaag} {flicker implies a light fluttering or a fitfully wavering movement (translucent flickering wings between the sun and me—Stevenson) {thou small flame, which, as a dying pulse rises and falls, still flickerest up and down—Shelley} {fireflies flicker in the tops of trees—Lowell} {hover implies a hanging suspended over something like a bird maintaining its position in the air by an even usually slow movement of the wings; the word frequently connotes irresolution, sometimes menace, sometimes solicitude {vultures hovering over a battlefield} {behold him perched in ecstasies, yet seeming still to hover—Wordsworth} {your servant . . . has been hovering about us and looking at you anxiously for some minutes—Shaw} {the shark was still hovering about—Birles}

Ana *fly, dart, skim, float, scud

flitter vb *flit, flutter, flicker, hover

Ana *fly, dart, skim: quiver, quaver, teeter (see shake)

float vb *fly, skim, sail, dart, scud, shoot

Ana glide, *slide, slip: *flit, hover, flutter

flood n 1 *flow, stream, current, tide, flux

Ana *excess, superfluity, surplus: incursion, *invasion

2 Flood, deluge, inundation, torrent, spate, cataract are comparable when they mean a great or overwhelming flow of or as if of water. Flood basically implies the flowing of water, often in great abundance, over land not usually submerged; it therefore suggests usually something (as a stream) that exceeds or breaks its normal bounds, but it carries in itself no clear implication of the ultimate cause {the disastrous Mississippi river floods of 1936} {his home was washed away by the flood} {a flood of advertising was sent through the mail} {messages of sympathy came in a flood} {the rising flood of students is very much like the barbarian invasions—Bush} {Deluge may apply to a flood that destroys or drowns but especially to a tremendous and continuous downpour of rain; the term seldom suggests a flood which results from a melting of snows, a rising river, or a tidal wave. In its extended uses it implies, sometimes hyperbolically, a power that, through force of numbers, of volume, or of quantity cannot be resisted or that sweeps one away {the rain descended in a deluge} {the waters have not yet abated from the deluge} {the memorable deluge of the thirteenth century out of which the Zuyder Zee was born—Motley} {a deluge of criticisms fell on him from all sides} {the frightful deluge of spoken and printed palaver—Sat. Review} {she becomes lost in the overflow—a formless, unending deluge of realistic detail—Robert Humphrey} {Inundation implies a flood caused by a stream, lake, or exceptionally high tide overflowing adjacent land; it therefore stresses something that overspreads and extends far and wide {the annual inundation of Egypt by the Nile} {the threat of inundation by the sea—Mumford} {his tears were not drops but a little inundation down his cheeks—Wescott} {an inundation of Italy by barbarians} {Torrent implies an impetuous rushing or surging of waters (as of a river in flood or of a stream that follows a steep course). It stresses the violence and rapid movement of the stream rather than its destructiveness or its capacity for spreading far and wide, and in extended use may be applied to something that comes forth with the same suddenness, the same violence, and the same clear direction {a torrent of water swept down the hillside} {he used to say that the mountain torrents were the first road builders, and that wherever they found a way, he could find one—Cather} {pouring

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
forth that torrent of stinging invective—Hudson (philosophy) provided a foothold for man above the torrent of circumstance—Buchan. Spate refers literally to a stream that has suddenly become full, agitated, and turbulent under the influence of a spring freshet or violent rains; hence in its extended applications it suggests a sudden swelling or outpouring of what usually flows in a quiet stream (when you are a big man, and fish such a stream as that, you will hardly care . . . whether she be roaring down in full spate—Kingsley) (she had hardly sat down when he began to talk full spate—about the war, the war of 1914—Henry Miller) (the spate of books on conservatism and liberalism in America—Nieber) (a spate of inventions in the early years of the century) Cataract denotes a waterfall or a steep rapids characterized by a great volume of water descending precipitously or headlong; it is sometimes applied to something (as a deluge of rain or of words) that suggests such a waterfall or rapids in its overwhelming downpour or rush (flow, winds, and crash your cheeks! rage! blow! You cataracts and hurricanes, spout—Shak.) (the cataract of nastiness which he poured alike on Piso and Clodius and Gabinius—Froude) (no doubt flaming cataracts of lava rushed down the sides of Vesuvius on that terrible day—Lucas).

Ana *flow, stream, tide, current
floppy *limp, flabby, flaccid, flimsy, sleazy

Ana *flow

florid *ornate, flamboyant, rococo, baroque

Ana aureate, flowery, euphuistic, grandiloquent, magniloquent, rhetorical, bombastic: sumptuous, luxurious, opulent: *showy, ostentatious, pretentious


flounder vb *stumble, trip, lurch, lumber, galumph, lollop, bumble

Ana struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT): toil, travail, labor (see corresponding nouns at WORK): *wallow, welter

flourish vb 1 *succeed, prosper, thrive

Ana bloom, flower, *blossom, blow: *increase, augment, multiply: *expand, amplify

Ant languish —Con *wither, shrivel: shrink, *contract: ebb, *abate, wane, subside

2 brandish, shake, *swing, wave, trash

Ana wield, manipulate, ply, *handle: flaunt, display, exhibit, *show

float vb *scoff, jeer, gib, fleer, gibe, sneer

Ana scout, scorn, *despise, contemn, disdain: spurn, repudiate (see DECLINE): deride, *ridicule, mock

Ant revere —Con *regard, respect, esteem, admire (see under REGARD N)

flow vb issue, emanate, proceed, stem, derive, *spring, arise, rise, originate

Ana emerge, *appear, loom: start, *begin, commence

Flow n Flow, stream, current, flood, tide, flux are comparable when meaning something issuing or moving in a manner like or suggestive of running water. Flow may apply to the issuing or moving mass or to the kind of motion which characterizes it, but in either case it implies the type of motion characteristic of the movement of a fluid; the term may suggest either a gentle or a rapid pace and either a copious or a meager supply, but it consistently implies an unbroken continuity of the particles or parts (the flow of his ideas exceeded his capacity for setting them down in writing) (she expressed herself in a flow of words) (the hardly perceptible flow of a mountain glacier) (the thought of never ceasing life as it expresses itself in the flow of the seasons—Anderson) (she would tell you what she thought about the world and its ways in a flow of racy comment—Rose Macaulay) Stream implies a flow characteristic of a body of running water (as a river) or of water pouring forth from a source or outlet (as a fountain or a faucet). The term places emphasis more upon the volume, the duration, and the constant succession and change of particles than upon the type of motion (for weeks after the surrender a stream of refugees crossed the country’s border) (music, acting, poetry proceed in the one mighty stream: sculpture, painting, all the arts of design, in the other—Ellis) (novelists who present their characters not in action, but through the stream of consciousness of each) (let loose a stream of commentary and discussion—Southern) Current differs from stream in laying greater stress on the direction or course of the movement implied and in carrying stronger suggestions of its force or velocity (streams of people passed him in either direction, but he was finally caught by the current of those moving south) (he could not maintain his position against the current of opposition) (currents of cold air swept in from the north) (he might drift some distance with the democratic current of the age, and then, with Gladstone, grow affrighted—Kirk) (Olds might have won Ford’s success had his mind been more sealed against the currents to which it was exposed—Burlingame) Flood is often used in place of flow or stream to imply extreme copiousness in the supply or to attribute to it an overwhelming or torrential power (it is not, he then feels with a sudden flood of emotion, that America is home, but that home is America—Brownell) (this poem called forth floods of abuse—Day Lewis) Tide applies to something that flows or courses like an ocean tide and suggests either an alternation of directions (swayed by the sweeping of the tides of air—Bryant) or a power to suck one into its course by the force of its outward or inward pull (Stanley was caught in the tide of war fervor—Rose Macaulay) Flux, more specifically than stream, stresses the unceasing change in the parts, particles, or elements and, sometimes, in the direction of what flows (for this and that way swings the flux of mortal things though moving inly to one far-set goal—Arnold) (how idle is it to commiserate them for their instability, when not stability but flux is their ideal!—Brownelly) Flux often specifically applies to the outward aspect or appearance which is constantly changing in contrast to its real and abiding nature (to distinguish between the transient, unsatisfying flux of things, and the permanent, satisfying reality which lies behind it—Inge).

Ana *succession, progression, series, sequence: continuity, *continuation, continuance

flower n blossom, bloom, blow (see under BLOSSOM vb)

flow vb *blossom, bloom, blow

Ana flourish, prosper (see SUCCEED)

flowery aureate, grandiloquent, magniloquent, rhetorical, euphuistic, bombastic

florid *ornate, flamboyant, inflated, tumid, turgid: sumptuous, luxurious, *decide

fluid mundane, border) (music, acting, poetry proceed in the one mighty stream: sculpture, painting, all the arts of design, in the style, decoration) —Con bald, barren, *bare: matter-of-fact, *prosaic

flounder vb *stumble, trip, lurch, lumber, galumph, lollop, bumble

Ana struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT): toil, travail, labor (see corresponding nouns at WORK): *wallow, welter

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fluid 345 foam

(fluid n liquid (see under liquid adj))

Ant solid

flurry n bustle, fuss, ado, *stir, pother

Ant perturbation, agitation, disturbance, discomposure (see corresponding verbs at discomposing): *haste, hurry

flurry vb fluster, agitate, perturb, disturb, *discompose, disquiet

Anna wilder, distract, perplex (see puzzle): quicken, excite, galvanize, stimulate, *provoke

flush n flush (see under blush vb)

Anna *color, tinge, tint

flush vb *blush

Anna color, tinge, tint (see corresponding nouns at color): surge, *rise: betray, divulge, disclose, *reveal

flush adj even, *level, flat, plane, plain, smooth

fluster vb upset, agitate, perturb, fluster, disturb, *discompose, disquiet

Anna wilder, distract, confound, nonplus, mystify, perplex, *puzzle: rattle, faze, disconcert, discomfit (see embarrassment): *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle

fluid 345 foam

(a)light o'er the current (down the road) skim—Gray)

(vb): *shake, tremble, quiver, quaver, wobble: beat, throb,

Anna *fly, fly

Ant blush (see under blush)

flutter vb flitter, flicker, *fit, hover

Anna *flit, flutter, flitter, flicker, hover: soar, mount, *rise, arise, ascend: glide, *slide, slip

2 flee, *escape, decamp, abscend

flying field *airport, airfield, airstrip, landing strip, landing field

foam n Foam, froth, spume, scum, lather, suds, yeasts are comparable when they denote either a mass of bubbles gathering in or on the surface of a liquid or something as insubstantial as such a mass. Foam is the most comprehensive of these terms but is not interchangeable with all; it implies an aggregation of small bubbles such as rises to the top of a fermenting liquid or an effervescing or boiling liquid, or appears on the surface of the sea when agitated by high winds or covered with breaking waves; the term is also applicable to a bubbly slaver dribbling from the mouth of one in a rage or in great excitement or to the clotted sweat of an animal driven to exhaustion or suffering from intense heat (the rider from the château, and the horse in a foam, clattered away through the village—Dickens) Of all these words foam commonly has the most pleasant associations, usually connoting in poetry whiteness, delicacy, and grace (Idalian Aphrodite beautiful, fresh as the foam—Tennyson) (the foam that looks so sunbright when your glass of beer is half froth) (foam forming at the mouth of a mad dog) (his speech had no logical substance, being mostly froth) (in all the froth and ferment between capital and labor—Furnas) Spume is applicable where foam or froth might also be employed (they dart forth polypus-antennae, to blister with their poison spume the wanderer—Shelley) but the chief idea of the froth arising on an agitated body of water (all the billows green tossed up the silver spume against the clouds—Keats) (as when a sand-bar breaks in clotted spume and spray—Kipling) shore encumbered by rain-washed boulders and ruffed with sea spume—Hun Svin) Scum distinctively applies to the bubbly film that rises on boiling liquids, especially those containing organic matter (scum on boiling currant juice) or to a similar film which forms on molten metals (the scum or scoria of iron) or on the surface of a body of stagnant water (the ditch is covered with a green scum) Such scums ordinarily constitute impurities that are removed (as from broth or molten metal) or that constitute a contamination impairing the usability (as of stagnant
water); this notion of worthlessness or obnoxiousness is carried over into extended use especially as applied to a class or body of persons (the social scum, the passively rotting mass of people who lie at the bottom of the social scale—Geismar) Lather and suds both apply to the foam produced by agitating water impregnated with soap or detergent. Lather, however, usually suggests a less frothy condition than suds and a heavier aggregation of small soapy bubbles (hard water does not produce a good lather for shaving) Suds, on the other hand, often denotes water so covered with a soapy foam that it is usable for laundering clothes (the laundress likes the soap because it gives her plenty of suds) (soak the cloth in hot suds) Lather, rather than suds, may be preferred when the foam induced by intense sweating or emotional excitement is denoted (a hard-ridden horse working up a lather) (he was in a lather of rage) but suds is more usual when the reference is to something that suggests the appearance of suds in a laundry tub or washing machine (another [medicine man] whips up a mixture of water and meal into frothy suds symbolic of clouds—Frazer) Yeast basically applies to a froth or semisolid composed of an aggregate of small fungal cells and found in saccharine liquids (as fruit juices and malt worts) in which it induces fermentation. The same substance is used as a leavening agent in bread; from this stems one line of its extended use in which it suggests a sign of activity, vitality, or agitation (seething with the yeast of revolt—Dobie) But because yeast often appears as a froth on liquids and is accompanied by fermentation, the term has another line of extended use in which it is applied to a similar froth, foam, or spume, especially one appearing on the surface of an agitated sea (the ship . . . swam allowed with yeast and froth—Shak) (they melt into thy yeast of waves—Byron)

**focal** *central, pivotal*

*Ana* significant, important, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE): salient, signal, striking, arresting, outstanding (see NOTICEABLE)

**focus** *n* heart, nucleus, core, *center, middle, midst, hub

**focus vb** *center, centralize, concentrate

*Ana* fix, *set, settle, establish

**con** diffuse, disseminate, radiate, *spread

**fodder** forage, *food, feed, provender, provisions, comes-
tibles, victuals, viands

**foe** *enemy

*Ana* antagonist, *opponent, adversary: assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK): rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL)

*Ant* friend — *Con* ally, colleague, confederate, *partner: *associate, comrade, companion

**fog** *haze, smog, mist

**fog vb** *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, be-
cloud, befog, obfuscate

*Ana* *puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewild, distract: *confuse, muddle, addle

**foible** failing, *fault, frailty, vice

*Ana* weakness, infirmity (see corresponding adjectives at WEAK): defect, flaw, *blemish: aberration, *deviation

**foil** *thwart, *frustrate, circumvent, balk, baffle, outwit

*Ana* discomfit, *embarrass, disconcert, faze, rattle: curb, check, *restrict, inhibit

*Con* *advance, further, forward, promote: abet, foment, *incite, instigate

**follow vb** 1 Follow, succeed, ensue, supernove mean to come after someone or, more often, something. Although all of these verbs occur as transitives and intransitives, *ensue* and *supernove* are more commonly intransitives. *Follow* is the general term and may imply a coming after in time, in sequence, in pursuit (see *follow 2*), in logic, or in understanding (the singing of “America” by the audience will follow the introductory prayer) (Queen Victoria followed William IV as British sovereign) (the driving force in education should be the pupil’s wish to learn, not the master’s authority; but it does not follow that education should be soft and easy and pleasant at every stage—Russell) *Succeed* commonly implies an order (as one determined by descent, inheritance, election, or rank) by which one person or thing comes after another (son *succeeded* father as head of the business for many generations) (the eldest son *succeeds* to the title) (the person who will *succeed* the late congressman will be appointed by the governor of the state) *Succeed* is often used when the idea of a fixed order is lost, but it still usually retains the idea of taking the place of someone or something (the link dissolves, each seeks a fresh embrace, another love *succeeds*, another race—Pope) (the anxieties of common life began soon to *succeed* to the alarms of romance—Austen) *simplicity of concept succeeds* complexity of calculation—Bell) *Supervene* usually implies some logical connection or the operation of some principle of sequence as that of necessity (that such a consequence would ensue) was far from the thoughts of Rights—Austen) (each knowing the other, a conversation *ensures* under the hypothesis that each to the other is unknown . . . a very silly source of equivocque—Poe) *Supervene* suggests a following by something added or conjointed and often unforeseen or unpredictable (two worlds, two antagonistic ideals, here in evidence before him. Could a third condition *supervene*, to mend their discord?—Pater) (it was not acute rheumatism, but a *supervening* peril—ditis that . . . killed her—Bennett) it is in the philosophy that *supervened* upon the popular creed . . . that we shall find the highest . . . reaches of their thought—Dickinson)

2 *Follow*, pursue, chase, trail, tag, tail are comparable when meaning to go immediately or shortly after someone or something. *Follow* is the comprehensive term; it usually implies the lead or, sometimes, guidance of someone or something (the detective *followed* the boys to their hiding place) (hangers-on *follow* the circus) (the vengeance that *follows* crime—Dickinson) *Follow* up a clue (follow a trade) (he should not desire to steer his own course, but follow the line that the talk happens to take—Benson) (not one of the many people I know who followed the hearings thought that the television reporting was slanted or unfair—Seldes) *Pursue* in its earliest sense implies a following as an enemy or hunter (*pursue* a fox) (*pursuing* rebels in flight) (*pursue* happiness) The term therefore usually suggests an attempt to overtake, to reach, or to attain, and commonly in its extended senses, even when the implications of hostility or of a desire to capture are absent, it connotes eagerness, persistence, or inflexibility of purpose in following one’s thoughts, ends, or desires (ye who . . . *pursue* with eagerness the phantoms of hope—Joyce) (thrice happy man! enabled to *pursue* what all so wish, but want the pow’r to do!—Pope) (*pursuing* the game of high ambition with a masterly coolness—Buchan) (*pursue* the career of a diplomat) *Chase* implies fast pursuit in order to or as if to catch a fleeing object or to drive away or turn to flight an oncoming thing (*chase* the fleeing thieves) (*the boys chased the intruder out of the school yard*) (*we were chased by two pirates, who soon overtook us—Swift*) (*if to dance all night, and dress all day . . . chased old age away . . . who would learn one earthly thing of use?—Pope*) *Trail* implies a following in someone’s tracks (*trail* a fugitive to his hiding place) (*trail a lost child to the edge of a creek) (*not daring to accost him . . . she had trailed him to the railroad station—Childey) *Tag* implies a persistent,
annoying following or accompanying <complained that his little sister was always tagging after him> <two unarmed launches tagged behind—Millard> <Tail specifically implies close following and surveillance <he employed detectives to tail the suspect> <Ana attend, *accompany, convoy: *copy, imitate, ape: *practice, exercise> <Ant precede (in order): forsake (a teacher or his teachings) —Con lead, *guide, pilot, steer: elude, evade, *escape: desert, *abandon> follower, adherent, disciple, sectary, partisan, henchman, satellite are comparable when denoting one who attaches himself to another. Follower is the inclusive term, denoting a person who attaches himself to the person or opinions of another <the followers of Jesus> <followers of Karl Marx> <they are creatures of the Devil, vowed to idolatry, and followers of Mithras—Nevil Shute> Its synonyms divide themselves into two groups, the first three designating a follower through choice or conviction and the last three a follower in whom personal devotion overshadows or eclipses the critical faculty. Adherent connotes closer and more persistent attachment than follower; it may be used without any implication of the personality of the teacher or leader <a doctrine that gained many adherents> <the candidate lost many adherents when he announced his views on reform> <adherents to the Communist party—Conant> Disciple typically presupposes a master or teacher and implies personal, often devoted, adherence to his views or doctrines <though ... an enthusiastic student of Fourier ... he was never a mere disciple—the individualistic stamp was too strong—Rosenzweig> but it may also imply similar adherence to a school of thought or governing principle <there is no anger, not even the most aesthetic disciple of the dry fly—Alexander MacDonald> <during the war years the disciples of the extreme Left sounded very much like the worst of the Negro-hating Southerners—Current Biog.> Sectary (see also HERETIC) usually implies the acceptance of the doctrines of a teacher or body <sectaries of Mohammed> <there dwelt, unchanged, the spirit of the Puritans and the Friends, the stiff-necked sectaries of Cromwell's army—Brooks> <Aristotle ... has suffered from the adherence of persons who must be regarded less as his disciples than as his sectaries—T. S. Eliot> Partisan suggests such devotion to the person or opinions of another or to a party, a creed, or a school of thought that there is incapacity for seeing from any other point of view. It often, therefore, connotes bigotry or prejudice <Laura was always a passionate partisan of her young brother—Mary Austin> <a few partisans argued for him—Mencken> Henchman is commonly applied to a subservient follower of a political leader or boss; in extended use it connotes abject submission to the will of a dominating and, usually, unscrupulous leader or group <the cat's-paw of corrupt functionaries and the henchman of ambitious humbugs—Shaw> Satellite, more than any of the others, suggests devotion to the person of the leader and constant obsequious attendance on him <Boswell was ... made happy by an introduction to Johnson, of whom he became the obsequious satellite—Irving> <Ana devote, votary, *addict, habitué: *parasite, syco phant, toady> <Ant leader> following n Following, clientele, public, audience are comparable when they denote the body of persons who attach themselves to another especially as disciples, patrons, or admirers. Following is the most comprehensive term, applicable to a group that follows either as a physical train or retinue or as the adherents of a leader, the disciples of a philosopher, the customers of a salesman, the admirers of a young woman, or the fans of an actor <such a man, with a great name in the country and a strong following in Parliament—Macaulay> <he unconsciously follows a following of like-minded persons—Montague> Clientele is chiefly used of the persons, collectively, who go habitually for services to a professional man (as a lawyer or physician) or who give their patronage to a business establishment (as a hotel, a restaurant, or a shop) <Dr. Doe has among his clientele all the leading families in the town> <summer hotels usually send out circulars to their clientele in the spring> Public basically denotes a group of people with a common interest and may come close to following in many of its applications (as to adherents, disciples, customers, and admirers); often, however, it distinctively conveys the notion of a group making active demands rather than one passively or admiringly following <a novelist's public, in fact, is people who read everything he writes even when they hate it—Carly> <a public relations program must be concerned with the policies of the institution, their interpretation and announcement to the college's various publics—Brecht> <protecting movie stars from their publics—New Yorker> <these two books on Spain are different in purpose, different in scope, and aimed at different publics—Bergin> Audience is applicable to a following that listens with attention to what a person has to say whenever he addresses them (as in a speech or a book) <still govern thou my song, Urania, and fit audience find, though few—Milton> <the stricken poet [Leopardi] ... had no country, for an Italy in his day did not exist, he had no audience, no celebrity—Arnold> Audience, rather than spectators (see SPECTATOR), is also the usual term for designating the body of persons attending a lecture, a play, or a concert on the assumption that they are there primarily to hear, only secondarily to see <the audience at the opera packed the house> foment abet, *incite, instigate <Ana good, spur (see corresponding nouns at MOTIVE): stimulate, quicken, excite, galvanize, *provoke: nurture, *nurse, foster, cultivate <Ant quell —Con *suppress, repress: check, curb, *restrain> fond adj 1 Fond, infatuated, besotted, insensate are comparable when they mean made blindly or stupidly foolish (as by passion or drink). Fond implies a judgment misled by credulity, undue optimism, or excessive affection (Cowper's characterization of the Biographia Britannica: "Oh, fond attempt to give a deathless lot to names ignoble, born to be forgot!") <grant I may never prove so fond, to trust man on his oath or bond—Shak> <how are we to rid ourselves of our fond prejudices and open our minds?—James Ford> Infatuated implies a weakening rather than the absence of judgment, especially under the influence of violent passion or unreasoning emotion; it is therefore correctly applied to the acts or qualities of men from whom sagacity or self-control might have been expected <what the infatuated ministry may do, I know not: but our infatuated House of Commons ... have begun a new war in America—Burke> <your people are so shortsighted, so jealous and selfish, and so curiously infatuated with things that are not ... good—Jefferies> Besotted adds to infatuated the implications of a stupefying or intoxicating influence that destroys the capacity to think clearly and sometimes makes its victim disgusting or repulsive <men besotted by drink> <are these so far besotted that they fail to see this fair wife-worship cloaks a secret shame?—Tennyson> <seemed

**ana** analogous words

**ant** antonyms

**con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
food, feed, victuals, viands, provender, fodder, forage are comparable when meaning applicable to all substances which satisfy hunger and build up or repair waste in the body of men or animals. Conserve your nation's supply of food! Refrigerators that keep food fresh. It is sometimes distinguished from drink. There was no lack of food or drink during their sojourn on the island! Applied specifically to human needs and then distinguished from feed, which normally denotes food for domestic animals. He needed food for his family and feed for his livestock—Gustafson! Victuals and viands basically denote food for human beings, especially food that is prepared and ready for eating. Viants is a racy or pungent word used for special effect. I worked hard enough to earn my passage and my victuals—Shaw! When I bear in mind how elegantly we eat our viants—L. P. Smith! Viands is bookish or affected and occurs chiefly where quaintness, rarity, or an especially fine quality is to be suggested (all the dainties and viands that could be wanted for a feast—Wilde! He dashed the wine on the earth and scattered about the other viands—Milman! Provisions applies to food in general as offered for sale in a market or kept in store as supplies (a country store stocked with all sorts of staples and provisions! There were not enough provisions in the hotel to care for the weekend influx of guests! A basket of provisions! Comestibles, which stresses edibility, is now found chiefly in playful use for provisions! He resolved upon having a strong reinforcement of comestibles—Hook! Bills are also discussed, and butchers and grocers, and the price of comestibles—Rose Macaulay! The remaining three terms, provender, fodder, and forage, basically denote feed for animals, but all may occasionally be used, typically derogatorily, of human food. Provender in its basic use applies to food (as hay, oats, or corn) for horses, mules, or asses! They must be dieted like mules and have their provender tied to their mouths—Shak! Fodder applies to food for domestic cattle and especially to coarse food (as hay, silage, and straw) that is harvested and fed out, as distinguished from forage, food consumed by grazing or browsing. 2 Food, aliment, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance, pap are comparable especially when they denote material which feeds and supports the mind or the spirit. Food is applicable to whatever is taken in and assimilated to enlarge the mind or spirit or to contribute to its vitality and growth! Praise was her favorite food—Phillipotts! Those books that provide food for the imagination! Aliment and pabulum are not always distinguishable from each other, but aliment is more often applied to what nourishes or builds one's mind and nature (mischief, love, and contradiction, are the natural aliments of a woman—Richardson! The aliments nurturing our nobler part, the mind, thought, dreams, passions, and aims are... at length are made our mind itself—Lytton! Pabulum to something, and often something overrefined, bland, or worthless, which serves as an article or sometimes as the substance of one's mental diet (many motion pictures provide poor pabulum for the adolescent mind! Where every man's hand is out for pabulum, and virile creativeness has given place to the patronizing favor of swollen bureaucracy—Vannevar Bush! Nourishment and nourishment are both applied to what is needed for healthy growth (as of the body, the mind, or an institution! The central sources of the ideology, the abundant larder from which the nourishment of ideology is being drawn—A. A. Cohen! Self-esteem, one of the properties of the ego, is first regulated by the supply of nourishment from the outside—Blum! But nourishment in addition suggests, as nourishment does not, the nourishing effect produced! Professor Perry's conclusion: "The chief source of spiritual nourishment for any nation, must be its own past, perpetually rediscovered and renewed"—Time! Lacking the nourishment which enthusiasm or imagination can give, their writing is unlikely to be either robust or vivid—Glou! Sustenance stresses the supporting and maintaining rather than the nourishing aspect of food (the blossoms of Beaumont and Fletcher's imagination draw no sustenance from the soil, but are cut and slightly withered flowers stuck into sand—T. S. Eliot! Pap is found chiefly in contemptuous or ironical use and applies in its extended sense to nourishment that is as slight, as diluted, and as innocuous as soft bland food for an infant or invalid! College courses that are mere intellectual pap! A preacher whose sermons are nothing more than pap! Fool, idiot, imbecile, moron, simpleton, natural are often used popularly and interchangeably of one regarded as lacking sense or good judgment but each can be more precisely applied to someone mentally deficient in a given degree. Fool, the most general, can apply to anyone mentally deranged as well as mentally deficient, implying lack or loss of reason or intelligence; it may be used as an extremely offensive term of contempt (fools rush in where angels fear to tread—Pope! He was a fool and liable, as such, under the stress of bodily or mental disturbance, to spasmodic fits of abject fright which he mistook for religion—Norman Douglas! I was a fool, if you like, and certainly I was going to do a foolish, overbold act—Stevenson! Act like a fool! Idiot, imbecile, and moron are technical designations for one mentally deficient. An idiot is incapable of connected speech or of avoiding the common dangers of life and needs constant attendance. An imbecile is incapable of earning a living but can be educated to attend to simple wants or avoid most ordinary dangers. A moron is incapable of earning a living but can be educated to attend to simple wants or avoid most ordinary dangers. A moron may learn a simple trade but requires constant supervision in his work or recreation. In more general and nontechnical use idiot implies utter feeblemindedness, imbecile implies half-wittedness, and moron implies general stupidity (comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers—Millay! Actually there never is a status quo, except in the minds of political imbeciles—Henry Miller! Even morons get college degrees—Warfel! All three, however, may imply no more than often mild derogation or disapproval of a person or his conduct (got a little high at the reunion and made a complete idiot of himself! How could he have been such a careless imbecile as to mar his manuscript?—Mackenzie! The telephone call was a fake... and Peeps climbed up into the guard.
foolhardy daring, daredevil, rash, reckless, *adventurous, venturesome
Ana bold, audacious (see brave): headlong, *precipitate, impetuous
Ant wary — Con *cautious, circumspect, calculating

foolish 1 *simple, silly, fatuous, asinine
Ana idiotic, imbecilic, moronic (see corresponding nouns at fool)
Con *intelligent, clever, quick-witted, bright, smart

2 Foolish, silly, absurd, preposterous, as applied to a person, his acts, behavior, and utterances, mean ridiculous because not exhibiting good sense. Something is foolish which does not commend itself to the judgment of others as wise or sensible or judicious (a foolish investment) 
Con courageous behavior is easier for a man who fails to apprehend dangers, but such courage may often be foolish—Russell 
Ant only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment—Roosevelt

Something is silly which seems witless, pointless, or futile (a silly sacrifice) (how silly an ardent and unsuccessful wooer can be, especially if he's getting on in years—Hammett)
Something is absurd which is inconsistent with accepted ideas, common sense, or sound reason; the word is applied, therefore, to ideas and projects considered impersonally as well as to persons and their acts (the absurd . . dogma that the king can do no wrong—Shaw) 
Ant the absurd predicament of seeming to argue that virtue is highly desirable but intensely unpleasant—Lippmann

Something is preposterous which is glaringly absurd (if a man cannot see a church, it is preposterous to take his opinion about its altarpiece or painted window—T. H. Huxley) or sometimes merely highly unsuitable or ridiculously out of keeping (as with a particular character or situation) (he put on his preposterous old flowered cashmere dressing gown—Deland)
Ana ridiculous, ludicrous, *laughable
Ant sensible — Con *wise, sane, judicious, prudent, sage, sapient

foot vb figure, cast, *add, sum, total, tot

fop n Fop, dandy, beau, coxcomb, exquisite, dude, buck are comparable when denoting a man who is conspicuously fashionable or elegant in dress or manners. Fop is applied to a man who is preposterously concerned with fashionableness, elegance, and refinement not only in respect to dress and manners but in respect to such matters as literary or artistic taste (his tightened waist, his stiff stock . . denoted the military fop—Disraeli)
Ant might have taken him for a fop, for he wore white lace at throat and wrists—Kenneth Roberts

(Y) His love of good clothes and good living gave Bennett a reputation as a fop—Time

Dandy carries a weaker implication of affectation and overrefinement than fop and a stronger suggestion of concern for stylish or striking apparel and a spruce or dapper appearance (that he had the tastes of a dandy, we learn from a letter of the time describing his "smart white hat, kid gloves, brown frock coat, yellow cassimere waistcoat, gray duck trousers, and blue silk handkerchief carelessly secured in front by a silver pin"—Walsh

(2) This character, one of the most comical in Stendhal, should . . figure very high, in the list of his dandies. He never smirks, never thinks, and belongs to the Jockey Club—Girard

Beau suggests as much attention to details of personal appearance as does fop (a beau is one who, with the nicest care, in parted locks divides his curling hair; one who with balm and cinnamon smells sweet—Elton)

Coxcomb, like fop, is applicable to a beau as a term of contempt; it often stresses fatuousness and pretentiousness as much as or more than foppishness (of all the fools that pride can boast, a coxcomb claims distinction most—Gay)

The young coxcombs of the Life Guards—Emerson

Exquisite is a somewhat old-fashioned designation of a dandy who manifests the extreme delicacy and refinement of taste characteristic of a fop (the particular styles . . he affected had their marked influence on the young exquisites of the Mayfair balls and Pall Mall club windows—Wilde)

Dude applies chiefly to a man who makes himself conspicuously different in dress or manners from the ordinary man; it is therefore the rough man's term for the carefully dressed and groomed man, the quiet gentleman's term for the obvious dandy, or a Western American's term for an Easterner or a city-bred man (her father told her he would not allow her to marry a dude) (the boys jeer at every young man wearing a high hat and call him a dude) (they were all mountain-wise, range-broken men, picked . . for diplomacy in handling dudes—Scribner's Mag)

The dudes ogled the ladies, stroking their mustaches, adjusting their ties and scooting their shoe toes up their calves to restore the shine—Berrigan

Buck applies usually to a dashing fellow, a dandy in dress, but not conspicuously, or necessarily, a gentleman in manners (the dashing young buck, driving his own equipage—Irving)

I remember you a buck of bucks when that coat first came out to Calcutta—Thackeray

For con *because, since, as, inasmuch as

Forage n fodder, provender, *food, feed, provisions, comestibles, victuals, viands

Forbear 1 *forgo, abnegate, eschew, sacrifice
Ana *restrain, curb, bridge, inhibit: avoid, *escape, evade, shun: desist, cease (see stop)
Ant refrain, abstain
Ana suffer, tolerate, endure, *bear

Forbearance 1 long-suffering, *patience, longanimity, resignation
Ana & Ant see those at forbearance

2 tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency, indulgence (see under forbearing)
Ana patience, long-suffering, longanimity: *mercy, lenity, grace, charity
Ant vindictiveness: anger

Forbearing, tolerant, clement, merciful, lenient, indulgent may be distinguished by nature, disposition, or circumstances to be severe or rigorous. The same differences in implications and connotations are observable in their corresponding verbs forbearing, tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency, indulgence and adverbs forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, indulgently. Forbearing, forbearance, and forbearingly imply patience under provocation and deliberate abstention from judging harshly, exacting punishment, or seeking vengeance or revenge (Madame Beck was . . forbearing with all the world—Bronté)

(2) He thought of old days: of his father's forbearance, his own willfulness—Meredith

Spoke forbearingly of the lack of facilities that handicapped his work) Tolerant, tolerance, and tolerantly imply both
forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, forbade, forbidden on these premises) <suffer the little children to come unto me, and he began to pardon the proscribed—Buchan> Merciful, mercifulness, and mercifully imply both compassionate and forbearing treatment, especially of those who have offended or of those who merit severity or are defenseless against it <good my lord, be good to me; your honor is accounted a merciful man—Shak.> (like a perfect nightmar, it was mercifully short—W. J. Locke) Lenient (see also SOFT), leniency, and leniently differ from clement in suggesting usually softness rather than gentleness of temper, and a relaxation of discipline or rigor <a too lenient parent> I would ask you, dearest, to be . . . very lenient on his faults when he is not by—Dickens> (she could not show the slightest leniency towards the romantic impulses of her elder daughter—Bennett) «no matter how leniently you may try to put it, in the end we have . . . a struggle between men—Wister> Indulgent, indulgence, and indulgently usually imply complacency as well as leniency; they imply, even more strongly than lenient, leniency, and leniently, concessions made out of charity or the exercise of clemency in the treatment of those who offend or who are under one's government or control <that one congenial friend . . . more indulgent of his shortcomings, and, in all respects, closer and kinder than a brother—Hawthorne> (indulgently dismisses them as basically nice boys—P. D. Whitney) before her children reached school age. . . her treatment alternated spasmodically between excessive indulgence and petulant severity—Gorer> 

Ana gentle, mild (see SOFT): patient, long-suffering, longsionnian (see corresponding nouns at PATIENCE) Ant unrelenting —Con implacable, merciless, relentless, *grim: *impatient, nervous, restive

forbearingly tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, indulgently (see under FORBEARING)

forbid, prohibit, enjoin, interdict, inhibit, ban are comparable when meaning to debar a person from using, doing, or entering or to order something not to be used, done, or entered. Forbid is the more direct and familiar, prohibit, the more formal or official; they do not widely differ in their essential implications, for they both imply the exercise of authority or the existence of conditions which prevent with similar imperativeness. However, forbid carries so strong a connotation of expected obedience that it is preferred when the order is that of one in authority (as a parent, a master, an employer, or a physician) forbid a child to leave the house <smoking is forbidden on these premises> suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not—Mk 10:14> (the whole attraction of such knowledge consists in the fact that it is forbidden —Russell> When circumstances absolutely debar, forbid is also preferred <his health forbade the use of tobacco>

Prohibit has been used for so long in reference to laws, statutes, and regulations that it tends to connote a less despotic exercise of authority and to suggest restraints imposed for the good of all or for the sake of orderly procedure prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors <the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States—U. S. Constitution> <the act was wrong in the sense that it was prohibited by law—Cardozo> Enjoin (see also COMMAND) is a legal term implying a judicial order forbidding a particular action by the decision of the Court the defendant should be enjoined from publishing news obtained from the Associated Press for — [a certain number of] hours after publication by the plaintiff—Justice Holmes> Interdict implies prohibition by authority, usually civil or ecclesiastical authority, typically for a given time and for a salutary purpose (as the maintenance of neutrality or the prevention of the spread of disease) or as an exemplary punishment <interdict trade with belligerents> <interdict the administration of the sacraments in a rebellious diocese> <Sunday. . . until two o'clock, was a solemn interval, during which all the usual books and plays were interdicted—Mary Austin> Inhibit implies the imposition of restraints or restrictions that amount to prohibitions, not only by authority but also by the exigencies of the time or situation <a clause was . . . inserted which inhibited the Bank from advancing money to the Crown without authority from Parliament—Macaulay> <the peril that besets a highly gifted poetic nature, when at bad moments thought inhibits imagination —Loves> In psychological use inhibit suggests the restraints imposed by inner psychological impediments and conflicts or by the interaction of human will with cultural and social factors of the environment which cause one to suppress certain thoughts or desires before they can find full expression inhibited from bold speculation by his personal loyalties and interests—Parrington> (he is inhibited, he inhibits himself, even from seeking on his own account that vital experience which is the stuff of the creative life—Brooks) Ban carries an implication of legal or social pressure as the source of prohibition and with it a strong connotation of condemnation or disapproval <ban all obscene magazines> <ban profane language> <categories of persons banned from Federal employment—Ginzburg> (more and more landlords were banning tenants with children—Wecter> 


force n 1 *power, energy, strength, might, puissance Ana *stress, strain, pressure, tension: *speed, velocity, momentum, impetus, headway 2 Force, violence, compulsion, coercion, duress, constraint, restraint denote the exercise or the exertion of power in order to impose one's will on a person or to have one's will with a thing. Force and violence ordinarily apply to physical powers used upon either persons or things; compulsion, coercion, duress, constraint, restraint apply to either physical or moral power used upon personal agents except in certain figurative uses—compulsion, coercion, and duress usually implying exercise of such power upon others than oneself, constraint or restraint upon oneself or others. Force (see also POWER 1) applies to an exercise of physical strength or of power comparable to physical strength by means of which an agent imposes his will upon another against that person's will or causes a thing to move as desired in spite of its resistance <rude fishermen . . .
Force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige are commonly implying a greater display of power or fury and often connoting the infliction of injury or cruelty (they will by violence tear him from your palace—Shak.) (the rest of the party kept off the crowd by mingled persuasion and violence—Shaw) Violence often implies a violation of another’s legal rights or property, or it may imply a corruption or abuse of someone or something entitled to respect, observance, or security (a burglar in entering a house by forcing a door enters it by violence) (do violence to no man—Lk 3:14) (all these many and varied powers had been acquired without doing violence to republican sentiment—Buchan) (the phrase “every common carrier engaged in trade or commerce” may be construed to mean “while engaged in trade or commerce” without violence to the habits of English speech—Justice Holmes) Compulsion and, still more, coercion imply the application of physical force or of moral pressure or the exercise of one’s authority in order to control the action of a voluntary agent and to make him obedient to one’s will (I would give no man a reason upon compulsion—Shak.) (coercion by threat or intimidation) (masterpieces I read under compulsion without the faintest interest—Russell) (solutions forced upon a most practical mind by the stern compulsion of facts—Buchan) (in the submissive way of one long accustomed to obey under coercion—Dickens) (some form of coercion, overt or covert, which encroaches upon the natural freedom of individuals—Dewey) Duress implies compulsion to do or forbear some act by means that are illegal (as by imprisonment or threats to imprison or by violence) (a person is not guilty of duress when he does or threatens to do something he has a legal right to do—Fisk & Snapp) It may also imply compulsion or coercion through fear of a penalty that will or may be exacted (a false declaration of love by the heroine under duress—Dyneley Hussey) (we must eliminate the condition of economic duress under which so many human beings are unjustly forced to live—Ashley Montagu) Constraint and restraint may imply the exercise of physical or moral power either by an active agent or by the force of circumstances; constraint sometimes implies an urging or driving to action but more frequently implies its forcible restriction or confinement, whereas restraint suggests its actual hindrance or curbing (the . . . lion . . . roared with sharp constraint of hunger—Shak.) (prose is memorable speech set down without the constraint of meter—Quiller-Couch) (absolute liberty is absence of restraint; responsibility is restraint; therefore, the ideally free individual is responsible only to himself—Henry Adams) (the emotion . . . was the deeper and the sweeter for the restraint that he had put upon himself—Archibald Marshall)

**Ana** intensity, vehemence, fierceness (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE): *effort, exertion, pains, trouble

**force** vb Force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige are comparable when meaning to make a person or thing yield to the will of a person or to the strength or power of a thing. Force, the ordinary and most general word in this group, implies the exertion of strength, typically physical strength, or the working of something (as circumstances or logical necessity) analogous in moving power or effectiveness to such strength *(force slaves to labor)* *(force food upon a child)* *(he said hunger forced him to steal the food)* *(his conscience forced him into repaying what he had stolen)* *(force himself to smile)* *(the man could not be forced from the position he had taken)* Sometimes the term takes a simple object, naming the person forced or the thing brought about by force; in such cases the verb often carries additional implications acquired from its idiomatic use in a particular phrase; thus, to force a woman is to rape her; to force a door is to break it open; to force laughter or a smile or tears is to make oneself laugh or smile or cry against one’s will; to force bulbs is to hasten their development by artificial means *(forced language)* *(a forced style)* Compel differs from force chiefly in typically requiring a personal object; any other type of object such as a reaction or response is possible only in extended or poetic language when the specific connotations of compel (as the exertion of irresistible power or force or a victory over resistance) are to be carried by the verb *(the always compels admiration)* *(an argument that compels assent)* or a concrete thing *(such a breeze compelled thy canvas—Tennyson)* Compel commonly implies the exercise of authority, the exertion of great effort or driving force, or the impossibility for one reason or another of doing anything else *(they* submit because they are compelled: but they would resist, and finally resist effectively, if they were not cowards—Shaw) *(we see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forest and our crops are destroyed—Justice Holmes)* *(there is no possible method of compelling a child to feel sympathy or affection—Russell)* *(the westering sun at length compelled me to quit the wood—Hudson)* Coerce suggests more severity in the methods employed than compel does; commonly it connotes the exertion of violence or duress or the use of threats or intimidation *(there are more ways of coercing a man than by pointing a gun at his head—Inge)* *(Charles the First signed his own death warrant when he undertook to coerce that stubborn will [of Londoners]—Repplier)* Constrain stresses more than does compel, its closest synonym, the force exerted by what presses or binds; it usually suggests the influence of restrictions, self-imposed or placed upon one by force, by nature, by necessity, or by circumstances, that compel one to do a stated or implied thing, live a stated or implied way, or think certain thoughts (I describe everything exactly as it took place, constraining my mind not to wander from the task—Dickens) *(causes which he loathed in his heart but which he was constrained to consider just—Brooks)* *(tied him to the wall, where he was constrained to stay till a kind passerby released him—Galsworthy)* Oblige usually implies the constraint of necessity, sometimes physical necessity *(a sharp pain obliged him to close his eyelids quickly—Hardy)* but equally often moral or intellectual necessity *(he is obliged, in conscience, to undo the harm he has done to a man’s good name)* *(even the so-called laws of nature are only instruments to be used . . . we are not obliged to believe them—Inge)* The term also is used with reference to a person or thing which is regarded as authoritative or as having the right to determine one’s course or acts *(the discipline of their great School . . . obliges them to bring up a weekly essay to their tutor—Quiller-Couch)* *(the convention which obliged a satirist to be scathing—Inge)* *(she is obliged to learn by heart a multitude of songs—Hearn)*

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words **See also explanatory notes facing page 1
they mean produced or kept up through effort and, therefore, neither natural nor easy nor spontaneous. Forced is the widest in range of application of any of these terms, being referred not only to what is brought about by compulsion (works of a kind which had normally been performed in antiquity by the forced labor of slaves—Farrington) or to what is accomplished by exerting force beyond the usual limit (a forced march) (many women talk excitedly at a forced pitch for long periods and finish a conversation almost exhausted—Hewitt) but also to what seems artificial because not natural, logical, or spontaneous or because constrained or affected (his . . . resolute rejection of forced and fantastic interpretation of Holy Scripture—Fosbroke) (the old man was grinning. It was a little forced and a little painful, but it was a grin—Irwin Shaw) Labored carries a stronger connotation of heaviness or of ponderousness or, sometimes, of tediousness as a result of great effort (a labored style) (suggests that the woman loves the man because he alone can give her the baby that fulfills her femininity . . . These explanations are ingenious, it labored—La Barre) (uncomfortably aware of his men behind him; of their cushioned footsteps and labored breathing—Hervey) Strained adds to these an implication of tensionness or of a result that is unnaturally or distortedly labored (strained attention) (a strained comparison) (in the style of each there is at times evidence of strained composition, a lack of verbal ease or elegance—Arnold Chapman) (a strained air of reasonableness prevails, with a good deal of nervous anxiety showing through on both sides—Bendiner) (three patients were sitting, with strained expectant eyes—Glasgow) Farfetched applies especially to an expression, an idea, an argument, or an explanation which has been carelessly sought out so that it seems unduly strained and not quite naturally used (his ideas were always farfetched) (a farfetched comparison) (these methods of interpretation . . . seem gratuitously farfetched, fantastic—Edmund Wilson) Ana compelled, coerced, constrained (see FORCE): factitious, *artificial: fatiguing, exhausting (see TIRE) Con *easy, effortless, smooth: *spontaneous, instinctive, impulsive: *natural, unsophisticated, unaffected, artless

forceful *powerful, potent, forcible, puissant Ana compelling, constraining (see FORCE vb): virile, manful (see MALE): cogent, telling, convincing, compelling (see VALID): *effective, efficient Ant feeble —Con *weak, infirm, decrepit, frail forcible forceful, *powerful, potent, puissant

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sort of responsibility for our actions, whose consequences we are never able to foresee—Conrad
> nobody can foresee how the necessary restriction of the population will be effected—Shaw
> (the kindly-earnest, brave, foreseeing man—J. R. Lowell)

**Foreknow** usually implies supernatural powers or the assistance of supernatural powers (as through revelation) if thou art privy to thy country's fate, which, happily, foreknowing may avoid, O, speak—Shak.
> (they themselves decreed their own revolt, not I [God].)
If I foreknew, foreknowledge had no influence on their fault—Millon.
> (he cannot, however, foreknow how his opponent... will behave in action—Toynbee.

Divine is not always clearly distinguishable from foresee, but it often suggests a gift or a special power or sometimes unusual sagacity or discernment.
> (to Rime has been given this quickness of mind and power to divine distant things—Hudson.)
> (in all the years of his traveling to and fro through Europe he divined hardly one of the social tendencies that had so spectacular a denouement within four years of his death—Brooks.)

**Apprehend** conveys less of a sense of the certainty of what is foreseen than any of the preceding words, but it carries a far stronger implication of the emotional effects of advance knowledge. In general, where one apprehends an evil, one is filled with fear, anxiety, or dread; they agree with me in apprehending that this false step in one daughter will be injurious to the fortunes of all the others—Austen.
> (almost every evening he saw Lucy. The inexperienced little wife apprehended no harm in his visits—Meredit.)
> (his lips quivered, and she apprehended rather than heard what he said—Glasgow.)

**Anticipate** is a more complex term than any of its synonyms. Thus a critic may foresee the verdict of posterity on a literary work, but he anticipates it only when he formulates a judgment which is either accepted by posterity or is pronounced by it as though the verdict were new. One may foreknow one's destiny or apprehend a danger, but one anticipates one's destiny or a danger only when, through the appropriate advance enjoyment or suffering, one also has a foretaste of that destiny or that danger. One may divin a friend's wish in advance of its expression, but one anticipates it only when one also gratifies it in advance of its expression. (colleges and universities are expected to pay close attention to, and even anticipate, the many voices heard from outside the campus—Hacker.)

**Anticipate** is also used as an alternative to expect and, more distinctively, in the sense of to look forward to (something expected) with a foretaste of the pleasure or pain it promises. (I must know what is in the minds of these people. I must anticipate revolt—Steinbeck.)
> (pleasure not known beforehand is half wasted; to anticipate it is to double it—Hardy.)

**Ana** forecast, predict, *foretell, prophesy, prognosticate:* perceive, discern, descry, esp (see see)

**foreshore** beach, strand, *shore, coast, littoral

**foresight** forethought, providence, discretion, *prudence

**Ana** sagacity, perspicacity, shrewdness, astuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW'D): acumen, clairvoyance, *discernment, perception

**Ant** hindsight

**foresighted** forethoughtful, provident, discreet, prudent (see under PRUDENCE)

**Ana** sagacious, perspicacious, *shrewd, astute: *intelligent, alert, quick-witted, brilliant, knowing: *wise, judicious, sage, sapient

**Ant** hindsighted

**forestall** *prevent, anticipate

**Ana** ward, avert, *prevent, preclude, obviare: *frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent

**Con** court, woo, *invite: further, forward, *advance, promote

**foretaste** *anticipation, *prospect, outlook

**Ana** realization, actualization (see corresponding verbs at REALIZE): token, earnest, *pledge: presentment, foreboding (see APPREHENSION)

**Con** fruition, enjoyment (see PLEASURE): attainment, achievement (see corresponding verbs at REACH)

**foretell**, predict, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate, augur, presage, portend, forebode are comparable when meaning to tell something before it happens through special knowledge or occult power.

**Foretell** and predict are frequently interchangeable, but foretell stresses the announcement of coming events and does not, apart from a context, indicate the nature of the agent's power or the source of his information. Some sorcerer... had foretold, dying, that none of all our blood should know the shadow from the substance—Tennyson.
> (the marvelous exactness with which eclipses are foretold—Darow.)

**Predict** commonly implies inference from facts or accepted laws of nature; it often connotes scientific accuracy in foretelling. (Mr. Brooke's conclusions were as difficult to predict as the weather—George Eliot.)

> (an astronomer predicted the return of a comet—Gamow predicted that the explanation of the sun's heat, light, and energy would be found to lie in thermonuclear reactions—Current Bio.)

**Forecast** may occasionally imply taking forethought of the future (as by anticipation, conjecture of possible eventualities, and provision for one's needs) (a prudent builder should forecast how long the stuff is like to last—Swift.)

> More often it implies prediction, but it still retains the implication of anticipated eventualities (forecast the weather) (since hurricanes have been forecast, losses in life and property have dwindled) (when the votes began to be counted... the return of the Republicans was forecast—Paxson.)

**Prophecy** either connotes inspired or mystic knowledge or implies great assurance in prediction (ancestral voices prophesying war—Coleridge.)

> (wrinkled boughs often talked of him approvingly, and prophesied his rise—Tennyson.)

**Propagosticate** implies prediction based upon signs or symptoms (a skillful physician can prognosticate the course of most diseases) (for the last three hundred years the relation of Church to State has been constantly undergoing change... I am not concerned with prognosticating their future relations—T. S. Eliot.)

**Prophecy** and the following words also are comparable in the related sense of to betoken or foreshow future events or conditions (everything seems to prognosticate a hard winter—Cobbeit.)

**Augur** implies a divining or a foreshadowing of something pleasant or unpleasant often through interpretation of omens or signs (the morrow brought a very sober-looking morning... Catherine augured from it everything most favorable to her wishes—Austen.)

> (presage and portend more often imply foreshadowing than foretelling, though both senses are found. Both also typically suggest occult power or an ability to interpret signs and omens as a basis for prediction, but presage may be used of neutral or of favorable as well as unfavorable prognostications, whereas portend regularly suggests a threat of evil or disaster—lands he could measure, terms and tides presage—Goldsmith.)

> (the yellow and vapory sunset... had presaged change—Hardy.)

> (some great misfortune to portend, no enemy can match a friend—Swift.)

**Forebode** implies unfavorable prognostication based especially upon premonitions, presentiments, or dreams (pressed by a foreboding of evil—Ana.)

**Ana** divine, foreknow, *foresee, anticipate, apprehend:
forethought foresight, providence, discretion, *prudence

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
abnegate implies renunciation or self-effacement, but this distinction is not as commonly maintained in the verb as in the derivative noun abnegation. Communities dedicated to a humble and self-abnegating life—Mumford. One eschews (see also escape 2) something tempting, sometimes on moral or aesthetic grounds but more often because abstention or self-restraint is necessary for the achievement of a more significant desire or end (to work within these strict limits, eschewing all the help to illusion that modeling and shadow gave, was doubtless an exercise of incomparable service to the artist—Binyon) (some of the millionaires eschewed palatial magnificence—F. L. Allen). One sacrifices something highly desirable or in itself of great value for the sake of a person, ideal, or end dearer to one than the thing or person involved; the term typically connotes renunciation and self-denial and a religious or ethical motive comparable to that of self-immolation (sacrificed a college education for the sake of supporting his mother) (sacrificed his life in defense of his country) (I do not mean that the well-to-do should . . . forgo educational opportunities which . . . are not open to all. To do that would be to sacrifice civilization to justice—Russell) (sacrificed their fortune in the world for theology's sake—H. O. Taylor).


forlorn 1: lorn, lone, desolate, lonesome, lonely, *alone, solitary.

Ana: separated, parted, divorced, severed, sundered (see separate vb): forsaken, deserted, abandoned (see abandon vb): wretched, *miserable: depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see depress).

2: hopeless, *despondent, despairing, desperate.


forlornness: hopelessness, despondency, despair, desolation (see under despondent).

Ana: dejection, depression, gloom, melancholy, blues, dumps, *sadness.

form n 1: Form, figure, shape, configuration, configuration are comparable when they denote the disposition or arrangement of content that gives a particular aspect or appearance to a thing as distinguished from the substance of which that thing is made. Form is not only the most widely applicable of these terms, but it is also the least definitely fixed in its meaning, largely because of its being assigned various denotations in philosophy and aesthetics and because of its frequent use in reference to literature, music, and thought, where more is involved than the disposition or arrangement of content as immediately perceived by the senses. In general, form more than any of the other words implies reference to internal structure and disposition of details as well as to boundary lines and suggests unity in the whole (the earth was without form, and void—Gen 1:2) (a sense of interdependence and interrelated unity that gave form to intellectual stirrings that had been previously inchoate—Dewey) (you might go in for building . . . you've got a feeling for form—Mary Austin). Figure applies usually to the form as determined by the lines which bound or enclose a thing (flowers have all exquisite figures—Bacon). The term also may often suggest the lines or sometimes the visible form characteristic of a kind or type (Christ painted under the figure of a lamb) (because of the darkness it was hard to say whether the person had the figure of a man or of a woman) or the lines which follow a more or less conventional pattern rather than represent something actual (cut figures on the ice in skating) (decorate the border with figures of scrolls, circles, and crescents) (a rug design in geometrical figures). Shape, like figure, suggests reference to the boundary lines, but it carries a stronger implication of a mass or of a body than does figure and is therefore precisely applicable to something that is shown in its bulk rather than in its lines; thus, one draws the figure rather than the shape of a circle or a triangle, but one forms a mass of clay in the shape in preference to the figure of a ball or of a man (the color of his beard, the shape of his leg—Shak.). Often, shape applies to outlines that have been given to a mass (as by molding, carving, or pressure) (Brooke is a very good fellow, but pulpy; he will run into any mold, but he won't keep shape—George Eliot) (it is the business of the sensitive artist in life to accept his own nature as it is, not to try to force it into another shape—Huxley). Form, figure, and shape are also used in reference to the form of living creatures, especially of men and women. Form is perhaps the most shadowy of these terms; it is applied chiefly to persons or animals identified but not clearly seen or noted in detail (the reddleman watched his form as it diminished to a speck on the road—Hardy) (busy forms bent over intolerable tasks, whizzing wheels, dark gleaming machinery—Benson). Figure usually suggests closer vision than form and some perception of details but stresses lines, carriage, and posture (here and there a figure . . . leaned on the rail—Conrad) (they watched her white figure drifting along the edge of the grove—Cather). Shape differs little from figure except in its clearer suggestion of flesh and body (some human shapes appearing mysteriously, as if they had sprung up from the dark ground—Conrad) (and the shade under the ash trees became deserted, save by the tall dark figure of a man, and a woman's white shape—Galsworthy).

Con: Configuration stresses the structure of something as composed or fashioned of related or carefully adjusted parts or as constituting a harmonious whole; it carries only a slight suggestion of reference to the outer lines or shape (beef steers of excellent configuration) (the configuration of the vocal organs). Configuration emphasizes the disposition or arrangement of parts and the pattern that they form especially over an extent of space or territory (the configuration of the county is represented in this relief map) (the remarkable configuration of the Atlantic seabed—T. H. Huxley) (In every province there was a network of roads following the configuration of the country—Buchan).


2: Form, formality, ceremony, ceremonial, rite, ritual, liturgy mean an established or fixed method of procedure especially as enjoined by law, the customs of social intercourse, or the church. Form is the comprehensive term applicable to a recognized way of doing things in accordance with rule or prescription (observing the forms of polite society) (nothing could be worse form ... than any display of temper in a public place—Wharton) (transfer of property made in due form) (the occasional exercise of a beautiful form of worship—Irving).

Form often implies show without substance or suggests an outward shell devoid of its life or spirit (for who would keep an ancient form if the spirit breathes no more?—Tennyson). Formality applies to some more or less perfunctory or conventional procedure required by law, custom, or etiquette (there was now and then the less perfunctory or conventional procedure required by law—Tennyson) (the remarkable configuration of the Atlantic seabed—T. H. Huxley) (In every province there was a network of roads following the configuration of the country—Buchan).

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

Form

3 Form, usage, convention, convenience are comparable when they mean a fixed or accepted way of doing or sometimes of expressing something. Form can apply to a prescribed or approved way of behaving, method of procedure, or technique in any sphere of activity where correctness or uniformity of method or manner is thought essential. (the forms of good conduct) (the forms of worship) (good form in swimming) (a form of address)

Usage implies the sanction of precedent or tradition and often designates a form preserved out of respect for a class, profession, or religion (descriptions of usages presuppose descriptions of uses, that is, ways or techniques of doing the thing, the more or less widely prevailing practice of doing which constitutes the usage —Ryle) (to bury in the first furrow certain fruits of a particular structure, such as figs, pomegranates, and locust beans, is a usage frequently observed —Frazer)

Convention often replaces form especially in application to social behavior, where it stresses general agreement and therefore applies to some set way of doing or saying something that is sanctioned or believed to be sanctioned by general unquestioning acceptance. (This music followed conventions perfectly understood by the contemporaries —P. H. Lang) (certain parliamentary conventions which exist to supplement the rules of procedure —May) (this genius who was too wild and elemental ever to conform to any aesthetic convention —Ledig-Roholh)

Convenience is a somewhat literary word applied to social conventions especially regarded as essential to propriety or decorum (disregarding the social conventions, continued to chatter on —Richard Hull) (the conveniences of life —Benson)

Form vb *make, shape, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge

Ana devise, contrive (see corresponding nouns at device): *invent, create, produce, turn out (see bear): design, project, scheme, plan, plot (see under plan n): organize, *found, establish

Formal conventional, ceremonial, *ceremonial, solemn

Ana systematic, methodical, *orderly, regular: *decorous, proper, seemly

Ant informal

Formality *form, ceremony, ceremonial, rite, liturgy, ritual

Ana convention, convenience, usage, *form: practice, custom, *habit, use, wont

Former prior, previous, *preceding, antecedent, precedent, foregoing, anterior

Ant latter —Con following, succeeding, ensuing, supervening (see follow)

Formless, unformed, shapeless are comparable when they mean having no definite or recognizable form. Something is formless which is so fluid or so shifting in its outlines, structure, or character that it does not assume, or is incapable of assuming, a fixed or determinate form (the rising world of waters . . . won from the void and formless infinite —Milton) (sprang from the billows of the formless flood —Shelley) (a formless fear) (the formless welter of his prose works —Saintsbury) Something is unformed which has existence but has not yet attained the form or character proper to it when it has reached the height of its possible growth or development (an unformed girl of twelve) (an unformed mind) (unformed genius) Often it suggests crudeness or callousness (very clever in some ways —and very callousness —Saintsbury) (a girl of twelve) (an unformed genius) (some parliamentary conventions which exist to supplement the rules of procedure —May)

Formative *make, shape, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge

Ana devise, contrive (see corresponding nouns at device): *invent, create, produce, turn out (see bear): design, project, scheme, plan, plot (see under plan n): organize, *found, establish

Ant informal

Formless *formless: rough, raw, crude, *rude

Ana fluid, *liquid: rough, raw, crude, *rude

Formulation *adultery, incest

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
fork, fortress, citadel, stronghold, fastness denote in common a structure or place offering resistance to a hostile force. A fort is an enclosed, fortified structure occupied by troops. A fortress is a large fort of strong construction intended for long-term occupancy (as on the border of a hostile country). A citadel is a fortification, usually on an eminence, that protects a city or keeps it in subjection. A stronghold is a strongly fortified place whose resistance to attack or siege affords protection to its occupants (here ... a famous robber had his stronghold—Richie). A fastness is a place whose inaccessibility or remoteness makes for security. It may or may not be fortified (a strong and almost inaccessible fastness—H. H. Wilson).

These terms often have extended use. In such use a fort is something that by its very nature resists attack (oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason—Shak.) and a fortress is something that gives a feeling of security (my rock and fortress is the Lord—John Wesley). Citadel and stronghold are very similar in their extended uses, both being applied to a place where or, sometimes, to a class or group in which something prevails or persists in spite of attacks or encroachment (the very headquarters, the very citadel of smuggling, the Isle of Man—Burke) (the scientific world has been the very citadel of stupidity and cruelty—Shaw) (the South of Somersetshire, one of the strongholds ... of the Anglo-Saxon dialect—Jennings). Fastness characteristically suggests impenetrability or inaccessibility (in the impregnable fastness of his great rich nature he [the Roman] defies us—J. R. Lowell).

forth forward, *onward

forthright adj I also adv Forthright, downright are comparable because they agree in their basic sense of moving or in the habit of moving straight to the mark. Forthright (see also STRAIGHTFORWARD) applies to whatever gets its effect by a straight thrust as if of a sword driven by the arm of one person into the breast of another; it therefore usually connotes dexterity, directness, straightforwardness, or a deadly effectiveness (reach the good man your hand, my girl: forthright from the shoulder, like a brave boxer—Meredith) (the home thrust of a forthright word—J. R. Lowell) (the practical, forthright, nonargumentative turn of his mind—Farrar).

Downright, on the other hand, suggests a falling down or descending with the straightforwardness and swiftness of one who leaps from a cliff or of a weapon that delivers a crushing blow. The word, therefore, usually implies crude force rather than dexterity, and concern for the effect produced rather than the point reached; often, in addition, when applied to persons or things it connotes plainness, bluntness, flat-footedness, or an out-and-out quality (he ... shot to the black abyss, and plunged downright—Pope) (sculling against a swift current is work—downright work—Jefferies) (you seem a pretty ... downright sort of a young woman—Shaw) (a baby). What a coarse, downright word for the little creature—Rose Macaulay) (this admirably downright, if not highly sophisticated, ukase has been cited in almost every trade-secrets case ... since—John Brooks).

Ana *bluff, blunt, brusque; candid, open, plain, *frank

2 *straightforward, aboveboard

Ana reductive, spurn, reject (see DECLINE): *abide, renounce, resign: quit, leave (see GO)

Ant return to; revert to

forswear 1 *abjure, renounce, recant, retract

forsake desert, *abandon

fortify *strengthen, invigorate, energize, reinforce

fortitude, grit, backbone, pluck, guts, sand denote a quality of character combining courage and staying power. Fortitude stresses strength of mind and firmness of purpose; it implies endurance, often prolonged endurance, of physical or mental hardships or suffering without giving way under the strain (the man's courage is loved by the woman, whose fortitude again is coveted by the man—Coleridge). For years he led a life of unremitting physical toil and mental anguish (he earned with miserable health—no small test of fortitude—Buchan). Grit also implies strength and firmness of mind, but it stresses an incapacity for being downed by difficulties or hardships and usually also suggests both a willingness to suffer the privation and pain necessary to the attainment of one's ends and the fortitude to bear them (it is grit that tells in the long run) (instances of men rising from the lower ranks of society into the most highly remunerated positions in the business world are sufficiently numerous to support the belief that brains and grit can always "make good"—Hobson). Backbone emphasizes resoluteness of character; it implies either the ability to stand up in the face of opposition for one's principles or one's chosen objectives, or determination and independence that require no support from without (in spite of all his gifts, he did not have the backbone necessary to a good statesman) (when mob hysteria prevails, then, if ever, backbone is needed in our legislators) (like conscience-stricken dogs they lost backbone, and visibly were in a condition to submit to anything—Kenneth Roberts).

Pluck implies a willingness to fight or continue fighting against odds; thus, it is pluck that keeps a sick person at work; it is pluck that keeps soldiers from retreating in the face of disaster (the energy, fortitude, and dogged perseverance that we technically style pluck—Lynton) (decay of English spirit, decay of manly pluck—Thackery). Guts, which is often considered expressive but not entirely polite and is therefore sometimes facetiously replaced by intestinal fortitude, stresses possession of the physical and mental vigor essential both to facing something which repels or frightens one and to putting up with the hardships it imposes (he hasn't the guts to be a successful surgeon) (they used men with guts for the East African missions) (what bothered him was not the superzealot attackers so much as the lack of plain old-fashioned guts on the part of the people who give in to them—Davis).

Sand comes close to grit in its meaning, but since it often carries a suggestion of pluck or of the ability to fight against odds, it does not so strongly as grit connote triumph over difficulties (no more pride as a tramp. no more sand than a rabbit—Mark Twain).

Ana *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution, tenacity: bravery, couragelessness, intrepidity, dauntlessness, valorousness (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE)

Ant pusillanimity — Con timidity, timorousness (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE)

forsake desert, *abandon

Ana repudiate, spurn, reject (see DECLINE): *abide, renounce, resign: quit, leave (see GO)

Ant return to; revert to

forswear 1 *abjure, renounce, recant, retract

forsake desert, *abandon

forty five, fortysomething, *forty

forty-five, forty-something, *forty

forty-four, forty-fours, *forty

forty-second, *forties, *forty

fortnight, *forty

forty, *forties

forty-nine, *forties

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planned, projected, designed, schemed, plotted (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n)

**fortunate** *lucky, providential, happy

_Ana_ auspicious, propitious, *favorable, benign: advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: felicitous, happy (see **fit** adj)

_Ant_ unfortunate: disastrous —**Con** *sinister, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient

**fortune** *chance, accident, luck, hap, hazard

_Ana_ *fate, destiny, lot, portion, doom: *opportunity, occasion, break, time

_Con_ *misfortune, mischance, adversity, mishap: design, intent, *intention

_forward adj_ advanced, *premature, untimely, precarious

_Ant_ backward —*Con* retrograde, retrogressive, recessive (see **backward**)

_forward adv_ 1 ahead, *before

_Ant_ backward

2 forth, *onward

_Ant_ backward

_forward vb_ 1 *advance, promote, further

_Ana_ *speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten: *help, aid, assist: *support, uphold, back, champion

_Ant_ hinder: balk —*Con* impede, obstruct, bar, block (see **hinder**): *frustrate, thwart, babel, outwit, foil, circumvent

2 *send, dispatch, transmit, remit, route, ship

_foster vb_ *nurse, nurture, cherish, cultivate

_Ana_ *support, uphold, back, champion: *harbor, shelter, entertain, lodge, house: promote, further, forward, *advance: favor, accommodate, *oblige

_Con_ oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: curb, inhibit, *restrain: *forbid, prohibit, interdict, ban

_foul adj_ filthy, *dirty, nasty, squalid

_Ana_ putrid, stinking, fetid, noisome, *malodorous: *offensive, revolting, repulsive, loathsome: obscene, gross, vulgar, *coarse

_Ant_ fair: undefiled

_foul vb_ *soil, dirty, sull, tarnish, befoul, smirch, be-smirch, grime, begrime

_Ana_ pollute, defile, *contaminate: profane, desecrate (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION)

_found vb_ 1 *base, ground, bottom, stay, rest

_Ana_ *set, fix, settle, establish: sustain, *support: *build, erect, raise, rear

2 Found, establish, institute, organize are comparable when meaning to set going or to bring into existence something (as a business, a colony, or an institution).

_Found_ implies nothing more than a taking of the first steps or measures to bring into existence something that requires building up. Just what these steps and measures are vary in usage; thus, a person who provides the funds for a new educational institution may be said to have founded it, and those who first devised the project and won his support may also be said to have founded it, as may also those who took the next steps (such as the choice of a site, the erection of buildings on that site, and the selection of the staff) *found a parish in a new section of a city* —*the Pilgrims in 1620 founded Plymouth Colony in what is now the state of Massachusetts* —*a school of philosophy founded by Plato*

_Establish_ (see also SET) is often employed in the sense of found; however, it may imply not only the laying of the foundations but also a bringing into enduring existence: thus, Brook Farm was founded (not established, because its existence was short) by George Ripley and others as an experiment in communistic living: Vassar College was not established until some years after the date of its founding —*the . . . Sisters of Loretto, who came to found the Academy of Our Lady of Light. The school was now well established —*Cather* _Institute_ stresses an origination or an introduction; like *found*, it implies the taking of the first steps and like *establish*, the actual bringing into existence, but it differs from both words in its far wider range of application and in being referable to things (as a method, a study, or an investigation) which do not have a continuous life or a permanent existence (institute a new society) _institute_ a new method of accountancy _institute_ an inquiry into an official's conduct of his office _Organize_ (see also ORDER vb 1) may imply founding, but it usually implies the taking of the steps whereby an organization (as a business, an institution, or a government) is set up so that it functions properly, with its departments clearly distinguished and governed by a responsible head and with a supervisory staff responsible for the working of the whole —*Smith College was founded by Sophia Smith but was organized by its first president and board of trustees* _the company sent him to Germany to organize its new branch there*

_Ana_ *begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate: form, fashion (see **MAKE**

_Con_ uproot, eradicate, deracinate, extirpate, *exterminate, wipe

_foundation_ basis, *base, ground, groundwork

_Ant_ superstructure

_foxy_ insidious, wily, guileful, tricky, crafty, cunning, *sly, artful, wily

_Ana_ devious, *crooked, oblique: deceitful, *dishonest

_fracas_ *brawl, broil, melee, row, rumpus, scrap


_fraction_ fragment, piece, *part, portion, section, segment, sector, detail, member, division, parcel

_fractions_ *irritable, peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, pettish, huffy, fretful, querulous

_Ana_ *unruly, refractory, recalcitrant, ungovernable, intractable, willful: perverse, *contrary, froward, restive, wayward

_Con_ fair: undefiled

_unstinted_ *abundant, liberal, profuse: ample, abundant,充裕的

_unstinting_ *liberal, unmeasured, lavish: liberal, abundant, prodigal

_unstintingly_ *liberally, generously, unreservedly: liberally, abundantly, prodigally

_unsuitable_ *inappropriate: improper, unsuitable, inappropriate

—weakening

**fragile** 1 Fragile, frangible, brittle, crisp, short, friable

mean easily broken. They are, however, not often inter-changeable. **Fragile** (see also WEAK) is applicable to whatever must be handled or treated carefully lest it be broken —*a fragile antique chair* —*a fragile dish* —*a fragile flower* —*I found the skeleton, or, at all events, the large bones, rendered so fragile by the fierce heat they had been subjected to, that they fell to pieces when handled —*Hudson* —*this nation, molded in the heat of battle against tyranny . . . is not a fragile thing—W. O. Douglas*

_Fragile_ stresses susceptibility to being broken rather than positive weakness or delicacy of material or construction (frangible stone) _avoid using frangible materials in ship construction_ —*using the butresses of intellect and imagination to shore up the trembling pillars of our frangible era—Fadiman* _Brittle_ implies hardness plus frangibility because of the inflexibility of, or lack of elasticity in, the substance of which a thing is made; it also suggests susceptibility to quick snapping or fracture when subjected to pressure or strain (glass is especially brittle) _as a person ages, his bones grow more brittle* _brittle sticks of candy_ _The term is often extended to things that are dangerously lacking in elasticity or flexi-bility_ _he would take no risks with a thing so brittle as the Roman polity, on which depended the fate of forty-four . . .
millions of men—Buchan> Crisp usually suggests a good quality which makes a thing firm and brittle yet delicate and easily broken or crushed, especially between the teeth <crisp toast> <crisp lettuce> In extended use it implies freshness, briskness, cleanliness of cut, incisiveness, or other qualities that suggest the opposite of limpness, languor, or slackness <a crisp morning> <a crisp style> <a crisp answer> <a languorous work . . . with occasional interludes of crisp brilliancy—Anthony West> Short implies a tendency to crumble or break readily and is applicable to several kinds of substance <a short biscuit is rich in butter or other fat and is crisp and crumbly when eaten> <short mortar is difficult to spread because of oversanding> <short timber is desiccated wood> <short (or hot-short) steel is brittle when heated beyond a certain point because of an excess of sulfur> Friable is applicable to substances that are easily crumbled or pulverized <friable soil> <friable sandstone> <friable blackboard chalk> <particles of shale, mica, or other friable and unsound minerals—Bateman> Ant tough —Con *elastie, resilient, flexible: *strong, stout, sturdy, tenacious

2 frail, *weak, feeble, decrepit, infirm

Ana impotent, *powerless: delicate, faint (see CHOICE): evanescent, ephemeral, *transient, transitory

Ant durable

fragment fraction, piece, *part, portion, section, segment, sector, division, detail, member, parcel

Ana remnant, *remainder

frangrance, perfume, incense, redolence, bouquet are comparable when denoting a sweet or pleasant odor. Fragrance usually suggests the odor diffused by flowers or other growing things, though it is applicable to odors that merely suggest the presence of flowers <fragnace after showers—Milton> <flowers laugh before thee on their beds and fragrance in thy footing treads—Wordsworth> <through the open doors . . . the soft wind . . . brought in the garden fragrance—Stark Young> <a fragrance such as never clings to aught save happy living things—Millya> Perfume originally applied either to the pleasantly odorous smoke emitted by some burning things (as various spices, gums, or leaves) <three April perfumes in three hot Junes burned since first I saw you—Shak> or to some natural or prepared substance which emits a pleasant odor. The latter sense predominates in current use, especially in reference to a preparation in liquid form, also called a scent (for full treatment of this term see SMELL), that contains the essence of fragrant flowers or is a synthetic concoction <rose like a steam of rich distilled perfumes—Milton> <a perfume redolent of the odor of violets> When applied to an odor rather than to a preparation, perfume differs little from fragrance except that it usually, when unqualified, suggests a heavier and more redolent odor, or at least a less delicate one <the perfume of lilies had overcome the scent of books—Galsworthy> <a gigantic rose tree which clambered over the house . . . filling the air with the perfume of its sweetness—L. P. Smith> Incense is usually used in place of perfume for the agreeably odorous smoke emitted by burning spices and gums <the church was filled with the odor of incense> The term, from association with the use of incense in religious ceremonies, tends to apply to odors or things comparable to odors that are not only pleasant but grateful to the senses or that for some cause uplift or are mentally or spiritually exalting <the breezy call of incense-breathing Morn—Gray> <grateful the incense from the lime-tree flower—Keats> <love wraps his wings on either side the heart . . . absorbing all the incense of sweet thoughts so that they pass not to the shrine of sound—Tennyson> <this is that incense of the heart, whose fragrance smells to heaven—Cotton> Redolence usually implies a mixture of fragrance, often pungently agreeable, odors <redolence of a forest after a rain> <the fascinating redolence and toughness of New Orleans' red-lighted Storyville, where jazz was born—Time> <the redolence of a garden in spring> Bouquet applies especially to the distinctive fragrance of a good wine, which is perceptible when one inhales the delicate and agreeable odor <lifting his glass to his lips, [he] voluptuously inhaled its bouquet—Lynton> but it may be extended to other delicate and distinctive odors (as of cooking food) that suggest the excellent savoury character of the source of the odor <the grateful smell of cooking pork grew every moment more perfect in bouquet—Ethel Anderson> Ana *smell, scent, odor, aroma Ant stench, stink

fragnant *odorous, aromatic, redolent, balmy

Ana delicious, delectable, *delightful

Ant fedid —Con *malodorous, stinking, noisome, putrid, rank

frail fragile, *weak, feeble, infirm, decrepit

Ana slight, slender, tenuous, *thin, slim: puny, *petty: flimsy, sneazy (see LIMP): *powerless, impotent

Ant robust —Con *strong, stout, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious: *healthy, sound, hale: *vigoroius, lusty

frailty *fault, failing, foible, vice

Ana defect, flaw, *blemish: infirmity, fragility, feebleness, weakness (see corresponding adjectives at WEAK)

framer vb 1 *build, construct, erect, raise, rear

Ana fabricate, manufacture, fashion, *make

2 *contrive, devise, invent, concoct

Ana plan, scheme, project (see under PLAN n): conceive, envisage, *think

framework *structure, skeleton, anatomy

franchise *suffrage, vote, ballot

fragible *fragile, brittle, crisp, short, friable

frank adj Frank, candid, open, plain are comparable when they mean showing in speech, looks, and manners the willingness to tell what one feels or thinks. Frank stresses lack of reserve or of reticence in the expression of one's thoughts or feelings; it therefore usually connotes freedom from such restraints as fear, shyness, inarticulateness, secretiveness, or tact <this, to Anne, was a decided imperfection . . . she prized the frank, the openhearted, the eager character beyond all others—Austen> <things were as she had suspected: she had been frank in her questions and Polly had been frank in her answers—Joyce> <the child who has been treated wisely and kindly has a frank look in the eyes, and a fearless demeanor even with strangers—Russell> Candid is often used interchangeably with frank; it may distinguishively imply a fundamental honesty and fairness that make evasion impossible and suggest a refusal to dodge an issue or to be governed by bias or fear <I have tried to be as candid as possible, to follow out every thought as far as I could without caring where it would lead and without tempering any conclusions out of consideration to either my own sensibilities or those of any one else—Krutch> <I am sure that he was candid with me. I am certain that he had no guile—White> Open implies both frankness and candor, but it often suggests more naturalness or artlessness than frank and less conscientiousness than candid <Mr. Elliot was rational, discreet, polished, but he was not open. There was never any burst of feeling, any warmth of indignation or delight, at the evil or good of others—Austen> <for the white man to put himself mentally on their level is not more impossible than for these aborigines to be perfectly open, as children are, towards the white—Hudson> Plain comes closer to candid than to frank, but it suggests outspokenness, downrightness
ness, and freedom from affectation more than fairness of mind (a person he is trying vainly to help were less independent, an economist should form an independent judgment on currency questions, but an ordinary mortal had better follow authority—Russell) Sovereign (see also DOMINANT) and sovereignty stress the absence of a superior power and imply the supremacy within its own domain or sphere of what is so described or so designated. As applied to a state or government, these words usually involve the ideas both of political independence and of the possession of original and underived power (for many years before the Civil War it was debated whether the federal government was sovereign) (the powers of the general government, it has been said, are delegated by the States, who alone are truly sovereign . . . . It would be difficult to sustain this proposition—John Marshall) (although it [the government of the United States] is sovereign and supreme in its appropriate sphere of action, yet it does not possess all the powers which usually belong to the sovereignty of a nation—Talley) When used in reference to a thing, both words impute to that thing unquestioned supremacy and imply that everything within its sphere of influence is subject to it (noble and most sovereign reason—Shak) (the sovereignty of man lieth hid in knowledge; wherein many things are reserved that kings with their treasure cannot buy, nor with their force command—Bacon) Autonomous and autonomy may imply independence combined with freedom. The terms are much used in philosophy to describe or designate a theoretical or ideal freedom in which the individual is absolutely self-governing and acknowledges no claim of another to interference or control (the question is often asked whether an autonomous state and an autonomous church can exist side by side) (if this preeminence and autonomy of the spiritual be to be granted refusal to owe the bond of God at all—Inge) In political use the words seldom imply such absolute independence and freedom, for they are employed largely in reference to states which belong to an empire, a federation, or a commonwealth of nations. In reference to such states autonomy and autonomous commonly imply independence from the central power only in matters pertaining to self-government but recognition of the central governmental sovereignty in matters (as foreign policy) affecting the empire, federation, or commonwealth of nations as a whole. When a state is granted autonomy or become autonomous, the terms of such a grant are usually precisely stated (the Imperial Conference of 1926 defined the Dominions as "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or foreign affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations")—Statesman's Year-Book Autarchic and autarchy historically implied absolute sovereignty or absolute or autocratic rule, but they have become interchangeable with autarkic and autarky, and both pairs of words imply economic and especially national economic self-sufficiency; the words are used in reference to states or governments that favor isolation through a policy of rigidly and arbitrarily planned economic self-sufficiency as a means of maintaining their independence (the totalitarian countries . . . . have created a self-encirclement by their abnormal economic policy, their costly and unnatural autarky—Manchester Guardian) (each community in Old China was cell-like, largely autonomous and autarkic—Leiberg) (the issue today is, therefore, whether a policy aimed at economic nationalism—self-sufficiency—autarchy—creates an environment favorable to the recon-
striction of a peaceful, tranquil, confident world—Lewis Douglas (a network of more or less closed, autarchic economies, each trying to the best of its ability to exist on a self-sufficient basis—Dean)

**Ana** liberated, emancipated, delivered, freed, released, enfranchised (see **free vb**)

**Ant** bond—Con compelled, coerced, forced, constrained, obliged (see **force vb**)

**free vb** Free, release, liberate, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise are comparable when meaning to set loose from whatever ties or binds or to make clear of whatever encumbers or holds back. **Free** is the ordinary general term interchangeable with many of the succeeding terms; it may be used not only in reference to persons that are in bondage or in a state of dependence or oppression or under restraint or constraint (free one's slaves) (free an oppressed people) (free a person from prison or from a charge) (free one from the necessity of speaking against a proposal) but also in reference to things that are confined, entangled, or encumbered and may therefore be unfastened, unloosed, disentangled, or dis-engaged (free a squirrel from a trap) (free her hair from a net) (flower scents, that only nighttime frees—Lowell)

**Release** carries a stronger implication of loosing or of setting loose from confinement, restraint, or obligation (release a prisoner) (release a person from a promise) (release me from my bands with the help of your good hands—Shak.) (activities that released his stored-up energy) (death has released him from his sufferings) (only by indulging a deep impulse towards sermonizing could he release those other impulses which made him the great writer he was—Syesks) **Liberate**, a very close synonym of the preceding words, differs from them chiefly in carrying a stronger suggestion of resulting liberty. The term may therefore connote, as do the others, emergence from some more or less disagreable bondage or restraint (liberate all slaves by a proclamation) or it may merely suggest a cutting of a tie, relationship, or connection without regard to the power of another thing or things to restrain or restrict, thereby approaching separation, disengage, or detach in meaning (oxygen is liberated when potassium chlorate is heated) (an electric current will decompose water, liberating hydrogen) (the poet draws chisement, manumission (see corresponding verbs at adj) (deliver a message) (deliver a person from a promise) (deliver a package to the purchaser) or to utter or pronounce when it implies a relieving oneself of something one must say or is charged by oneself or another with saying (deliver a message over the telephone) (deliver a speech) The term may denote the disburdening of a woman of offspring at the time of its birth (the queen was safely delivered of a son and heir) or the freeing of all prisoners confined in a prison (deliver a jail) **Discharge** (see also Dismiss 1; perform) implies the release of someone or something that is held in confinement or under restraint or within the bounds of a thing; it may suggest liberation (discharge a prisoner) (discharge a hospital patient) but often it implies an ejection (discharge a shot) (discharge an arrow) or an emission (discharge passengers from a train) (discharge a cargo) or a pouring forth through an outlet or vent (the smoke is discharged through a very large chimney) (the stream discharges its waters into the Hudson River) or a payment or settlement (as of an obligation) (discharged his debts) Often discharge differs from release in carrying a stronger connotation of force or violence (many creative writers have a critical activity which is not all discharged into their work—T. S. Eliot) (all his accumulated nervous agitation was discharged on Maud like a thunderbolt—Bennett) **Enfranchise** basically implies a freeing from subjection (the nobles desired . . . to enfranchise themselves . . . from the power of the king—Belloq) but in its commonest sense it specifically implies the removal of political disabilities and admission to full political rights as a freeman or as a citizen (slaves were emancipated by the proclamation of President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, but were not enfranchised until the fiftieth amendment went into effect in 1870)

**Con** *hamper, fetter, manacle, shackle, trammel, hog-tie:* (imprison, incarcerate, jail, immure, intern: confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit:* restrain, curb, inhibit

**freebooter** *pirate, buccaneer, privateer, corsair

**freedom** 1 independence, autonomy, sovereignty, autarchy, autarky (see under **free adj**)

**Ana** liberation, emancipation, release, delivery, enfranchisement, manumission (see corresponding verbs at **free** adj) liberty, license (see **freedom**)

**Ant** bondage—Con *servitude, slavery

**freedom** 2 Freedom, liberty, license are comparable when meaning the state or condition of one who can think, believe, or act as he wishes. **Freedom** (see also under **free adj** is the term of widest application; in philosophy, for example, it often implies a state or condition in which there is not only total absence of restraint but release even from the compulsion of necessity; at the other extreme, in ordinary casual use, **freedom** merely implies the absence of any awareness of being restrained, repressed, or hampered; between these two extremes the term may imply the absence of a definite restraint or of compulsion from a particular power or agency (me this unchartered freedom tires—Wordsworth) (the freedom of the press) (he was not affected by her reserve, and talked to her with the same freedom as to anybody else—Archibald Marshall) (who would not say, with Huxley, "Let me be wound up every day like a watch, to go right fatally, and I ask no..."
better freedom"—James> Liberty is often used interchangeably with freedom, but it often carries one of two implications which are not so marked in the use of freedom. The first of these implications is the power to choose what one wishes to do, say, believe, or support as distinguished from the state of being uninhibited in doing or thinking (had the liberty to come and go as he pleased) (in totalitarian states there is no liberty of expression for writers and no liberty of choice for their readers—Huxley) (in freedom in thought, the liberty to try and err, the right to be his own man—Menciken) The second of these implications is deliverance or release from restraint or compulsion (set a slave at liberty) (the prisoners were willing to fight for their liberty) (from bondage freed, at liberty to serve as you loved best—Baring) License often implies the liberty to disobey the rules or regulations imposed on the many, but not necessarily governing all, when a great advantage is to be gained by disobedience (poetic license) (sometimes, with truly medieval license, singing to the sacred music . . . songs from the street—Peter) (a general must be allowed considerable license in the field) (has little truck with those who have taken literary license—Horner) More often, however, the term implies an abuse of liberty in the sense of the power to do exactly what one pleases (license they mean when they cry Liberty—Milton) (many persons think that freedom of the press and liberty of free speech often degenerate into license) (Caesar's legions . . . were enjoying their victory in the license which is miscalled liberty—Froude) Ana *exemption, immunity: scope, *range, compass, sweep Ant necessity —Con compulsion, constraint, coercion (see corresponding verbs at force) freethinker unbeliever, *atheist, agnostic, deist, infidel freezing adj *cold, frigid, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic, chilly, cool freight n cargo, *load, burden, lading frenetic adj *furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, delirious, rabid Ana demented, *insane, mad: *irrational, unreasonable: provoked, excited, stimulated (see provoke) frenzied *furious, frantic, wild, frenetic, delirious, rabid Ana demented, deranged, *insane, crazed, mad: distracted, bewildered (see puzzle) frenzy 1 delirium, *mania, hysteria 2 fury, *inspiration, afflatus Ana *ecstasy, rapture, transport frequently *often, oftentimes Ant rarely, seldom fresh novel, *new, new-fashioned, newfangled, modern, modernistic, original Ana gleaming, glistening, sparkling (see flash vb): vernal, *youthful: raw, green, crude, uncouth (see rude): naive, unsophisticated, artless, *natural Ant stale —Con *trite, hackneyed, shopworn, stereotyped, threadbare fret vb *abrade, excoriate, chafe, gall Ana *eat, devour, consume: *worry, harass fretful peevish, *irritable, petulant, querulous, fractious, snappish, waspish, pettish, huffy Ana cross, crabby, touchy, choleric, *irascible: captious, carping, caustic, faultfinding, *critical: *contrary, perverse Con patient, long-suffering, forbearing, resigned (see corresponding nouns at patience): *tame, submissive, subdued friable short, frangible, crisp, brittle, *fragile Ana crumbling or crumbly, disintegrating (see corresponding verbs at decay) friar *religious, monk, nun friend, acquaintance, intimate, confidant are comparable when they designate a person, especially not related by blood, with whom one is on good and, usually, familiar terms. Friend, in its application, ranges from a person who is not hostile or is a well-wisher to a person whose society one seeks or accepts with pleasure because of liking, respect, or affection. Acquaintance is applied to a person with whom one is on speaking terms. However, when these words are used in contrast, both imply a degree of familiarity, friend distinctively connoting close bonds of love and affection and acquaintance, comparative infrequency of contact and less close personal interest (you understand that I am not their friend. I am only a holiday acquaintance —Conrad) (a companion loves some agreeable qualities which a man may possess, but a friend loves the man himself—Boswell) This distinction is not invariably observed, especially when acquaintance is used as a collective plural (he has a wide circle of friends; he has a large acquaintance) (he never speaks much, unless among his intimate acquaintance—Austen) Intimate adds to friend the implications of a deeper affection and a closeness of association that tend to preclude reserve (only his intimates were aware of his plans) Confidant usually designates that intimate who actually is entrusted with one's secrets or is admitted to confidential discussions. Ana comrade, companion, crony, *associate: ally, colleague, *partner Ant foe —Con *enemy: antagonist, *opponent, adversary: rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at rival) friendly *amicable, neighborly Ana *familiar, intimate, close: *loving, affectionate, devoted: loyal, true, steadfast, *faithful Ant unfriendly: belligerent —Con hostile, antagonistic, antipathetic (see corresponding nouns at enmity) friendship, amity, comity, goodwill are comparable when they denote the relation (or, in the first three instances, the alliance) existing between persons, communities, states, or peoples that are in accord and in sympathy with each other. Friendship is the strongest of these terms in its implications of sentiment in the relation and of closeness of attachment (the friendship between me and you I will not compare to a chain; for that the rains might rust, or the falling tree might break—Penn) Sometimes it suggests an alliance; at other times it excludes that suggestion (peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none—Jefferson) (friendship, that exquisite sense of a mutual sympathy of heart and mind which occasionally arises between independent individuals —Cecil) Amity implies the absence of enmity or discord. Positively, it may imply nothing more than amicable relations (the colonists and the Indians seldom lived together in amity) or it may suggest reciprocal friendliness (on his arrival he found amity instead of enmity awaiting him. Father Vaillant had already endeared himself to the people—Cather) Often the term suggests benevolent understanding and mutual tolerance of potentially antagonistic aims or views (the amity that wisdom knits not, folly may easily untie—Shak) (the less we have to do with the amities or enmities of Europe, the better—Jefferson) Comity has come to imply comradeship based either upon an interchange of courtesies or upon a similarity of interests and aims. The word often denotes a group bound together by friendship or by common interests but without implying loss of independence by members of the group or transfers of sovereignty from the members to the group (outside the comity of the empire, beyond the border provinces and client-kings, lay the unknown lands and the
strange peoples—Buchan 〈a Europe which pretends to have founded its comity upon brotherhood—La Barre〉

Goodwill derives its chief implication of a benevolent attitude or of reciprocal good feeling largely from the Authorized Version's translation of the Angelic Hymn 〈glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men—Lk 2:14〉. The term is often used in international diplomacy to designate a reciprocal friendliness which constitutes an informal bond between nations and works to the advantage of all concerned 〈goodwill is the mightiest practical force in the universe—Dole〉. To promote the exchange of intellectual ideas and goodwill between Belgium and America—School and Society〈be assured that none of us have anything but goodwill toward you personally—Ellison〉

Ana sympathetic, affinity, *attraction: *sympathy, empathy: accord, concord, consonance, *harmony: *alliance, league, coalition, fusion, federation

Ant animosity — Con 〈enmity, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, rancor: *hate, hatred〉

fright n alarm, consternation, panic, *fear, dread, dismay, terror, horror, trepidation

A frightening or scare, startling, affrighting, frightening 〈see corresponding verbs 〈FRIGHTEN〉; appalling, horrifying, daunting 〈see DISMAY vb〉

fright vb 〈frighten, scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, startle, affray, affright 〈see those at FRIGHTEN〉

frighten, fright, scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, startle, affray, affright 〈see those at FRIGHTEN〉

frightened, frightened, frightened, alarmed, terrified, alarmed,startled, alarmed 〈the world of the house . . . frightened Clara—Anderson〉

〈in the world too frightened to be honest—T. S. Eliot〉

Fright is an older and chiefly literary or dialect form of frighten 〈you have death perpetually before your eyes, only so far removed as to compose the mind without frightening it—Gray〉. In informal and conversational use scare is often equivalent to frighten; in more formal use it usually implies fear that causes one to run, shy, or tremble 〈sour visages, enough to sour visages, gray—Gray〉 〈a noise did scare me from the tomb—Shak〉 〈earth shakes beneath them, and heaven roars above; but nothing scares them from the course they love—Cowper〉

Alarm in the relevant sense 〈compare ALARM n 1〉 nearly always stresses apprehension or anxiety 〈they are alarmed for his safety〉

〈the girl was . . . alarmed by the altogether unknown expression in the woman's face—Conrad〉

Frighten is perhaps the most frequent in use; it is the most inclusive, for it may range in implication from a momentary reaction to a stimulus to a state of mind in which fear or dread prevails. Typically, however, it implies a more or less paralyzing fear affecting either the body or the will 〈the silence of the house . . . frightened Clara—Anderson〉

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gloom—Beckford] the up behind the Sangre de Cristo, gathered great thunderheads, lowering as they came, fringed threateningly with light—Mary Austin] Gloom ordinarily carries a much stronger implication of gloominess or depression and a much weaker (often nonexistent) suggestion of threatening than does lower (they may be wise in not glooming over than is inevitable—Cabell] <<Skiddaw [a mountain] gloomed solemnly overhead—Dowden>>

Ant smile — Con *disapprove, deprecate

frizzly blowzy, *sallowly, dowdy

Ana slovenly, unkempt, disheveled, sloppy, *slipshod: squally, *dirty, filthy: *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss

Ant trim: smart — Con *neat, tidy, trig, spick-and-span: *clean, cleanly

frugal thrifty, economical, *sparing

Ana *careful, meticulous: provident, prudent, discreet (see under PRUDENCE): saving, preserving, conserving (see SAVE): parsimonious, cheeseparing, penny-pinching (see STINGY)

Ant wasteful — Con extravagant (see EXCESSIVE): prodigal, lavish, *profuse

fruitful fecund, prolific, *fertile

Ana reproducing or reproductive, propagating, breeding (see corresponding verbs at GENERATE): bearing, producing or productive, yielding (see corresponding verbs at BEAR): teeming, abounding (see TEEM): luxuriant, lush, exuberant (see PROFUSE)

Ant unfruitful: fruitless — Con *sterile, barren, impotent, infertile: *fertile, vain, bootless, abortive

fruitfulness prolificacy, fecundity, fertility (see under FERTILE)

fruition enjoyment, delectation *pleasure, delight, joy

Ana realization, actualization, materialization (see corresponding verbs at REALIZE): fulfillment, accomplishment (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM): attainment, achievement (see corresponding verbs at REACH): possession, enjoyment (see corresponding verbs at HAVE)

fruitless *fertile, vain, bootless, abortive

Ana unfruitful, barren, infertile, *sterile: *vain, idle, otiose, nugatory, empty, hollow: frustrated, thwarted, foiled (see FRUSTRATE)

Ant fruitful — Con *effective, effectual, efficacious, efficient: *fertile, fecund, prolific

fruitful, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent, outwit mean either to defeat a person attempting or hoping to achieve an end or satisfy a desire or, in some cases, to defeat another's desire. To frustrate is to make vain or inefficient all efforts, however feeble or however vigorous, to fulfill one's intention or desire. Whatever nature... purposes to herself, she never suffers any reason, design, or accident to frustrate—Fielding] <<my good intentions towards you... are continually frustrated—Cowper>>

nature... supports as well as frustrates our lofty aspirations—Muller] To thwart is to frustrate especially by crossing or running counter to someone or something making headway <<others had thrust themselves into his life and thwarted his purposes—George Eliot>>

<<public enforcement of hygienic practices is thwarted by a really obstructive neglect of the rules of health by her peasantry—Hobs>on>>

Foil commonly implies a blocking or turning aside that makes further effort difficult or destroys one's inclination to proceed further. This attempt to replace ambition by love had been as fully foiled as his ambition itself—Hardy] <<intelligence as a means to foil brute force—Hear>>

To baffle is to frustrate especially by confusing or puzzling: to balk, by intersecting obstacles or hindrances <<such knotty problems of alleles, such enigmatical entries, and such sphinx's riddles of streets without thoroughfares as must, I conceive, baffle the audacity of porters and confound the intellects of hackney-coachmen—De Quincey>> <<I like reading my Bible without being baffled by unmeaninginess—Arnold>>

<<when an affection as intense as that is balked in its direct path and repressed it usually, as we know, finds an indirect outlet—Brooks>> <<his inclination to dreams, balked by the persistent holding of his mind to definite things—Anderson>>

Circumvent implies frustration by stratagem; outwit, by craft or cunning <<immigration laws had been growing more and more effective... but... the rejected aliens soon learned a method of circumventing them—Heiser>>

<<the skill with which she [Elizabeth I] had hoodwinked and outwitted every statesman in Europe—J. R. Green>>

Ana negative, counteract, *neutralize: defeat, beat, overcome, *conquer: *forbid, prohibit, inhibit: *prevent, preclude, obviate: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar

Ant fulfill — Con effect, accomplish, achieve, *perform: further, forward, promote, *advance: *incite, instigate, abet, foment

fuddle muddle, addle, *confuse

Ana & Ant see those at Befuddle

fugitive adj evanescent, transitory, *transient, fleeting, passing, ephemeral, momentary, short-lived

fulfill 1 effect, achieve, accomplish, execute, *perform, discharge

Ana *enforce, implement: compass, attain, *reach, gain: *realize, actualize: finish, complete (see close)

Ant frustrate: fail (in)

2 *satisfy, meet, answer

Ana equal, approach, *match, touch, rival

Ant fall short (of)

full, complete, plenary, replete are not interchangeable with each other, but the last three are interchangeable with the most comprehensive term, full, in at least one of its senses. Full implies the presence or inclusion of everything that is wanted or required by something or that can be held, contained, or attained by it: thus, a full year numbers 365 days or, in leap years, 366 days; a full basket is one that can hold nothing more: a full mind is stocked to the point of overflowing with knowledge or ideas; a full moon has reached the height of its illumination by the sun; a full stomach is one that can contain no more food with comfort or is completely satisfied; a full meal is one lacking in none of the courses or sometimes in none of the elements to make a satisfying or balanced meal; a sponge full of water has absorbed all the water it can hold. Complete comes into comparison and close synonymy with full when the latter implies the entirety that is needed to the perfection, consumption, integrity, or realization of a thing; thus, a fire in which the fuel is quite consumed may be described as involving either full or complete combustion; a complete meal is the same as a full meal; a teacher should have complete, or full, control of his class <<if you consider the ritual of the Church during the cycle of the year, you have the complete drama represented. The Mass is a small drama, having all the units; but in the Church year you have represented the full drama of creation—T. S. Eliot>>

<<the panorama of today's events is not an accurate or complete picture, for history will supply posterity with much evidence which is hidden from the eyes of contemporaries—Eliot>>

Plenary comes into comparison with full when full implies the absence of every qualification or even suggestion of qualification as to a thing's completeness. Plenary, however, heightens the force of full in this sense and carries a stronger sug-
fulsome, oily, unctuous, oleaginous, slick, soapy are com-
comprehensive, including:

Once supernatural and so authoritative that it were

often, the term implies fullness to satiety or

Abundant supply or of being filled to the brim with some-

Often, however, the term implies fullness to satiety or

As compared with

Sometimes used

Addition of a mask for evil or dubious ends <an

Either a sugar coating or a smooth, iron-clad varnish

For laughing or for finding a usually genial cause for

And commonplace evasion—

In a manner, but it usually stresses the speciousness of that

To gentle or malicious ridicule <make

Or turned to laughter.

And utterance not to be taken seriously. In such uses, how-

In the phrase

Theקת of something which in proper measure is not displeasing but which in abundance is

Typically the term is applied to praise, flattery, and compliments, with the intent to suggest that they exceed the bounds of good
taste and are lacking in truth and sincerity <fulsome

The bedaubing one of those worthies with the most fulsome praise—Smollett

The fulsome strains of courtly adulation—Edgeworth

He could never be made ridiculous, for he was always ready to laugh at

Himself and to prick the bladder of fulsome praise—

Buchan

Oily and unctuous both suggest the smoothness and blandness of oil. Oily, as applied to persons and their utterances and acts, carries a strong implication of an offensively ingratia
ting quality and sometimes suggests a suavity, a benevolence, or a kindness that is assumed as a mask for evil or dubious ends <an oily

Scoundrel

Oily manners

Oily smugness: *only oily and commonplace evasion—Stevenson

An oily, sycophantic press agent—Rogov

Uncuous, on the other hand, suggests the assumption, often in hypocrisy, of the tone or manner of one who is grave, devout, or spiritual

The uncuous grandiloquence of Dickens' Chad-

band

The look was, perhaps, uncuous, rather than spiritual, and had, so to speak, a kind of fleshy effulgence... He... smiled with more uncuous benignity than ever—Hawthorne

Mark Twain writes those words with an almost uncuous gravity of conviction—Brooks

The devastating portrait of the uncuous literary opportunist—Cordell

Oleaginous is sometimes used in place of oily or uncuous when pomposity is connoted or a mocking note is desired <the lank party who

Sniffs in place of oily

Cockcrow—Farrar

Shall may suggest the assumption of a smooth, ingratiating manner, but it usually stresses the speciousness of that appearance and often implies sly wily trickiness to the

Person who assumes it this slick type of younger anticipates exactly how adults will react to him and plays on their sensibilities—Meyer

A pair of slick operators had given the district a bad name by salting a barren

claim—Oscar Lewis

Soap comes close to unctuous in its extended sense, but it carries almost no suggestion of hypocrisy: rather it connotes an unduly soft, bland, or ingratiating manner <soap supplications for unity—New Republic

Ana lavish, *profuse, exuberant: *excessive, extravagant:
cloying, satiating, sating (see satiate): bombastic, grandiloquent, magniloquent (see rhetorical)

Fumble vb *botch, bungle, miff, cobble

Ana blunder, flounder, *stumble

Fumigate disinfect, sanitize, *sterilize

Fun, jest, sport, game, play are comparable when they denote something (as an activity, an utterance, or a form of expression) that provides diversion or amusement or is intended to arouse laughter. Fun implies amusement or

An engagement in what interests as an end in itself, or it may apply to what provides this amusement or interest and then often additionally implies a propensity for laughing or for finding a usually genial cause for

Laughter or amusement <had such a zest for everything and thought it all such fun—Rölaag

Make living more fun, life more complete—Printers' Ink

A man full of fun: Jest (see also joke) is comparable to fun chiefly in fixed phrases (as in jest) or when applied to activity or utterance not to be taken seriously. In such uses, how-

Ever, jest commonly carries a stronger implication of ridicule or hoaxing <a man given to making his most significant remarks in jest>

Make jest of very serious problems

Sport (see also under play vb 1) is often interchangeable with fun <there is a good deal of sport in many serious activities> or jest

Play a trick on a friend for the sport of it

But its most common use is in certain idiomatic phrases (as make sport and in sport) in which it suggests an intent to induce amusement or provoke laughter by putting someone or something up to gentle or malicious ridicule <make sport of a sug-

Gest <make a good deal of sport out of his friend's misfortune>

Teasing begun in sport ended in an ugly brawl

Game as a close synonym of fun survives chiefly in the phrase to make game of where, like sport in the corresponding idiom, it usually carries a suggestion of

Mischievous or malice and implies a certain ridicule <make game of an unfortunate rival>

In more general related use game (see also games under athletics) may apply to an activity carried on in a spirit of fun <there have been few poets more successful... in having fun with poetry. To Mr. Frost it is a pleasant game—Leary

Play, which stresses in all senses an opposition to earnest,

May replace fun or sport or jest when a thoroughly in-

nocuous implication of lack of earnestness or seriousness is desired <pretend to spank a child in play>

Ana amusement, diversions, recreation, entertainment (see under muse): Merriment, jocundity, blitheness, joviality (see corresponding adjectives at merry): *mirth,

Glee, hilarity, jollity

Function n 1 Function, office, duty, province are com-
parable when they mean the act, acts, activities, or operations expected of a person or thing by virtue of his or its natural

State, status, or position. Function is the most comprehensive of these terms, capable of referring not only to a living thing or to a part or member of a living thing but to anything in nature (as the sun, the stars, or the earth) or in art (as poetry, painting, music, or an example of one of these) or to anything constructed that

Serves a definite end or purpose or is intended to perform a particular kind of work <fulfill one's function as a mother>

The function of the stomach is to digest food sufficiently to enable it to pass into the intestine

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Function, office, duty, province are comparable when they mean the act, acts, activities, or operations expected of a person or thing by virtue of his or its nature, structure, status, or position. Function is the most comprehensive of these terms, capable of referring not only to a living thing or to a part or member of a living thing but to anything in nature (as the sun, the stars, or the earth) or in art (as poetry, painting, music, or an example of one of these) or to anything constructed that serves a definite end or purpose or is intended to perform a particular kind of work <fulfill one's function as a mother>
function of language is twofold: to communicate emotion and to give information—Huxley 〈the function of the leaves of a plant〉 〈the function of criticism〉 〈what after all . . . is the true function of religion?—Dickinson〉

Office applies usually to the function of or the work to be performed by a person as a result of his trade, profession, employment, or position with relation to others; in this sense it refers to a service that is expected of one or to a charge that is laid upon one 〈O, pardon me for bringing these ill news, since you did leave it for my office, sir—Shak.〉 〈to suppose she would shrink . . . from the office of a friend—Austen〉 〈they exercise the offices of the judge, the priest, the counsellor—Gladstone〉

Duty (see also TASK) applies not only to the tasks expected or required to be performed in the course of occupation or employment 〈the duties of a cook〉 〈the duties of a hotel porter〉 but to the offices associated with status, rank, or calling and generally regarded as inherent in that status, rank, or calling and as imposing an obligation upon the person so stationed 〈a man and wife fulfill their biological function when they produce children, but they must still perform their duties as parents in rearing, protecting, and educating those children〉 〈the governor regarded it as his duty to warn the citizens of the dangers ahead〉 〈it is not only the right, but it is the judicial duty of the court, to examine the whole case as presented by the record—Taney〉 〈it is in large part because of our failure to discharge our peacetime responsibilities as citizens that we must do our grim duty in war or perish—Lodge〉

Province (see also FIELD) denotes a function, office, or duty which comes within one's range of jurisdiction, powers, competence, or customary practice 〈nursing does not belong to a man; it is not his province—Austen〉 〈it is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is—John Marshall〉

Ana end, goal, object, objective, purpose (see INTENTION): business, concern, *affair: *task, job 2 *power, faculty

Ana *ability, capacity, capability: action, behavior, operation (see corresponding verbs at ACT)

function vb operate, work, *act, behave, react

fundamental adj 1 Fundamental, basic, basal, underlying, radical are comparable when they mean forming or affecting the groundwork, roots, or lowest part of something. Fundamental is used chiefly in reference to immaterial things or to abstractions, whether they are thought of as built up on a foundation or as having their origins in roots 〈the fundamental rules of poetry〉 〈a fundamental change in his attitude to life〉 〈the fundamental rock in a geological formation〉 〈the fundamental absurdity of the plot . . . remains—FitzGerald〉

But basic is preferred to fundamental when the reference is to a definite or concrete groundwork, bottom, or starting point 〈the basic stone of a pillar〉 〈a basic wage in the electrical industry〉 〈the distinction between basic scientific research and applied research—News Front〉

Basal differs from basic chiefly in not being used as often in reference to immaterial things and is more often implying reference to the bottom or to the lowest point or regions of a thing 〈geologizing the basal parts of the Andes—Darwin〉 〈the basal plane of a crystal〉 〈basal leaves on a stem〉

Underlying may be used to suggest nothing more than extension beneath something else 〈underlying rock strata〉 〈the underlying layer of tissue〉

However, especially when the reference is to something immaterial, the term frequently comes close to fundamental, differing from it chiefly in suggesting a depth that removes the thing from one's range of vision or a remoteness that demands study or research on the part of one who would detect it 〈the underlying motive for his act〉 〈the underlying causes of World War I〉 〈underlying differences between Communism and socialism〉 〈the social transformation now demanded of us by our underlying technical, economic and social development—Strachey〉

Radical (see also LIBERAL 2) implies reference to the root or origin or ultimate source of a thing; thus, a radical change is one that is so thorough-going that it affects the fundamental character of the thing involved; a radical error touches the very center and source of a thing's life 〈actual differences distinguishing the different races of mankind—differences that may be ascribed to radical peculiarities of mind—Bridges〉

Ana *primary, primal, primordial, prime: *elementary, elemental 2 *essential, vital, cardinal


Con *superficial: *subordinate, secondary

fundamental n *principle, axiom, law, theorem

Ana *element, constituent, component, factor: ground, basis, foundation, *base, groundwork

funky *laughable, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical, droll

Ana humorous, *witty, jocose, jocular, facetious: amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): grotesque, bizarre, *fantastic, antic

Con *serious, solemn, grave, sober: *melancholy, plaintive, doleful, dolorous, lugubrious

furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, frenetic, delirious, rabid are comparable when they mean possessed with uncontrollable excitement especially under the stress of a powerful emotion. Furious implies strong excitement or violence that characterizes the movements or activities of one aroused by a powerful emotion; it may be applied to the activities or to the emotion 〈he was in a furious rage〉 〈she worked with furious zeal while the mood lasted〉 〈she was now entering into that stage of furious activity which represented the exalted phase of the mental circular state—Ellis〉

Furious may also mean nothing more than intensely angry with or without an outward display of excitement 〈beneath her calm she was furious against her favorite—Bennett〉

Frantic implies actions or words that indicate temporary mental disturbance under the stress of a powerful emotion (as grief, worry, anxiety, fear, or rage); it usually suggests, especially when applied to actions or behavior, a situation from which it is almost impossible to escape 〈his frantic efforts to free himself resulted only in his becoming worse entangled〉

〈there was a full moon at the time, and . . . every dog near my tent was baying it. The brutes . . . drove me frantic—Kipling〉 〈a frantic beating of wings—Cather〉

My father, frantic with anxiety over my safety—Heiser

Frenzied suggests uncontrollable excitement under the sway of an emotion, often one not explicitly designated, but it differs from frantic in carrying no clear suggestion of a desperate situation 〈a frenzied welcome by the populace〉 〈why do we let these abstractions and implausible dogmatisms take possession of us . . . and fight their futile, frenzied conflicts in our persons?—L. P. Smith〉

〈could hear the prosecutor's frenzied denunciations of the accused—H. W. Carter〉

〈ignoring the frenzied nervous attempts of an unprepared city to make some semblance of defense—Gardner〉

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Wild comes close to frantic in its meaning but stresses a disturbed rather than a nearly deranged state of mind; it therefore may be used with reference not only to the effect of a violent emotion but to the effect produced by any undue strain on the nerves or the mind (she is wild with grief) wild screams of anguish (the news drove the people wild with joy) these are but wild and whirling words, my lord—Shak. wild with hatred and insane with baffled desire—Thackeray. Frenetic suggests a loss of balance, especially a tendency to be affected by extreme excitement under the stress of religious or partisan emotions (some of the more frenetic of the franc-tireurs of liberalism—Pall Mall Gazette) when inspired, their [the sacred writers'] individuality was intact. They were never ... frenetic—J. P. Newman. Delirious, like frenzied, implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium—Edmund Wilson. Delirious joy (Edmund Wilson) implies uncontrollable excitement under the stress of religious or partisan emotions (some of the more frenetic of the franc-tireurs of liberalism—Pall Mall Gazette) when inspired, their [the sacred writers'] individuality was intact. They were never ... frenetic—J. P. Newman.

In their extended senses the words in this group retain their respective implications but refer to mental, moral, or physical qualifications rather than to things (such education as the local schools could furnish—Smythe) thus equipped with a philosophy Emerson was prepared to begin his work as a critic—Parrington required ... the judge to outfitted him legally—Hackett. one weeps to see Fowler [Modern English Usage] stripped and reaccoutered by an unskilled hand for ends which he would repudiate—Barzun. he armed himself with patience, as was needful, having so much to endure—Norton.

**further** adv & adj farther

**furthermore** moreover, besides, likewise, also, too

**futile** vain, fruitless, bootless, abortive all denote barren result. Futile and vain parallel each other only when they imply failure to realize an immediate aim (it was equal in vain, and he soon wearied of his futile vigilance—Stevenson) Vain (see also VAIN 1) usually implies little more than simple failure; futile may connote the completeness of the failure or the unawareness of the undertaking (all literature, art, and science are vain ...) if they do not enable you to be glad—Ruskin. Opposition ... had been so futile that surrender seemed the only course open—Jones. Though both vain and futile
may be applied to something contemplated but not yet tried, vain more often suggests a judgment based on previous experience and futile, one based on reasoning from self-evident principles (but it is vain to talk of form and symmetry to the pure expansionist—Babbit) (it is futile to ask which [Shakespeare or Dante] undertook the more difficult job—T. S. Eliot) Fruitless is often interchangeable with vain. But its basic meaning makes it especially applicable to undertakings that entail long, patient, arduous effort and severe disappointment (whom he had long time sought with fruitless suit—Spenser) (he nursed a grievance and, with Scotch persistence, kept up for years his fruitless efforts to reinstatement—Ashley) Bootless, chiefly poetic, is especially applied to petitions or efforts to obtain relief (they would not pity me, yet plead I must; and bootless unto them—Shak) (no guides were to be found, and in the next summer the young man returned from his bootless errand—Parkman) Abortive implies failure before plans are matured or activities begun (an abortive conspiracy) (an abortive attempt to break jail) (he had stirred up the Maronites to attack us . . . had I not brought up unexpectedly so many Arabs as rendered the scheme abortive—Scott) (some of them would play a considerable part in the abortive renaissance of the 1890's—Malcolm Cowley) Ana vain, idle, otiose, nugatory: *ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious Con effectual, *effective, efficacious: fruitful (see fertile)

gab vb *chat, chatter, patter, prate, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber
gabble vb babble, gab, chatter, *chat, patter, prattle, prattle, jabber, gibber
gad vb *wander, stray, roam, ramble, rove, range, prowl, gallivant, trample, meander
gadget contraption, *device, contrivance
gag n *joke, jest, jape, quip, witticism, wisecrack, *gag
gain vb obtain, procure, secure, acquire, *get
Ana achieve, accomplish, effect (see perform): endeavor, strive, struggle, *attempt, try
Ant forfeit: lose
2 compass, *reach, achieve, attain
Ana & Ant see those at gain 1
3 *improve, recover, recuperate, convalesce
Ana progress, *advance: cure, heal, remedy: *strength, invigorate
gainful paying, remunerative, lucrative, profitable
Ana productive, yielding, bearing (see corresponding verbs at bear)
gainsay *deny, contradict, impugn, contravene, negative, traverse
Ana controvert, refute, confute, *disprove: oppose, combat, resist, withstand, fight
Ant admit (sense 2) —Con *grant, concede, allow
gale *wind, breeze, hurricane, zephyr
gall n effrontery, nerve, cheek, *temerity, hardihood, audacity
gall vb chafe, excoriate, fret, *abrade
Ana *injure, hurt, harm, damage: *worry, harass
gallant adj courtly, chivalrous, courteous, polite, *civil
Ana attentive, considerate, *thoughtful: *spirited, mettle-some, high-spirited: urbane, *suave
gallantry 1 *heroism, valor, prowess
Ana bravery, intrepidity, valorousness, dauntless (see corresponding adjectives at brave): *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution
Ant dastardliness
2 *courtesy, attention, amenity
Ana chivalrousness or chivalry, courtliness (see corresponding adjectives at civil): deference, homage (see honor): suavity, urbanity (see corresponding adjectives at suave): address, poise, *tact, savoir faire
Con boorishness, churlishness, loutishness, coarseness (see corresponding adjectives under boor): discourteousness or discourtesy, ungraciousness, rudeness (see corresponding adjectives at rude)
gallery 1 *passage, passageway, corridor, arcade, cloister, ambulatory, aisle, hall, hallway
2 *museum, treasury, archives, library
gallivant *wander, stray, roam, ramble, rove, range, prowl, gad, trample, meander
galumph *stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, lumber, lollop, bumble
galvanize excite, stimulate, *provoke, quicken, pique
Ana rouse, arouse, rally, *stir, awaken, waken: electrify, *thril, enthuse: kindle, fire (see light vb)
gambit *trick, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, ploy, artifice, wile, feint
gambol n frolic, disport, play, sport, rollick, romp (see under play vb)
gambol vb frolic, disport, *play, sport, rollick, romp
game n 1 sport, play, *fun, jest
Ana diversion, amusement, recreation, entertainment (see under amuse)
2 in plural form games *athletics, sports
Ana *contest, conflict
gamut *range, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview
gap n *break, interruption, interval, interim, hiatus, lacuna
Ana *breach, split, rent, rift: *hole, hollow, cavity: division, separation (see corresponding verbs at separate): pass, passage (see way)
gape vb *gaze, stare, glare, gloat, peer
Ana regard, admire (see under regard n): look, watch, *see
garbage n *refuse, waste, offal, rubbish, trash, debris
garble *misrepresent, falsify, belie
Ana distort, contort, warp (see deform): misinterpret, misconstrue (see affirmative verbs at explain)
gargantuan *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian
garish *gaudy, tawdry, flashy, meretricious
Ana resplendent, gorgeous, *splendid: *showy, ostentatious, pretentious
Ant somber
garner *reap, glean, gather, harvest
Ana amass, *accumulate
garnish vb embellish, beautify, deck, bedeck, *adorn, decorate, ornament
Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
garrulity, garrulousness talkativeness, loquacity, volubility, glibness (see under TALKATIVE)

**Ana** *verb*—garrulity, garrulousness
garrulous *talkative, loquacious, voluble, glib

**Ana** glib, voluble, fluent, *vocal, articulate, eloquent

**Ant** taciturn—*Con* reserved, reticent, *silent, uncommunicative, close: laconic, terse, *concisely: curt, brusque, blunt (see BLUFF)

gasconade vb vaunt, *boast, brag, crow

gasconade vb vaunt, *boast, brag, crow

**gasconade** vb vaunt, *boast, brag, crow

**gavel** gate, portal, *door, postern, doorway

gate *door, portal, gateway, postern, doorway

gateway gate, portal, *door, postern, doorway

gather vb 1 Gather, collect, assemble, congregate mean to gather

2 reap, glean, garner, harvest

**gather** vb 1 Gather, collect, assemble, congregate mean to come or to bring together so as to form a group, a mass, or a unit. The same distinctions in applications and in implications characterize their derivative nouns gathering, collection, assemblage (which see) or assembly, congregation.

**Gather** is the most widely applicable of these words; it may be used in reference not only to persons and objects but to intangible things (a crowd gatherings wherever there is excitement) (gathers the boys and girls of the neighborhood for a picnic) (gathers flowers or crops implies plucking and culling as well as bringing together; gathering a ruffle implies a drawing together or into folds on a thread; gathering one's wits connotes an effort at concentration or at mustering or rallying mental forces. **Collect** is often used in place of gather with no intended difference in meaning (collect leaves) (collect leaves) (collect leaves) (gathering his ideas together before planning his speech).

In certain phrases gather acquires additional specific connotations; thus, gathering flowers or crops implies plucking and culling as well as bringing together; gathering a ruffle implies a drawing together or into folds on a thread; gathering one's wits connotes an effort at concentration or at mustering or rallying mental forces. Collect is often used in place of gather with no intended difference in meaning (collect leaves) (collect leaves) (collect leaves) But collect may convey, as gather does not, the ideas of careful selection or a principle of selection, of orderly arrangement, or of a definitely understood though not always expressed end in view; thus, to collect butterflies implies a selection of specimens and, usually, their cataloguing; to collect books (as in book collector) implies a choice of books with regard to some such principle as rarity, beauty of binding, or authorship. There is a subtle difference between to gather one's thoughts, which often merely implies previous scattering, and to collect one's thoughts, which implies their organization; there is also a difference between to gather money, which may mean merely to accumulate it, and to collect money, which usually suggests either raising a fund by gifts, subscriptions, and contributions or taking action to obtain possession of money due. Collect and collection are often preferred to gather and gathering when various things are brought together; thus, a jumble or an omnium-gatherum is a miscellaneous collection rather than a gathering; collect rather than gather enough chairs for all the guests to sit down. Assemble stresses more emphatically than either gather or collect a close union of individuals and a conscious or a definite end in their coming or in their being brought together. It is used chiefly in reference to persons who gather together, either of their own will or at the call of another, so as to form a group or body that will unite in action or join in counsel or discussion (the democratic rights of free speech and free assembly) (the most renowned experts on the history, geography, economics, and politics of all the nations of the world... assembled under one roof—Allop & Braden) (even after a new crew had... been assembled, I had qualms about setting forth over the treacherous waters of the China Sea—Heiser) In reference to things assemble implies an agent who collects them in order to unite them into a single body or structure or into a distinct and isolated group; thus, the assembly department of an automobile plant is the department in which the workmen build the cars by assembling the component parts made in other departments or in other factories (it took twenty years to assemble this collection of musical instruments) *Congregate* implies a flocking together into a crowd, a huddle, or a mass (a cattle congregate during a storm) (pass laws forbidding persons to congregate on the streets) (congregations of atoms excited and lucent, mingled with free electricity—Darrow) *Congregation* is specifically applied to an assembly meeting for religious worship, but it usually retains the suggestion of a crowd that has flocked together.

**Ana** accumulate, amass, hoard; *heap, pile, stack, mass

2 reap, glean, garner, harvest

**Ana** see those at GATHER 1

3 infer, deduce, conclude, judge

**gathering** collection, assemblage, assembly, congregation (see under GATHER)

**Ana** *crowd, throng, press, horde, mob, rout, crush: accumulation (see corresponding verb ACCUMULATE)

**gaucho** malandro, *awkward, clumsy, inept

gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy, meretricious are comparable when meaning vulgar or cheap in its showiness. Something is gaudy which uses gay colors and conspicuous ornaments or ornamentation lavishly, ostentatiously, and tastelessly (gaudy floral prints) (false eloquence, like the prismatic glass, its gaudy colors spreads on ev'ry place—Pope) (another attendant, gaudy with jingling chains and brass buttons, led us along a corridor—Kenneth Roberts) Something is tawdry which is not only gaudy but cheap and sleazy (beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare—Gay) (a fancy... fruitful, yet not wanton, and gay without being tawdry—Cowper) (he saw nothing else; the tawdry scenery, the soiled velvet and flimsy crumpled satin, the reck of vulgarity, never touched his innocent mind—Deland) Something is garish which is distressingly or offensively bright (hide me from day's garish eye—Milton) (for this week he would produce a bunch [of flowers] as garish as a gypsy, all blue and purple and orange, but next week a bunch discreet as a pastel, all rose and gray with a dash of yellow—Sackville-West) Something is flashy which dazzles for a moment but then reveals itself as shallow or vulgar display (Tom Paine was considered for the time as a Tom Fool to him, Paley an old woman, Edmund Burke a flashy sophist—Hazlitt) (the flashy rich boy in public school, buying toadyism—the flashy rich boy in public school, buying toadyism—La Farge) ("what the public wants" is being translated into the flashy, the gadgety, the spectacular—Loewy) Something is meretricious which allures by false or deceitful show (as of worth, value, or brilliancy) (the jewels in the crisped hair, the diadem on the polished brow, are thought meretricious, theatrical, vulgar—Hazlitt) (the false taste, the showy and meretricious element... invading the social life of the period and supplanting the severe elegance, the instinctive grace of the eighteenth century—Binyon) (if a writer's attitude toward his characters and his scene is as vulgar as a showman's, as mercenary as an auctioneer's, vulgar and meretricious will his product for ever remain—Cather)

**Ana** *showy, pretentious, ostentatious: vulgar, *coarse, gross: resplendent, gorgeous (see splendiferous)

**Ant** quiet (in taste or style)—*Con* modest, *chaste, decent, pure

gauge n *standard, criterion, yardstick, touchstone

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words **See also explanatory notes facing page 1
generate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
extended in its application and has acquired connotations which have little or nothing to do directly with lineage or heraldic rights but suggest only such outward marks of good birth as elegance of person and of manners and a life of leisure (a gentleman . . . . I'll be sworn thou art; thy tongue, thy face, thy limbs, actions and spirit, do give thee five-fold blazon—Shak.) somebody has said that a king may make a nobleman, but he cannot make a gentleman—Burke (the gentleman may be a drunkard, a gambler, a debauchee . . . . he may be a man of spotless life, able and honest; but he must on no account be a man with broad palms, a workman amongst workmen—Tom Collins) Patrician derives its implications from its historical applications but chiefly from its earliest reference to a Roman citizen who belonged to one of the original families of ancient Rome which, after the growth of the plebeian order, kept power and authority in their own hands. In reference to present-day persons the word suggests a distinguished ancestry, superior culture, and aloofness from what is common or vulgar; it is applied chiefly to descendants of established and influential families when they constitute a social caste, especially one marked by exclusiveness and pride in birth (the merchant-patricians [of Florence], like the nobles of Flanders and Flanry in times gone by, wished to perpetuate their names and glorify their capital not only in the elegance of their mansions but also in churches, parks and public buildings—Brooks) Aristocrat carries fewer suggestions of inbred physical characteristics than gentleman or patrician, but it suggests a sympathy with the point of view common to them. In historical use it commonly implies an opposition to democrat and is applicable to a person who believes in government by superior persons or by the class which includes such persons; in more general use it is commonly applied to a person who by reason of birth, breeding, title, wealth, or outlook is accorded recognition as a member of the highest caste and especially to one who holds himself somewhat aloof from the ordinary forms and observances of social life (two kinds of aristocrats: one that assumes the right to govern without the consent of the people; the other that assumes the privilege of an exclusive private life—Charles Beard) (a genuine aristocrat, he was at home in all walks of life—Smelser & Kirwin) Ant boor —Con lout, clown, churl (see book)

gentleman patronian, aristocrat are comparable when they denote a person of good or noble birth. Gentleman basically implies descent from good family, the right to bear a coat of arms, and social rank just below that of the noble and above that of the yeoman. The term has been widely

often refers to sexual acts involved in a mating and their results in the production of children (the time-honored presumption that a child born to a married woman during coverture was procreated by her husband—JAMA) Unlike the foregoing terms, propagate carries no inherent implication of sexual activity but rather stresses the preserving and increasing of a kind of living being, be it plant, animal, or human, whether by generating, by breeding, or by growing (as from seeds, grafts, cuttings, or bulbs) (the rabbit propagates itself with great rapidity) (from cuttings . . . he propagated what he first named the Tokay but later the Catawba grape—Jenkins) In its extended use propagate implies not only giving rise to something or bringing it into existence but often also a continuation of that existence or the widespread dissemination of the thing that is brought into existence (Oh! does patience beget patience?) said Adrian. "I was not aware it was a propagating virtue"—Meredith (the Rights of Man, rights which the French Revolution had propagated—Barr) Reproduce, like propagate, may be used in reference to any living thing capable of bringing into existence one or more of its kind and is applicable whether the means is sexual or asexual (the tribe was dying out: infant mortality was heavy, and the young couples did not reproduce freely—the life-force seemed low—Cather) (the residents of the urban places probably did not reproduce themselves—Oscar Handlin)

Ana *bear, produce, yield: *teem, abound
generic general, *universal, common
Ana typical, *regular, normal: specific (see special)
Con individual, peculiar, distinctive, *characteristic: particular, individual, *special
generous bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, *liberal, handsome
Ana lavish, prodigal, *profuse, exuberant: benevolent, philanthropic, eelemosynary, *charitable, altruistic
Ant stingy —Con close, closefisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly (see stingy): *mean, ignoble

genesis *beginning, rise, initiation
Ana *origin, source, root, inception, provenance, provenience: derivation, origination (see corresponding verbs at spring): commencement, start (see corresponding verbs at begin)
genial sociable, affable, *gracious, cordial
genius talent, *gift, faculty, aptitude, knack, bent, turn
Ana *ability, capacity, capability: originality (see corresponding verbs at new): *inspiration, affluence
genre *class, category, genus, denomination, species
gentle *soft, mild, smooth, lenient, bland, balmy
Ana *moderate, temperate: *pleasant, agreeable, grateful, pleasing, welcome: *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful, balmy
Ant rough, harsh —Con vehement, *intense, fierce, violent: *powerful, forcible, forceful: stimulating, exciting, provoking or provocative (see corresponding verbs at provoke)
gentleman patrician, aristocrat are comparable when they denote a person of good or noble birth. Gentleman basically implies descent from good family, the right to bear a coat of arms, and social rank just below that of the noble and above that of the yeoman. The term has been widely

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
germane *relevant, pertinent, material, apposite, applicable, apropos

Ana appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous (see fit); akin, analogous, comparable, parallel (see like): *related, allied, cognate, kindred

Ant foreign —Con alien, extraneous, *extrinsic: incongruous, *inconsonant, incompatible

germicidal antiseptic, bactericidal, disinfectant (see under ANTISEPTIC n)
germicide bactericide, *antiseptic, disinfectant

gesticulation *gesture

gesture n Gesture, gesticulation are comparable when meaning an expressive movement or motion of the body or limbs or the use of such a movement or motion. Gesture is the more inclusive term; it may imply any such movement or motion intended to express what words cannot, or to increase the effectiveness or poignancy of words that are being uttered, or to take the place of words when for some reason or other they are unnecessary or impossible (<the right hand of Niobe> is drawing up her daughter to her; and with that instinctive gesture ... is encouraging the child to believe that it can give security—Shelley>) (<he had permitted himself his very first and last gesture in all these days, raising a hard-clenched fist above his head—Conrad>) (<the gesture with which he threw away the cigar-end struck her as very distinguished—Bennett>) Gesticulation, on the other hand, is applicable only when there is implication of unrestrained excitement, or the loss or absence of grace or dignity, or a determined effort to attract attention (<his human figures are sometimes "o'er-infomred" with ... feeling. Their actions have too much gesticulation—Hazlitt>) (<making various savage gesticulations—Livingstone>) (<the nineteenth-century reaction against post-Raphaelite painting. ... the twentieth-century exclusive zeal for purely formal elements in pictures, both reflect our lack of sympathy with gesticulation—the word itself is pejorative—Chandler>)

get 1 Get, obtain, procure, secure, acquire, gain, win are comparable and often interchangeable when they mean to come into possession of. Get is very general in its meaning and simple and familiar in its use. Thus, one may get something by fetching (<get a book from the table>, by extracting (<get gold from ore>, by receiving (<get a present), or as a return (<get interest on a loan>) Obtain is likewise rather general. It may suggest that the thing sought has been long desired or that it has come into possession only after the expenditure of considerable effort or the lapse of considerable time (<the satisfaction obtained by the sentiment of communion with others, of the breaking down of barriers—Dewey>) (<in western New York, where her early education was obtained—Knott>) Procure is likely to suggest planning and contriving over a period of time and the use of unspecified or sometimes questionable means (<the Duma laid claim to full power ... and on March 15 procured the abdication of the frightened and despondent Nicholas II—Ogg & Zink>) (<some gifted spirit on our side procured (probably by larceny) a length of mine fuse—H. G. Wells>) Secure may suggest safe lasting possession or control (<the large income and fortune which a prospering business secures, rather than mine fuse—//. G. Wells>) (<some gifted spirit on our side procured (probably by larceny) a length of mine fuse—H. G. Wells>) Get is very general in its meaning and simple and familiar in its use. Thus, one may get something by fetching (<get a book from the table>, by extracting (<get gold from ore>, by receiving (<get a present), or as a return (<get interest on a loan>) Obtain is likewise rather general. It may suggest that the thing sought has been long desired or that it has come into possession only after the expenditure of considerable effort or the lapse of considerable time (<the satisfaction obtained by the sentiment of communion with others, of the breaking down of barriers—Dewey>) (<in western New York, where her early education was obtained—Knott>) Procure is likely to suggest planning and contriving over a period of time and the use of unspecified or sometimes questionable means (<the Duma laid claim to full power ... and on March 15 procured the abdication of the frightened and despondent Nicholas II—Ogg & Zink>) (<some gifted spirit on our side procured (probably by larceny) a length of mine fuse—H. G. Wells>) Secure may suggest safe lasting possession or control (<the large income and fortune which a prospering business secures for him is of his own making—Hobson>) or it may suggest the gaining of what is hard to come by (as by reason of rarity or competition for possession); thus, one secures, rather than gets or acquires, a rare stamp by offering a higher price than other interested persons will pay (<almost absolute safety against infection could be secured by the simple precaution of using safe, potable water—Heiser>) Acquire may suggest devising acquisition (<the destruction of that ship by a Confederate cruiser, although it had acquired a British registry in order to avoid capture—Knott>) It may also indicate continued, sustained, or cumulative acquisition (<the habit of any virtue, moral or intellectual, cannot be assumed at once, but must be acquired by practice—Grandgent>) Gain often implies competition in acquiring something of value (<if a London merchant, however, can buy at Canton for half an ounce of silver, a commodity which he can afterwards sell at London for an ounce, he gains a hundred percent—Smith>) (<few men are placed in such fortunate circumstances as...>
| ghastly | giant adj | huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuian, Her- culean, cyclopean, titan, Brobdingnagian |
| ghastly, grisly, gruesome, macabre, grim, lurid | giddy, dizzy, vertiginous, swimming, dazzled | are comparable when meaning affected by or producing a sensation of being whirled about or around and consequently confused. Giddy and dizzy are often used interchangeably with one another but giddy is sometimes preferred for stressing the mental confusion which results and dizzy for emphasizing the physical quality of the sensation. |
uses much of the connotation implicit in its basic relation to vertigo; it may come close to dizzy in its suggestion of lack of steadfastness and constancy (unconstant they are in all their actions, vertiginous, restless, unapt to resolve of any business—Burton) (his vertiginous, and apparently unconscious, changes of subject make heavy going after a few pages—Corke) or may attribute a dizzying effect to the thing qualified (events occur at vertiginous speed, whole civilizations are summed up in a few words, and long processes are reduced to a paragraph if not to a sentence—Krutch) (the delicious vertiginous sense of human destinies hanging by slender threads—R. W. Brown) or it may stress a confusing effect like that of vertigo (that vertiginousbewilderment which comes to creatures of mere routine when they face the unfamiliar—Cohen) (the reader . . . is inspired with the conviction that of these writers only Austin Dobson, James Russell Lowell, and Miss Godden were really sane, that the rest of them were either actually mendacious or possibly vertiginous—Yale Review) (Swimming is applied especially to the head—brain, or eyes of a person suffering from dizziness; when so used, it suggests the physical sensations of swift, unimpeded, yet uncontrollable movement (my head is swimming) (and slowly by his swimming eyes was seen a lovely female face—Byron) (she yielded, and was borne with swimming brain and airy joy, along the mountainside—Bridges) Dazzled applies to the physical, mental, or spiritual vision when overpowered and confused by or as if by a blinding light; it connotes, therefore, an effect suggestive of dizziness but without the sensation of being about to fall (the sun's rays tapered into a luminous cone . . . a hypnotizing focal point for dazzled eyes—Beebe) (one knew that the sun-dazzled summer world would soon open about one again—Edmund Wilson) (the solicitations of the dazzled swains of Cambria for the honor of the two first dances—Peacock) (dazzled by the prospect of a brilliant future)

**Ana** whirling, reeling (see REEL): confusing, adding, fuddling, muddling (see CONFUSE): bewildering, distracting, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb): frivolous, flighty (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

**Gift** 1 Gift, present, gratuity, favor, boon, largess are comparable when they denote something, often of value but not necessarily material, given freely to another for his benefit or pleasure. Gift is the most inclusive term, but it is not interchangeable with some of the others, for apart from the context the term carries no hint of remuneration for something done or received and excludes all suggestions of return (a birthday gift) (a gift to a museum) (gifts to the poor) (I fear the Greeks bearing gifts) (every good gift and every perfect gift is from above—Jas 1:17) Present is ordinarily applied to something tangible which is offered as a compliment or expression of goodwill (she used to define a present, "That it was a gift to a friend of something he wanted or was fond of, and which could not be easily gotten for money"—Swift) (flowers and fruits are always fit presents—Emerson) (little odd presents of game, fruits, perhaps wine—Lamb) Gratitude implies voluntary compensation, usually in money, for some service for which there is no fixed charge or for special attention or service over and beyond what is normally included in a charge (he distributed gratuities so generously that he received more attention than any other guest of the hotel) (pays five or six dollars for his dinner in a smart Mayfair club and then distributes another dollar or so in gratuities—Joseph) Favor applies to something given or granted to another as a token of one's affection, regard, or partiality or as an inducement or concession. The term is often intentionally vague, especially when what is given is not a concrete thing (he said he did not deserve so many favors from his party) (queen's favors might be fatal gifts, but they were much more fatal to reject than to accept—Henry Adams) Concretely the term applies to various small things (as a ribbon, a cockade, or a lady's glove) given to a lover or admirer as a token or to some knickknack or other trifle given to guests (as at a wedding, a dance, or a party). Favor, rather than gift, is used in requests for something that can be had only from the person addressed (ask the favor of a prompt reply) (begging the favor of a copy of his beautiful book—Meredith) Boon applies to any gift or favor either as petitioned for or prayed for as something much desired or needed yet not necessarily regarded as a right (high emperor, upon my feeble knee I beg this boon, with tears not lightly shed—Shak.) (if you mean to please any people, you must give them the boon which they ask—Burke) (I ask justice from you, and no boon—Sheridan) or as given gratuitously and bringing with it such benefits or advantages that it is regarded as a blessing or cause for gratitude (our forefathers have given us the boon of freedom) (the boon of free and unboUGHT justice was a boon for all—I. R. Green) (Corinth was given certain boons, since it was a Julian colony, but Athens. . . . was left to academic decay—Buchan) Largess is a somewhat pompous term for a bountiful gift (as of money or of food and drink) or a liberal gratuity; it usually suggests an ostentatious bestowal (the newly consecrated king bestowed largesses on all the heralds and minstrels) (contrasting his [Anthony's] meager bounty with the largess of Octavius—Buchan) (dependent for her livelihood on the largess of a moody Danish lover—Jean Stafford)

**Ana** *donation, benefaction, contribution, alms

2 Gift, faculty, aptitude, genius, talent, knack, bent, turn are comparable when they mean a special ability or a capacity for a definite kind of activity or achievement. Gift applies not only to an ability but also to a quality; it suggests an origin not easily explainable by natural laws and often implies that the recipient is favored by God, by nature, or by fortune. It is, therefore, precisely applied to an innate ability, capacity, or quality, especially to one not commonly found and not possible of acquirement (a gift of humor) (she has a real gift for arranging flowers—Wharton) (men have always reverenced prodigious inborn gifts, and always will—Eliot) (an artist is the sort of artist he is, because he happens to possess certain gifts—Huxley) Faculty (see also POWER 2) applies to either an innate or acquired ability or capacity; it does not apart from the context impute an extraordinary value or rarity to that power, but it does usually imply distinction or distinctiveness in its quality and skill or facility in its exercise (he had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements—Dickens) (she seemed to have lost her faculty of discrimination; her power of easily and graciously keeping everyone in his proper place—Cather) Aptitude usually implies a natural liking and taste for a particular activity or pursuit as well as a native capacity for it and the ability to master its details or technique (there are all sorts of people today who write from all sorts of motives other than a genuine aptitude for writing—Ellis) (at fourteen education should begin to be more or less specialized, according to the tastes and aptitudes of the pupil—Russell) Genius, when it applies to ability or capacity rather than to a person who possesses that ability or capacity, suggests an inborn gift of impressive character or a combination of such gifts. Further than this the implications of the term are various and shifting, for the word is tied up in use with psychological, aesthetic, and critical explanations of the nature of genius; however, the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
word often retains its original implication of a controlling spirit and may denote an inner driving energy which compels utterance or performance, often of a lofty or transcendent quality (the claim to possess a style must be conceded to many writers—Carlyle is one—who take no care to put listeners at their ease, but rely rather on native force of genius to shock and astound—Quiller-Couch) (in the contemporary novel genius is hard to find, talent is abundant—Brit. Book News) The word is often employed in current English in the sense of gift, usually with a connotation of transcendence or of uniqueness (she made her drawing room a sort of meeting place; she had a genius for it—Woolf) (Mr. G. K. Chesterton has a genius for saying new and surprising things about old subjects—Huxley) In ironic use the connotation of transcendence is especially strong, but that of supreme unawareness is also usually evident (he has a genius for incoherence of remark) (the genius for illogicity of the English people—Inge) Talent comes very close in its meaning to gift when the latter term denotes a native capacity or an innate ability. Talent, however, often carries the implication, derived from the Scriptural parable of the servants’ use of the talents (pieces of money) entrusted them by their master, that the gift is a trust and that its possessor has an obligation to develop it and put it to profitable use (it is quite probable that many . . . who would make the best doctors are too poor to take the course. This involves a deplorable waste of talent—Rus sell) (was he to leave such talents lying idle (and that after chafing for eight years to employ them)—Bello) This basic implication in talent has led inevitably to another implication: that the gift is under the control of its possessor because its proper exercise depends on industry and the acquiring of necessary knowledge and skill. Talent is sometimes opposed to genius in the most exalted sense of that word as a lesser kind of power, capable of development through study and industry, completely under the control of the will, and tending to facile, agreeable, and effective, rather than exalted, performance or utterance (while talent gives the notion of power in a man’s performance, genius gives rather the notion of felicity and perfection in it—Arnold) (to achieve conspicuous mundane success in literature, a certain degree of good fortune is almost more important than genius, or even than talent—Benson) Knock stresses ease and dexterity in performance, though it usually implies an aptitude (she has, certainly, something of a knack at characters—Burne) (Can uncommon knack in Latin verse—Eliot) (improvisation was his knack and forte; he wrote rapidly and much—often an entire novel in a month—Van Doren) Bent usually implies a natural inclination or taste; it often carries the same implications as aptitude and is sometimes preferred in general use because of technical use of aptitude in educational psychology (it doesn’t seem to me that you’ve shown any great bent towards a scholastic life—Archibald Marshall) (the bent thus revealed for precise observation and classification—Babbitt) Turn not only implies a bent but its actual proof in performance and often suggests skill or proficiency (he had a turn for mechanics; had invented a plow in his district, had ordered wheelbarrows from England—Woolf) (must possess . . . artistic sensibility and a turn for clear thinking—Clive Bell) Ana endowment, dowry (see corresponding verbs at Dowler): *power, faculty, function: *acquirement, attainment, accomplishment, acquisition gigantic, gigantean *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian Ana prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, *monstrous, monumental gingery fiery, peppery, *spirited, high-spirited, mettle- some, spunky gird vb *surround, envelop, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, girdle, ring Ana *enclose, envelop, wall: confine, circumscribe, *limit gird vb sneer, flout, * scoff, jeer, gibe, fleer Ana deride, mock, taunt, twist, rally, * ridicule girdle vb *surround, envelop, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, ring Ana see those at GIRD (to surround) gist *substance, purport, burden, core, pith Ana *center, heart, nucleus: import, significance (see IMPORTANCE): theme, topic, *subject give, present, donate, bestow, confer, afford are comparable when meaning to convey something or make something over or available to another as his possession. Give is the general term meaning to pass over, deliver, or transmit something which becomes the receiver’s to own, to use, to enjoy, or to dispose of (it is more blessed to give than to receive—Acts 20:35) (give my love to your mother and sisters—Keats) Present is more formal or ceremonious (on Saturday Colonel Bellingham is going to address the lads of the Brigade and present them with six drums—Mackenzie) (pray, present my respects to Lady Scott—Byron) Donate usually implies publicity attending the giving or a public cause or charity as the recipient of the gift (donate a piano to an orphanage) Bestow implies the settling of something on one as a gift (large gifts have I bestowed on learned clerks—Shak.) (what nature wants commodious gold bestows—Pope) To confer is to give graciously or as a favor or honor (the Queen confers her titles and degrees—Pope) To afford is to give or bestow especially as a natural or legitimate consequence of the character of what gives (this fine day affords us some hope—Cowper) (do the laws of his country afford him a remedy?—John Marshall) Ana award, accord, vouchsafe, *grant, concede: assign, * allot, apportion, allocate: *distribute, dispense, deal, dole glacial arctic, icy, gelid, frigid, freezing, frosty, *cold, cool, chilly glad, happy, cheerful, lightedhearted, joyful, joyous are comparable when meaning characterized by or expressing the mood, temper, or state of mind of a person who is pleased or delighted with something or with things in general. Glad may be used in opposition to sorry to convey polite conventional expressions of pleasure or gratification (I am glad to hear of your recovery) (I shall be glad to have the opportunity to meet you) It may also be used in opposition to sad, and then connotes actual delight and a lift of spirits and sometimes elation (wine that maketh glad the heart of man—Ps 104:15) (glad did I live and gladly die—Stevenson) (a child’s kiss set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad—E. B. Browning) (his entire saintly life was glad with an invincible gaiety of spirit—H. O. Taylor) Happy may also be used in polite conventional phrases in which its content can hardly be distinguished from that of glad. In more meaningful use, however, it distinctively implies a sense of contentment and well-being or a realization either of one’s good fortune or of the fulfillment of one’s desires (he will never be happy until he finds work which utilizes all his talents) (with the tension of an unachieved task no longer felt . . . I can say with truth that the last phase of my life has been the happiest—Ellis) (is my girl happy, that I thought hard to leave, and has she tired of weeping as she lies down at eve?—Housman) Cheerful suggests a strong and, often, a
spontaneous flow of good spirits either as a result of feeling glad or happy or as a result of an equable disposition or of a naturally sanguine temperament (suicidal thoughts . . . could not enter the cheerful, sanguine, courageous scheme of life, which was in part natural to her and in part slowly built up—Ellis) (time went by as we drank and talked in a world that was rosy, cheerful, and full of fellowship and peace on earth—Hammett) lighthearted stresses freedom from care, worry, and discontent. Since it also implies high spirits, vivacity, or gaiety, it commonly suggests in addition youth or an easygoing and somewhat volatile temperament (he-whistles as he goes, lighthearted, wretched, cold and yet cheerful—Cowper) (why, man, I was lighthearted in my prime, I am lighthearted now; what would you have?—Browning) Joyful and joyous imply keen gladness or happiness with resulting elation; they are often used as though they were equivalent terms. However, joyful usually suggests a mood or an emotional reaction to an event or situation, and it implies rejoicing (in the day of prosperity be joyful—Eccles 7:14) (and joyful nations join in leagues of peace—Pope) (a joyful countenance) (a bright and happy Christian, a romping optimist who laughed away sin and doubt, a joyful puritan—Sinclair Lewis) Joyous, on the other hand, applies more to something which by its nature or character is filled with joy or is a cause of joy (all that ever was joyous, and clear, and fresh, thy music doth surpass—Shelley) (the happy and joyous temper, which characterizes a fresh and confident faith—Inge) (that joyous serenity we think belongs to a better world than this—Sir Winston Churchill)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**glossy**

A**na** interpret, construe, *explain, elucidate, expound, explicate

glossy *sleek, slick, velvety, silken, silky, satiny

A**na** lustrous, *bright, brilliant, lucent, lambent

glow vb *blaze, flame, flare, glare

A**na** *burn: kindle, ignite, *light: *illuminate, lighten, illumine

glow n blaze, flame, flare, glare (see under BLAZE vb)

A**na** brightness, brilliance, radiance, effulgence, luminosity, incandescence (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT): fervor, ardor (see PASSION)
glower vb lower, *frown, scowl, glow

A**na** glare, stare (see GAZE); watch, look (see SEE)

Con grin, *smile, smirk
gloze gloss, whitewash, *palliate, extenuate, whiten


glum gloomy, morose, *sullen, saturnine, sour, surly, sulky, crabbed

A**na** *silent, taciturn, close-lipped, tight-lipped: depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS): scowling, frowning, lowering, glowing, glooming (see FROWN vb)

A**nt** cheerful —Con happy, *glad, lighthearted, joyful, joyous

glut vb gorge, surfeit, sate, clow, *satiate

glutton gourmand, gastronome, bon vivant, gourmet, *epicure

gluttonous *voracious, ravenous, ravenging, rapacious

A**na** greedy, *covetous, grasping

A**nt** abstemious —Con temperate, *sober: dainty, finicky, fussy, fastidious, *nice

gnash *bite, gnaw, champ

A**na** grind, grate, rasp (see SCRAPE): *strike, smite

A**nt** grim, *smile, smirk

gnaw vb *bite, champ, gnash

A**na** fret, *abrade: *worry, annoy

go vb 1 Go, leave, depart, quit, withdraw, retire are comparable when they mean to move out of or away from the place where one is. Of these terms, go is the most general and the least explicit in its implications; it is often used merely as the opposite of come (he came here yesterday and went this morning before I was up) <go, baffled coward, lest I run upon thee—Milton> (he would not let her go before he had obtained her promise to sell him the property) <the men go and cut bamboos in the jungle and bring them to the beach—Frazier> Leave (see also RELINQUISH, LET 2) so strongly implies a separation from someone or something that the verb in this sense is more often used transitively than intransitively; in its intransitive use the term commonly implies a more formal or a more conspicuous act than go implies and often requires a statement of the means of going (he plans to leave by the noon train) <we shall be sorry to have him leave—Archipenko left Russia to enroll at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris—Current Biog.> Do not leave the place until I return <her servants always leave her after a few days in her employ> Depart (see also SWERVE) is rarely transitive except in a few idiomatic phrases <depart this life> As an intransitive verb it not only carries a stronger implication of separation from a person, place, or status than leave carries, but it is somewhat more formal, especially when it is used as the opposite of arrive <depart on a trip to Europe> (<"You will not leave me yet, Richard?"

. . . . He had no thought of departing—Meredith> <a goddess of gone days, departed long ago—Millay> Quit (see also STOP 1, BEHAVE 1), like leave, is more often transitive than intransitive and carries a strong implication of separation from a person or thing. Unlike leave, it stresses a getting free or being rid of what holds, entangles, or burdens, [the distinction [knighthood] . . . had given him a disgust to his business, and to his residence in a small market town; and, quitting them both, he had removed with his family—Austen> <he quitted London to take refuge among the mountains—Meredith> <he quitted Cambridge in January 1643, before being formally ejected by the Puritans—Bush> Withdraw

stresses more than quit a deliberate removal for reasons that seem justifiable to the person concerned or acceptable to the reader; the term therefore seldom carries (as quit often carries) a suggestion of cowardice, weakness, or instability; thus, one quits a trying job, but one withdraws from an insecure position. Frequently withdraw implies such a motive as courtesy, a sense of propriety, or a grievance (the women withdrew from the room when the men were ready to discuss business) <the visitors withdrew when the doctor entered> <the perfect lyric is a poem from which the author has withdrawn once he has set it in motion—Day Lewis> A hermit withdrawn from a wicked world—Conrad> Retire is often used interchangeably with withdraw, but it is especially appropriate when the removal also implies a renunciation, a permanent relinquishing (as of a position), a retreat, or a recession <retire from the world into a monastery> <when he dies or retires, a new manager must be found—Shaw> (after the Captain's terrible fall . . . which broke him so that he could no longer build railroads, he and his wife retired to the house on the hill—Cather) Often retire carries the specific sense of to withdraw to one's bedroom and to one's bed for the night <retire early>

A**na** *escape, decamp, abscond, flee, fly

A**nt** come —Con arrive (see COME): *stay, remain, abide

2 *resort, refer, apply, turn

Con avoid, shun, elude, evade, *escape

go n *spell, shift, tour, trick, turn, stint, bout

go vb *urge, egg, exhort, spur, prod, prick, sic

go adj *nurture, encouragement, inducement, *motive, spring, impulse

A**na** impelling or impulsion, driving or drive (see corresponding verbs at MOVE): urge, lust, passion, *desire

A**nt** curb

goob vb *urge, egg, exhort, spur, prod, prick, sic

goob vb *ambition

gobbledygook *nonsense, twaddle, drive, bunt, balderdash, poppycock, trash, rot, bull

goddess ungodly, *irreligious, unreligious, nonreligious

A**nt** atheistic, agnostic, infidel (see corresponding nouns at INDEED)

good adj Good, right are comparable when they mean in accordance with one's standard of what is satisfactory. Good (as opposed to bad) implies full approval or commendation of someone or something in the respect under consideration (as excellence of workmanship, excellence of condition, beneficial properties, competence, agreeableness, purity, or freshness) <and God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good—Gen 1:31> <good children> <good news> <a good neighbor> <they are very good men, the monks, very pious men—Joyce>

Good (as opposed to poor) does not imply hearty approval, but it does not suggest dissatisfaction; it implies that the person or thing so described measures up to a point which is regarded as satisfactory or possesses the qualities neces-
sary to a thing of its kind (a good crop) (good soil) (good, but not excellent, work) (the business for the past year was good) (a good return on an investment) (a good play) (the more general history... is less good). Partly, that is because the sources... are too narrow for the weight of the conclusions—Laski (between good workmanship and design and that touch of rareness which makes not merely good but fine and lovely—Alexander). Often the difference in meaning between these two senses of good is apparent only in the inflection or through the medium of a context. Right (see also correct) often implies that the thing so described is fitting, proper, or appropriate with respect to the circumstances; thus, a book one knows to be good may not be the right book to give to a person who is unable to understand it; the right light for a picture may be quite different from a good light for reading (she always does the right thing at the right time) (the scene in Julius Caesar is right because the object of our attention is not the speech of Antony... but the effect of his speech upon the mob—T. S. Eliot). Right may also imply the absence of anything wrong in the person or thing so described (God's in his heaven—T. S. Eliot) (Browning) (marry when she has found the right chap—Reid). Anti bad; poor

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good-looking comely, pretty, bonny, fair, beau- tuous, pulchritudinous, handsome, beautiful, lovely

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good-natured amiable, obliging, complaisant

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goodness, virtue, rectitude, morality are comparable and very general terms denoting moral excellence. Goodness is the broadest of these terms; it suggests an excellence so deeply established that it is often felt as inherent or innate rather than acquired or instilled. Of all these terms it is the only one applied to God (the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth—Exod 34:6). When applied to persons it usually suggests such appealing qualities as kindness, generosity, helpfulness, and deep sympathy (the need I have of thee thine own goodness hath made—Shak) (she has more goodness in her little finger than he has in his whole body—Swift) (he taught that evil was a transient thing, goodness eternal—Samuel). Virtue (see also excellence), though often coupled with goodness as its close synonym, is distinguishable as suggesting acquired rather than innate moral excellence and, often, a greater consciousness of it as a possession; usually the term implies either close conformity to the moral law or persistent choice of good and persistent rejection of evil (virtue is its own reward) (virtue may be assailed, but never hurt, surprised by unjust force, but not enthrall'd—Milton) (the highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it—Macauley) (virtue is not to be considered in the light of mere innocence, or abstaining from harm, but as the exertion of our faculties in doing good—Bp. Butler). Since virtue often specifically implies chastity or fidelity in marriage, rectitude is frequently employed in its place when moral excellence acquired through obedience to the moral law and persistently this is implied. But rectitude differs from virtue in often having reference to motives, intentions, and habits and not merely to character, and sometimes also in placing greater stress on such stern qualities as uprightness, integrity, and probity (no one can question the rectitude of his purpose) (for various reasons all having to do with the delicate rectitude of his nature, Roderick Anthony... was frightened—Conrad) (society is, after all, a recreation and a delight, and ought to be sought for with pleasurable motives, not with a consciousness of rectitude and justice—Benson). All of the preceding words refer directly or indirectly to the moral excellence involved in character. Morality may come close to virtue and rectitude in denoting a quality of character (the will to be good and to do good—that is the simplest definition of what the world has always meant by morality—Read). In this sense the term often specifically suggests a moral excellence that arises from fidelity to ethical principles as distinguished from one that arises from obedience to the divine law or the moral laws enforced by religious teachings (evil must come upon us headlong, if morality tries to get on without religion—Tennyson). But morality, unlike the other terms, commonly denotes a code of conduct (ethical problems involved in the new morality) (a highly erotic people with a strict morality, which was always violated, a pious people who sinned with passion—Ferguson) (what do we mean by morality? Generally we mean those rules of conduct that appeal to people as generally conducive to a decent human life—Cohen). From this sense derive applications, on the one hand, to behavior, whether morally excellent in terms of ordinary ethical standards or quite the reverse, that accords with such a code (his behavior constituted a new low in political morality) (in Christian love and forgiveness lay some reversal of Saxon morality, for instance of the duty of revenge—H. O. Taylor) and, on the other hand, to the propriety of behavior as weighed by such a code (the point at issue was the morality of Wise's studiously ambiguous use of the term "a few copies" in connection with the issue of... a facsimile edition—Altick) (our chief failure in dealing with the Communist revolution in China has been to underestimate the vigor of Chinese moral sentiment... and to pay too little attention to the morality of our own position in the eyes of the Chinese—Atlantic Monthly).

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
to the poor—but, after all, we can't let our parents

| gourmand | glutton, gastronome, bon vivant, *epicure, gourmet |
| govern, rule | are comparable when they mean to exercise
govern, rule | power or authority in controlling or directing another or others, often specifically those persons who comprise a state or nation. Govern may imply power, whether despotic or constitutional, or authority, whether assumed by force, acquired by inheritance or through election, or granted by due processes of law, but it usually connotes as its end the keeping of the one or ones directed or controlled in a straight course or in smooth operation, where perils are avoided and the good of the individual or of the whole is achieved (parents who cannot govern their children),
govern one's emotions | every prince should govern as he would desire to be governed if he were a subject—

| Ana | *conduct, direct, control, manage: restrain, curb, inhibit |
| Grant | grasping, clutches, *take, seize, snatch |
| grace | *mercy, clemency, lenity, charity |
| grace | kindness, kindness, benignity, benignancy (see corresponding adjectives at kind): tenderness, compassionateness, responsiveness (see corresponding adjectives at tender): indulgence, forbearance, leniency (see under forbearing) |
| Loveliness, dignity | lovely, most beautiful or beauty, beauty, fairness, comeliness (see corresponding adjectives at beautiful): suppleness, liveness, lissomeness, lissomeness (see corresponding adjectives at supplie): attractiveness, alluringness or allurement, charmingness or charm (see corresponding adjectives under attract) |
| graciously, cordially, affably, genially, sociably | are used to describe persons or their words or acts who or which are标记edly pleasant and easy in social intercourse. Gracious implies kindliness and courtesy especially to inferiors. When it carries the latter implication, it more often suggests kindly consideration than condescension (gracious to everyone, but known to a very few—Cather) | heartened by her gracious reception of a nervous bow—Shaw |
| Cordial stresses warmth and heartiness (a cordial welcome) | (a cordial handclasp) |
| they gave us a cordial reception, and a hearty supper—Melville | Affable implies approachability and readiness to talk in the person conversed with or addressed; when applied to a social superior, it sometimes connotes condescending familiarity but more often a gracious willingness to be friendly (I don't find . . . that his wealth has made him arrogant and inaccessible; on the contrary, he takes great pains to appear affable and gracious—Smollett) | his father was an excellent man . . . his son will be just like him—just as affable to the poor—Austen |
| easy of approach and affable in conversation. They seldom put on airs—Maugham | Genial sometimes emphasizes cheerfulness and even joviality. Often, however, it stresses qualities that make for good cheer among companions (as warm human sympathy and a fine sense of humor) |
| A genus like for the companionship of others and readiness to engage in social intercourse even with strangers or inferiors | was genial and sociable, approachable at all times and fond of social intercourse—Reeves |
| Ana | obliging, complaisant, amiable, benign, kindly, *kind: courteous, courtly, chivalrous (see civil) |
| Ant | ungracious—Con churlish, boorish (see under boor): brusque, curt, crusty, blunt, gruff (see bluff): surly, crabbed, *sullen |
| grade | class, grade, rank, rate, graduate |
| gradation | gradation, shade, nuance are comparable when they mean the difference or variation between two things that are nearly alike. Gradation in the singular implies a small difference or variation of this kind, but the term is used more frequently in the plural, so that it usually implies the successive steps by which a thing passes from one type or kind into something else of a different type or kind; thus, if we take the primary colors of the spectrum as blue, yellow, and red, the gradations between these are not the colors green, orange, purple, which are clearly seen, but all of the intermediate colors by which blue gradually passes into green, and green into yellow, and yellow into orange, and so on; therefore the word is often modified by some adjective (as sensible, apparent, perceptible, or imperceptible) (the gradations between prose and verse are fine but perceptible) (by insensible gradations she becomes slaty) (by imperceptible gradations her love was transformed into pity) Shade implies a minute or barely perceptible degree of difference (as in thought, belief, meaning, or position) (every shade of religious and political opinion—Macaulay) |
| Ana | analogous words |
| Ant | antonyms |
| Con | contrasted words | See also explanatory notes facing page 1
grade vb *class, rank, rate, graduate, graduate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

grad...
concession ought to be—Burke> (as an instrument of mind-training, and even of liberal education, it [science] seems to me to have a far higher value than is usually conceded to it by humanists—Inge> (even his harshest critics concede him a rocklike integrity—Time) One vouchsafes something prayed for, begged for, or expected as a courtesy, when one grants it to a person inferior in dignity or station. The word is often found in supplications where it implies humility in the suppliant <vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin—Book of Common Prayer> Often it is ironical and then usually suggests absurd condescension <he vouchsafed no reply to our question> (the occasional answers that Stalin used to vouchsafe to inquiries from American correspondents—Davis> One accords to another something admittedly his due or in keeping with his character or status <he treated bishops with the superficial deference that a sergeant major accords to a junior subaltern—Mackenzie> (children . . . will readily accord to others what others accord to them—Russell> One awards something that is deserved or merited; the word usually implies determination by legal adjudication or by judges in a contest or competition <the plaintiff was awarded heavy damages> (awarded a prize for the best story) <his victory was duly acclaimed by Senate and People; he was given the title of Emperor and awarded a triumph—Buchan> An awards something that is deserved or merited; the word usually implies determination by legal adjudication or by judges in a contest or competition <the plaintiff was awarded heavy damages> (awarded a prize for the best story) <his victory was duly acclaimed by Senate and People; he was given the title of Emperor and awarded a triumph—Buchan> 2 Grant, concede, allow are comparable when they mean One accords to another something admittedly his due or in keeping with his character or status <he treated bishops with the superficial deference that a sergeant major accords to a junior subaltern—Mackenzie> (children . . . will readily accord to others what others accord to them—Russell> One awards something that is deserved or merited; the word usually implies determination by legal adjudication or by judges in a contest or competition <the plaintiff was awarded heavy damages> (awarded a prize for the best story) <his victory was duly acclaimed by Senate and People; he was given the title of Emperor and awarded a triumph—Buchan>

graph

vrb n (chart, map) (see under chart vb) n chart, map (see under chart n) see those at graph n

graphic, vivid, picturesque, pictorial are comparable when they mean having or manifesting a quality or character that produces a strong, clear impression, especially a visual impression. All of these words apply particularly but not exclusively to works of art and especially of literature. Something graphic has the power to evoke a strikingly clear-cut, lifelike picture; the term categorizes such arts as painting, drawing, engraving, and etching (the graphic arts), the object of each of which is to present a picture, but it is also meaningfully applied to a representation of things in words <a graphic description of the face of a young Hindu at the sight of castor oil—Darwin> (it is also one of the best-written works on the subject, enlivened by a keen sense of humor and a witty and graphic style—Ullmann> Something vivid is so vigorously alive that it is felt, seen, heard, or otherwise apprehended with a sense of its intense reality. The term may apply to what actually exists and impresses itself with such sharp force on the imagination that the memory retains the sight, sound, or other impression <a vivid sensation of fear> (figures so vivid that they seem to breathe and speak before us—L. P. Smith> (how sights fix themselves upon the mind! For example, the vivid green moss—Woold> The term may also apply to a mental state or process of which one is oneself intensely aware <Ripon awoke . . . to the vivid consciousness of hunger—Meredith> (my sense of right or wrong—of individual responsibility—was more vivid than at any other period of my life—Hudson> (those for whom the belief in immortality is most vivid—Krutch> or which defines its content clearly and sharply <a man of wide and vivid interests—Russell> (a vivid realization of approaching danger) <all three had kept a vivid . . . conception of the fate of the nation—harrton> Frequently the term applies to whatever represents or one's imaginative conceptions (as a picture, or a play, or a story) or to matters (as style, colors, language, or situations) which are involved in such a representation; then the implication is of a power, either in the representation itself or in the means of representation, to evoke clearly defined pictures and to give a strong sense of their distinct quality and of their living force <moving pictures are only less vivid than reflections from a mirror—Justice Holmes> (in his odes, with their thunder of place-names, he [Horace] makes vivid the territorial immensity of the empire—Buchan> Something picturesque has, in general, the qualities or the character which one believes essential to a striking or effective picture. The term is applicable to a place, a person, or a building or other construction <a picturesque costume> (Scott's Meg Merrilies is a picturesque character) <a picturesque ruin> as well as to a work of graphic, literary, or plastic art <a picturesque landscape> <picturesque details> and to a style or manner (as in writing or painting) the picturesque force of his style—Hawthorne> and it carries in every use an implication that the thing has been observed and judged with regard for its form, color, atmosphere, striking or unfamiliar detail, or sharp contrasts rather than for qualities which are not perceptible to the eye or that do not draw the eye because they are lacking in distinctness and charm. Sometimes picturesque specifically implies a kind of wild, rugged beauty associated with untouched or undiscovered nature or with things being reclaimed by nature <wide prospects of startling beauty, rugged mountains, steep gorges, great falls of water—all the things that are supposed to be picturesque—Benson> (a venerable family mansion, in a highly picturesque state of semidilapidation—Peacock> In still other contexts the term implies a charm arising rather from remoteness, strangeness, quaintness, informality, or diversity <though the upper part of Durnover was mainly composed of a curious congeries of barns and farmsteads, there was a less picturesque side to the parish—Hardy> (the Square is rather picturesque, but it's such a poor, poor little thing!—Bennett> (the most picturesque Mediterranean craft, with colored sails and lazy evolutions—Brownell> Something pictorial presents or aims to present a vivid picture; thus, the pictorial arts are the same as the graphic arts, but the emphasis is upon the objective rather than upon the medium; a pictorial style of poetry uses words as though they were
colors or pigments by which a vivid representation is produced <she has evidently been very anxious to maintain the tradition of picturesqueness in biography that Strachey founded, and in many places is more than picturesque, is in fact pictorial—Times Lit. Sup.> he made pictorial drama out of the most commonplace intimacies of French bourgeois life—Soby>

Ana lucid, perspicuous, *clear: clear-cut, *incisive: telling, convincing, compelling, cogent (see VALID)
grapple vb *wrestle, tussle, scuffle
Ana battle, fight, *contend: vie, compete (see RIVAL): oppose, combat, *resist
grasp vb clutch, grab, seize, *take, snatch
Ana *catch, capture: apprehend, *arrest: apprehend, comprehend
grasp n *hold, grip, clutch
Ana control, *power, sway: comprehension, understanding, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND)
grasping greedy, avaricious, acquisitive, *covetous
Ana rapacious, ravening, ravenous (see VORACIOUS): extorting or extortionate (see corresponding verb at EDUCATE)
grate vb *scrape, scratch, rasp, grind
Ana *abrade, chafe, gall: harass, annoy, harry (see WORRY): offend, outrage: exasperate, *irritate
grateful 1 Grateful, thankful both mean feeling or expressing one's gratitude. Grateful is more commonly employed to express a proper sense of favors received from another person or other persons <a grateful child> <a grateful recipient of charity> <the Queen herself, grateful to Prince Gérard for service done—Tennyson> Thankful is often employed by preference to express one's acknowledgment of divine favor or of what is vaguely felt to be providential <for what we are about to receive make us truly thankful> <it was really the Lord's Day, for he made his creatures happy in it, and their hearts were thankful—Landor> (I am endlessly thankful that I was among the last persons to see the original Rheims intact—Ellis)
Ana appreciating or appreciative, valuing, prizing, cherishing (see corresponding verbs at APPRECIATE): gratified, pleased, delighted (see PLEASE): satisfied, contented (see under SATISFY)
Ant ungrateful
2 grateful, gratifying, *pleasant, pleasing, welcome
Ana comforting, consoling, solacing (see COMFORT vb): refreshing, restoring or restorative, renewing, rejuvenating (see corresponding verbs at RENEW): delicious, *delightful, delectable
Ana condescending —Con distasteful, abhorrent, *repugnant, repellent
gratify *please, delight, rejoice, gladden, tickle, regale
Ana content, *satisfy: indulge, humor, pamper
Ant anger: offend, affront (by inattention): disappoint (desires, hopes)
gratifying grateful, agreeable, pleasing, welcome, *pleasant
Ana satisfying, contenting (see SATISFY): delighting, rejoicing, gladdening, regaling (see PLEASE)
Con distasteful, obnoxious, invidious, repellent, *repugnant: offensive, revolting
gratuitous *supererogatory, uncalled-for, wanton
Ana *voluntary, willing: unrecompensed, unremunerated (see corresponding affirmative verbs at PAY): unprompted, unexecuted (see affirmative verbs at PROVOKE): unjustified, unwarranted (see affirmative verbs at JUSTIFY)
gratuity *gift, largess, boon, favor, present
grave adj solemn, somber, sedate, sober, *serious, earnest, staid

Ana austere, stern, ascetic, *severe: saturnine, dour (see SULLEN)
Ant gay —Con light, light-minded, frivolous, light, flippant, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS): *vain, idle, otiose, nugatory, empty, hollow
graze vb pasture, *feed, nourish
graze vb *brush, glance, shave, skim
Ana touch, contact (see corresponding nouns at CONTACT): *injure, hurt, harm: *damage, disfigure: wound, bruise, contuse (see corresponding nouns at WOUND)
grease vb lubricate, anoint, *oil, cream
great *large, big
Ana enormous, immense, *huge, mammoth: tremendous, prodigious, stupendous, monumental, *monstrous: eminent, illustrious, renowned (see FAMOUS): *supreme, superlative, surpassing, transcendent
Ana little —Con *small, diminutive: *petty, paltry, puny, trivial, trifling, measly
greatly *largely, mostly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally
greed *cupidity, rapacity, avarice
Ana greediness, covetousness, avariciousness, acquisitiveness (see corresponding adjectives at COVETOUS): voraciousness, ravenousness, rapacity, glutonousness or gluttony (see corresponding adjectives at VORACIOUS)
Con prodigality, lavishness, exuberance (see corresponding adjectives at PROFUSE): bountifulness, bounteousness, openhandedness, munificence, generosity or generosity, liberality (see corresponding adjectives at LIBERAL)
gredy *covetous, acquisitive, grasping, avaricious
Ana rapacious, ravening, ravenous, *voracious, glutonous: *stingy, parsimonious, miserly, close, closefisted
Con bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, generous, *liberal, munificent: prodigal, lavish, exuberant, *profuse
green adj callow, raw, crude, *rude, rough, uncouth
Ana experienced: seasoned —Con grown-up, ripe, matured, *mature: trained, instructed, educated (see TEACH): proficient, skilled, skillful
greet salute, hail, *address, accost
greeting, salutation, salute denote the ceremonial words or acts of one who meets, welcomes, or formally addresses another. Greeting is the ordinary term which carries no suggestion of formality and no implication of inferiority in the one who greets or of superiority in the one who is greeted. On the contrary, the term usually suggests friendliness and goodwill or lack of concern for social or official inequalities <O, to what purpose dost thou hoard thy words, that thou return'st no greeting to thy friends?—Shak.> why meet we on the bridge of Time to 'change one greeting and to part?—?.
Salutation applies to a more or less formal phrase, gesture, or ceremonial act whereby one greets another; specifically it applies to such phrases as the conventional "How do you do" or the familial "Hello," or to the words of a letter with which the writer first directly addresses his correspondent, or to such acts as a kiss, an embrace, or a bow. Salute is the only one of these words that applies only to gestures determined by convention or to ceremonial acts: though it seldom applies to a speech, it may be used when to the gesture or act a word or two is added <waved a salute to the friends awaiting his arrival> <the presidential salute of twenty-one guns> <the officer returned his subordinate's salute> <Sir Austin bent forward, and put his lips to her forehead. Carola received the salute with the stolidity of a naughty doll—Meredith>
gregarious *social, cooperative, convivial, companionable, hospitable
Ant solitary, lonely, *unfriendly, unapproachable, aloof, unfriendly, antagony
grim 1 Grim, implacable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless

Ana mourning, grieving, sorrowing (see GRIEVE): lamenting or lamentation, bewailing, bemoaning, deploiring (see corresponding verbs at DEPLORE)

Con comforting or comfort, solacing or solace, consolation (see corresponding verbs at COMFORT)

grievance wrong, *injustice, injury

Ana hardship, rigor (see DIFFICULTY): *trial, tribulation, affliction, cross

grieve, mourn, sorrow mean to feel or express one's sorrow or grief. Grieve implies actual mental suffering, whether it is shown outwardly or not; the term often also connotes the concentration of one's mind on one's loss, trouble, or cause of distress (after so many years, she still grieves for her dead child) <he grieved, like an honest lad, to see his comrade left to face calamy alone—Meredith>

<my days are passed in work, lest I should grieve for her, and undo habits used to earn her praise—Lowell> Mourn may or may not imply as much sincerity as grieve usually implies, but it does suggest a specific cause (as the death of a relative, friend, sovereign, or national hero) and carries a much stronger implication of the outward expression of grief (as in weeping, lamenting, or the wearing of black garments) <we wept after her hearse, and yet we mourn—Shak.> <fix a period of national mourning for a dead sovereign> <grieve for an hour, perhaps, then forget—Shak.>

<when the true scholar gets thoroughly to grasp a character or an incapacity for yielding or making concessions, and, in this sense, it is applicable not only to persons but to things (when the true scholar gets thoroughly to work, his logic is remorseless, his art is implacable—Henry Adams)>

Relentless or unrelenting differ mainly in that the former suggests a character and the latter a mood governing action; both imply an absence of pity or of any feeling that would cause one to relent and to restrain through compassion the fury or violence of one's rage, hatred, hostility, or vengeance <relentless critics> <woe to thee, rash and unrelenting chief!—Byron>

Both terms often carry so strong an implication of indefinite duration or of unremitting activity that they are frequently used to describe something which promises not the slightest abatement in severity, violence, or intensity as long as life or strength lasts <relentless pursuit> <the relentless vigilance of the secret service men> <the unrelenting fury of a storm> (with unwearied, unscrupulous and unrelenting ambition—Macaulay>

<everywhere I went in town, the people knew about them, and said nothing . . . I found this final, closed, relentless silence everywhere—Wolfe>

Merciless differs from relentless and unrelenting mainly in stressing an innate capacity for inflicting cruelty without qualms or an unparalleled fierceness or savagery; otherwise it carries much the same implications <a merciless whipping> <harder than any man could be—quite merciless—Cloete>

Ana inexcusable, obdurate, adamantly, *inflexible: inevitable, *certain: *fierce, ferocious, cruel, fell: malignant, malevolent (see MALICIOUS)

Ant lenient

2 *ghastly, grisly, gruesomely, macabre, lurid


Con benign, benignant, kindly, *kind

grime vb *soil, dirty, sully, tarnish, foul, befoul, smirch, besmirch, begrime

Ana pollute, defile (see CONTAMINATE)

grin vb *smile, smirk, simper

Con scowl, *frown, lower, lower, gloom

Ana *smirk, smirk, simper (see under SMILE vb)

grind vb *scrape, scratch, grate, rasp

Ana *abrade: sharpen (see corresponding adjective at SHARP): *press, bear, squeeze: gnash, gnaw (see BITE)

grind n drudgery, toil, travail, labor, *work

Ana pains, torture, exertion, *effort

grip n *hold, grasp, clutch

Ana tenaciously, toughness, stoutness (see corresponding adjectives at STRONG): *power, force: duress, coercion, restraint, constraint (see FORCE)

grizzly *ghastly, gruesomely, macabre, grim, lurid

Ana horrific, *terrifying, horrendous, horrid: uncanny, eerie, *weird

grit n *fortitude, pluck, backbone, guts, sand

Ana *courage, resolution, tenacity, mettle, spirit

Ant faintheartedness—Con timorousness, timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID): vacillation, faltering, wavering, hesitation (see corresponding verbs at HESITATE)

groan vb moan, *sigh, sob

Ana wail, weep, *cry: lament, bemoan, bewail, *deplore: *cry, weep, wail, keen

Ant rejoice

groan n, sob

Ana breathe, *cry: lament, bemoan, bewail, *deplore

Ant breathe

grotesque bizarre, *fantastic, antic

Ana baroque, rococo, flamboyant (see ORNATE): *weird, eerie, uncanny: extravagant, extreme (see EXCESSIVE): preposterous, absurd (see FOOLISH): ludicrous, ridiculous,
comical, comic, droll (seeLaughable)
ground n 1 *base, basis, foundation, groundwork
Ana *background, backdrop
2 *reason, argument, proof
Ana *evidence, testimony: determinant, *cause, antecedent: demonstration, proof, trial, test (see under PROVE)
3 In plural form grounds *deposit, precipitate, sediment, dregs, lees

ground vb *base, found, bottom, stay, rest
Ana establish, fix, settle, *set: *implant: sustain, *support, buttress

groundless *baseless, unfounded, unwarranted
Ana unsuported, unsupported (see corresponding affirmative verbs at SUPPORT)
groundwork foundation, basis, ground, *base
Ant superstructure
group n Group, cluster, bunch, parcel, lot mean a collection or assemblage of persons or of things. Group implies some unifying relationship, however tenuous (as a similarity of activity, of purpose, or of nature), and ordinarily a degree of physical closeness (a group waiting for the bus) (the group of workers unloading the cargo) (a group of patriots) (a group of soldiers in the picture) (man can only make progress in cooperative groups—Bagchi) (a group of statues in the museum) (an ethnic group) Cluster basically refers to a group of things (as fruits or flowers) growing closely together (a cluster of grapes) (climbing roses producing clusters of flowers) In extended use the term may be applied to persons or things that form distinguishable groups and especially smaller groups within larger masses (the people at the reception gathered in clusters) (clusters of small yachts in the harbor) (cataloging the clusters of stars) (Clem Henry’s house was in a cluster of Negro cabins below Arch’s big house—Caldwell) Bunch (see also BUNDLE) often replaces cluster in referring to natural groups of certain edible fruits (as grapes or bananas). In its extended uses it implies a natural or homogeneous association of like persons or things and carries a weaker implication of a common origin or point of growth than cluster usually does (Claire is by far the best swimmer of the bunch) (a bunch of keys) (girls with bunches of streamers which they flicked in your face as you passed—Bennett) (a piece about a bunch of hillbillies in the South, each one almost precisely as crazy and lovable as the next—Gibbs) Parcel and lot refer to a separate or detached collection of persons or things. Parcel in this sense (see also PART, BUNDLE) usually carries some implication of disapproval of the thing so grouped (a parcel of lies) (became merely a . . . parcel of tricks—Binyon) (lessons to a parcel of young girls thumping out scales with their thick fingers—Galsworthy) (a parcel of giddy young kids—Mark Twain)
Lot applies to persons or things that are associated or should for one reason or another be thought of or treated as a whole (the auctioneer sold the books in lots) (the men in this battalion are an interesting lot) (the future generation of scientists will be a sorry lot if the best teachers leave the academic circles—Rabid) (till you have read a good lot of the Fathers—Keble) (I could ignore the fuzzy doings on the screen, knowing that if you have slept through one you’ve slept through the lot—Malcolm) When the plural is used, the idea of grouping is lost or obscured and the implication of numbers or quantity increases (I have lots of time for that) (there were lots and lots of children there)
Ana *company, party, band, troop, troupe: *set, circle, coterie, clique: *crowd, mob, horde
grovel *wallow, welter
Ana *fawn, cringe, cower, toady, truckle: crawl, *creep:

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
meaning devoted exclusively to clocks, watches, and the telling of time...a museum has a virtual guarantor of popularity—Kirby} modern men have the additional surety of Christ the mediator—Bush Bond implies documentary proof of one's acceptance of an obligation and a legally binding promise to repay the holder of that document a sum of money due him on one's own account or in case of the default of another for whom one serves as surety. Bond, therefore, is used either of the document which is given as a pledge (government bonds) or guide (as proof of one's suretyship) (his word is as good as his bond) or for the person or corporation that serves as a legally bound surety (go bond for another) (the King of England shall be bond for him—Peyps) Bail implies responsibility for the sure reappearance, at the time prescribed by the court, of a prisoner who has been released from jail pending his trial. The term is applicable to the security given and forfeitable if the prisoner does not return (the court asked $5000 as bail) (the prisoner was not released because the bail was not forthcoming) or to the person serving as surety and providing the security (sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail—Shak.) (his bail produced him in court at the appointed time) or to the state of being out of prison and in the custody of a surety (admit to bail) (be out on bail) Ana *pledge, earnest, token: guarantor, surety (see SPONSOR)
guarantor surety, *sponsor, patron, backer, angel Ana *guarantee guaranty *guarantee, surety, security, bond, bail Ana *pledge, earnest, token: *contract, bargain guard vb shield, protect, safeguard, *defend Ana watch, attend, *tend, mind: convoy, escort, chaperon, on, conduct, *company guerdon reward, meed, bounty, award, prize, *premium, bonus guess vb *conjecture, surmise Ana speculate, *think, reason: imagine, fancy (see THINK): gather, *infer, deduce: estimate, reckon (see CALCULATE) guess n conjecture, surmise (see under CONJECTURE vb) Ana *hypothesis, theory: belief, *opinion, view Ant certainty guest *visitor, caller, visitant guide vb Guide, lead, steer, pilot, engineer are comparable when meaning to direct a person or thing in his or its course or to show the way which he or it should follow. Guide usually implies assistance either by means of a person with intimate knowledge of the course or way and of all its difficulties and dangers (some heavenly power guide us out of this fearful country—Shak.) (how shall I tread...the dark descent, and who shall guide the way?—Pope) men who guide the plough—Crabbe (the teacher, the parent, or the friend can often do much...to guide the pupil into an enjoyment of thinking—Eliot) or by means of something (as a light, the stars, a principle, or a device on a machine) which prevents a person or thing from getting off course or going astray the fine taste which has guided the vast expenditure—Disraeli) a vehement gloomy being, who had quitted the ways of vulgar men, without light to guide him on a better way—Hardy) Lead stresses the idea of going in advance to show the way and, often, to keep those that follow in order or under control (a band led each division of the procession) (the flagship led the fleet) (he longed...to lead his men on to victory—Marryat) (this influence should rather lead than drive—Eliot) Often, especially in idiomatic phrases, lead implies the taking of the initiative, the giving of example, or the assumption of the role of leader, director, or guide (he...allured to brighter worlds, and led the way—Goldsmit) (lead people astray by giving them a bad example) (led the van in solving problems "susceptible of certain knowledge"—Sellery) Steer stresses the guidance by one able to control the mechanism which determines the course or direction (as of a boat, an automobile, an airplane); it carries a stronger implication of governing or maneuvering than any of the preceding terms (steer a ship safely through a narrow channel) (fortune brings in some boats that are not steered—Shak.) (I eagerly desire to steer clear of metaphysics—Lowes) (secure in the faith that his reasoned intelligence will steer him correctly at all times—H. N. Maclean) Pilot implies the assistance of a person competent to steer a vessel safely through unknown or difficult waters (as into or out of a port) (pilot a vessel through Ambrose Channel into New York harbor) In its extended use it means guidance over a course where one may easily lose one's way because of its intricacy or may run afloat of various obstacles or dangers (their room steward piloted them to the ship's dining room) (we know not where we go, or what sweet dream may pilot us through caverns strange and fair of far and pathless passion—Shelley) (piloting important bills through the Senate—Current Biog.) Engineer means to lay out and manage the construction of some project (as a tunnel under a river, a highway, or a bridge (a firm of experts was called upon to engineer the irrigation project) but in its more common extended sense it means to serve as a manager in carrying through something which requires contrivance and maneuvering engineer a resolution through the House of Representatives) (engineer an elaborate fraud) (the corner in grain engineered by parties in Chicago—Gould) (the coup d'état was engineered by high-ranking army officers) Ana conduct, convoy, escort, chaperon, *company: direct, manage, control, *conduct Ant misguide —Con distract, bewilder, perplex, mystify, *puzzle: mislead, delude, beguile, *deceive guile n duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, *deceit Ana trickery, double-dealing, chicanery, chicane, *deception: craft, artifice (see ART) Ant ingenuousness: candor guileful *sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily, artful guilt *blame, culpability, fault Ana sin, crime, *offense: responsibility, answerability, liability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE) Ant innocence: guiltlessness guilty *blameworthy, culpable Ana *responsible, answerable, accountable: indicted, impeached, incriminated (see ACCUSE) Ant innocent gulf, chasm, abyss, abyss basically denote a hollow place of vast width and depth in the earth. Gulf and chasm suggest a depth which, though vast, is still measurable; abyss and abyss suggest immeasurable depth. Gulf is the most general term and may properly be used of any wide and deep hollow place (slippery cliffs arise close to deep gulfs—Bryant) In its extended use gulf suggests separation by a great, often unbridgeable distance (the broad and deep gulf which...divides the living from the dead—Inge) (a mere physical gulf they could bridge...but the gulf of dislike is impassable and eternal—Shaw) Chasm adds the implication of a deep and sometimes wide breach in a formerly solid surface (the chasm of the Grand Canyon, worn by the Colorado river) (the brink of a precipice, of a chasm in the earth over two hundred feet deep, the sides sheer cliffs—Cather) In extended use chasm still stresses a sharp break in continuity (those chasms of
momentary indifference and boredom which gape from time to time between even the most ardent lovers—Huxley>Abysm and abyss may designate the bottomless gulf or cavity of ancient cosmogonies and both have been applied to hell when thought of as a bottomless pit; in other applications they usually connote not only fathomlessness but also darkness and horror. Abyss is somewhat old-fashioned <when my good stars . . . have empty left their orbs, and shot their fires into the abyss of hell—Shak.> <what seest thou else in the dark backward and abyss of time?—Shak.> Abyss is commoner in general modern use <the abyss of Tartarus, fast secured with iron gates—Thirlwall> and, like abyss, it carries over into its extended uses the notion of vast, immeasurable void <the respectability and prosperity of the property and middle classes who grew rich on sweated labor covered an abyss of horror—Shaw> Gull vb: dupe, befoul, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle A dupe, beguile, deceive, mislead, double-cross, betray Gullibility credulity (see under CREDULOUS) Ant astuteness Gullible *credulous Habit n 1 Habit, habitude, practice, usage, custom, use, wont are comparable when they mean a way of behaving, doing, or proceeding that has become fixed by constant repetition. These words may be used also as collective or abstract nouns denoting habits, usages, or customs, considered as a directing or impelling force. Habit refers more often to the way of an individual than to the way of a community or other group; the term applies to a way of behaving (as in acting or thinking) which has become so natural to one through repetition that it is done unconsciously or without premeditation <he has formed the habit of fingering a coat button when he speaks in public> <break a bad habit> <habits acquired very early feel, in later life, just like instincts; they have the same profound grip—Russell> <it was her habit to write chatty letters to a number of politicians . . . discussing with them the maneuvers of politics—R. P. Randall> <we have two opinions: one private . . . and another one—the one we use— which we force ourselves to wear to please Mrs. Grundy, until habit makes us comfortable in it—Mark Twain> Habitual more often suggests a habitual or usual state of mind or attitude than an habitual response to a given stimulus <I think, Pericles, you who are so sincere with me are never quite sincere with others. You have contracted this bad habit from your custom of addressing the people—Landor> <the sense of fitness and proportion that comes with years of habitude in the practice of an art—Cardozo> Practice (see also practice vb) applies to a habit which is by its nature an act or a method which is followed regularly and often by choice <it is his practice to rise early each morning and take a walk before breakfast> <it is the practice of this surgeon to give local anesthetics wherever possible> <the team made a practice of leaving their scenarios unfinished until actual production—Current Biog.> Usage (see also FORM 3) applies mainly to a practice that has been so long continued and has been adopted so generally that it serves to guide or determine the action or choice of others <it is the usage in certain European countries to breakfast on a roll and a cup of coffee> <the . . . inveterate usages of our country, growing out of the prejudice of ages—Burke> <makes it difficult . . . to earn a living in a business community without yielding to its usages—W. H. Hamilton> Specifically, in reference to the meanings of words, grammatical constructions, and idiomatic forms where there is a difference of opinion, usage implies the long-continued and established practice of the best writers and speakers as the determining factor <all senses of all words are founded upon usage, and nothing else—Paley> Custom applies to a habit, practice, or usage that has come to be associated with an individual or a group by reason of its long continuance, its uniformity of character, and, sometimes, its compulsory nature <it is his custom to smoke each evening after dinner> <in contemporary society it is not a fashion that men wear trousers; it is the custom—Sapir> <is it the custom in your church for the minister to greet each member of his congregation?> <it is not the custom to speak from the floor before being recognized by the presiding officer> Often custom denotes an established practice or usage or the body of established practices and usages of a community or of a people that has the force of unwritten law; thus, the English common law is based upon custom rather than upon legislation <the answer, "It is the custom," is final for the savage, as for the lady of fashion. There is no other reason why they behave in a certain way—Inge> Consequently, custom when used as a collective or abstract noun commonly implies a force as strong, as binding, and as difficult to escape as that exerted by those who enforce the law of the land <and custom lie upon thee with a weight, heavy as frost, and deep almost as life—Wordsworth> Use (see also USE n 1) commonly denotes an action, manner, rite, or practice that is customary to an individual or a particular group and distinguishes him or it from others <more haste than is his use—Shak.> <it had been a family use . . . to make a point of saving for him anything which he might possibly eat—Mary

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
habitation, *body, carcass:* structure, anatomy, framework: figure, *form, shape: *outline, contour

habitat, biotype, range, station are in the pastoral region, and the animals—W. J. Locke
 Dwelling typically refers to a building or shelter for a single family or individual, often as opposed to a building used in business *laboriously dug a cave for his dwelling and built a floating garden of logs upon which he raised vegetables—Amer. Guide Series: Me.*
joy of heav’n, to earth come down; fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercy crown—Wesley

habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile, home, house are comparable when they mean the place where one lives. All may apply to an actual structure or part of a structure in which one lives, and all but the last also may apply to the place (as a farm, a village, or a nation) where such a structure is situated. Habitation suggests permanency of occupancy and may apply to a building or to an inhabited place <the properties are much smaller than they are in the pastoral region, and the habitations are scattered—P. E. James> Shakespeare . . . chose Verona for her habitation because of its agreeably sounding name—Bennett>
what did it matter where the body found itself so long as the soul had its serene habitations—W. J. Locke

Dwelling typically refers to a building or shelter for a single family or individual, often as opposed to a building used in business *laboriously dug a cave for his dwelling and built a floating garden of logs upon which he raised vegetables—Amer. Guide Series: Me.*
joy of heav’n, to earth come down; fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercy crown—Wesley

Abode may apply to a building, but more often it designates a place as a seat or center of occupancy *the view that other planets may be the abode of life*—Tara, the abode of the high king of Ireland—H. O. Taylor>
her home ever to a certain extent had been an abode of the arts—Osbetri Sitwell>
Distinctively, abode may stress transience *the traveler reached his night abode and was ascending the stairs—Upton Sinclair*>
Residence in reference to a building may be somewhat formal and convey a suggestion of dignity and permanence *the architects . . . devoting their talents to designing homes for the people as well as residences for the rich—Canadian Jour. of Economics & Political Science*>
the houses are too superior to be called villas; the house agents call them residences—Susan Gillespie>

But residence also may refer to an area or place (as a town or state) where one lives and in such use carries specific legal implications (as of actual occupancy or intention to remain) *no one may vote in a given election in more than one place; and this place must be the voter’s legal residence, however little of his time he may actually spend there—Ogg & Ray*>
the term “residence” means the place of general abode; the place of general abode of a person means his principal, actual dwelling place in fact, without regard to intent—U. S. Code>
Domicile in reference to a building carries no special connotations *grandfather’s domicile was considered an architectural curiosity; it was an oversized log cabin with a second story reached by an outside staircase—Burkley*>
In wider reference to a place it may be quite neutral (with the advance of astronomy, the domicile of the Deity had been transposed to the unknown center of the universe—S. F. Mason) or it may have very definite legal implications (as of being the seat of one’s principal and permanent home and therefore the place where one has a settled connection for such important legal purposes as determination of civil status and jurisdiction to impose personal judgments and taxes) in which it is often specifically contrasted with residence *the term “domicile” has been defined by the courts of one state as follows: “The domicile of a person is where he has his permanent home and principal establishment, to which, whenever he is absent, he intends to return—Ackerman*>
Domicile is not to be confused with residence. It is of a far more permanent nature, as where a man establishes a home in a jurisdiction with the intention of remaining there more or less permanently. The six weeks’ residence in Reno, with which we are all familiar, does not establish legal domicile if the residence is solely for the purpose of obtaining a divorce—Payton>
Home, like the foregoing terms, is used either of a structure or a place of residence or sometimes of origin *had lived in New York for years but still thought of Georgia as his home* > built a home in the new section of town> but of all these terms home distintively conveys the notion of one’s dwelling as the seat and center of family life and the focus of domestic affections *without hearts there is no home—Byron*>
some women can make a truer home of a shanty than others can of a mansion) Unlike the other terms house is not used of a place as distinct from a structure; basically it applies to a building used or intended for use as a dwelling place and, especially as compared with home, is a very general and neutral term; thus, a landlord’s house may become the home of a tenant *a speculative builder of houses*>

habitual *usual, customary, wonted, accustom*>

Ana habituated, addicted (see HABITUATE): practiced, drilled (see PRACTICE vb): confirmed, *inveterate, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted*>

Ant occasional —Con *infrequent, sporadic, rare, uncommon*

habitate, accustom, addict, inure mean to make used to something. Habituate distinctively implies the formation of habit through repetition *(by constant practice she habituated herself to accurate observation) > (to habituate ourselves, therefore, to approve . . . things that are really excellent, is of the highest importance—Arnold) > *language blunter than the protected executive ears were habituated to—S. H. Adams*>
A generation habituated to regard properly inscribed paper as the principal, if not the only, symbol of wealth—G. W. Johnson>
Accustom implies adjustment to something by frequent or prolonged experience or by constant exposure *accustom oneself to cold*>
accustom students to severe criticism *(this opportunity to accustom the girl to sea life by a comparatively short trip—Conrad)* To accustom oneself to nagging is to become inured to nagging by another person; to habituate oneself to nagging is to form the habit of nagging others. Sometimes accustom also connotes reconciliation by
overcoming one’s resistance or distaste <gradually accus-
tomed> his ears to the din of the factory> Addict, which is
used chiefly in a reflexive construction or in the passive,
adds to habituate the implication of overindulgence or
surrender to inclination <the Japanese as a nation are
addicted to sight-seeing—Faubion Bowers> addicted to
study> he has always . . . been addicted to prefiguring his
poems with quotations and echoing passages from other
poets—Edmund Wilson> and frequently refers to bad
habits addicted to gambling> a man gross . . . and
addicted to low company—Macaulay> Hugh tried to pro-
test and to explain that he was not addicted to the habit
of drinking—Anderson> and specifically to compulsive
use of habit-forming drugs. Inure is a somewhat formal
word that is a close synonym of accustom> a man inured to
hard physical labor—G. W. Johnson> but distinctively it
may suggest a becoming callous or indifferent as a result
of repeated exposure <for men’s minds have been inured to
situations of measurable and surmountable danger—
Romulo> afraid that reality could not be endured unless
the mind had been gradually inured to it—Krutch>
Ana train, discipline, school (see teach)> *harden,
season, acclimatize, acclimate> *practice, exercise, drill
habituate *habit, practice, usage, custom, use, want
Ana attitude, stand, *position: *state, condition, situation
Con *mood, humor, temper: *caprice, whim, freak, vagary
habitue *addict, votary, devotee
hack adj hireling, *mercenary, venal
Ana toiling, drudging, grinding, laboring (see correspond-
ing nouns at work)> hired, employed (see hire vb)> *mean,
abject, sordid
hackneyed *trite, stereotyped, threadbare, shopworn
Ana antiquated, archaic, obsolete, antediluvian, *old:
orn, wasted (see haggard)> attenuated, diluted (see
thin vb)
Con fresh, novel, original, *new
Hadean chthonian, *infernal, Tartarean, stygian, hellish
haggard, worn, careworn, pinched, wasted, cadaverous
are comparable when they mean thin and drawn by or as if by
worry, fatigue, hunger, or illness. Haggard may imply a
wild frightening appearance (as of a person driven dis-
traught by fear, anxiety, privation, or suffering) whose
haggard eyes flash desperation—Cowper> the strong
face to which that haggard expression was returning—
Conrad> she stood at the door, haggard with rage—
Joyce> but it usually also implies an extreme thinness or
gauntness that is normally associated with age but that
comes to younger persons who never know physical or
mental ease <they grow thin and haggard with the constant
toil of getting food and warmth—Anderson> Worn is
the more accurate word for the latter sense of haggard,
for it definitely implies the attrition of flesh characteristic
of senility and induced in younger persons by overwork,
worry, exhaustion, or prolonged ill health <the President . . .
looked somewhat worn and anxious, and well might
Dickens> <it was easy to see from their worn and
anxious faces that it was business of the most pressing
importance which had brought them—Doyle> Careworn
differs from worn chiefly in its implication of a being
overburdened with cares and responsibilities that cause
anxiety <the young mother’s careworn face> years of
heavy responsibility have changed him to an old careworn
man> that lean and careworn look which misery so sorely
produces—Trollope> Pinched and wasted suggest the
effects of privation or of a wasting disease pinched faces
of poorly nourished children> (the wasted body of a con-
sumptive> thought he looked pinched and cold—Carter>
Cadaverous is often used in place of pinched or wasted
when there is the intent to suggest the appearance of a
corpse; it usually implies a deathly paleness and an ex-
treme emaciation so that the skeleton is apparent though
not visible <he has a cadaverous countenance, full of
cavities and projections—Irving> <for a queer second I
did see us all in that . . . mirror . . . cadaverous, palsied—
L. P. Smith>
Ana gaunt, scrawny, skinny, *lean: fatigued, exhausted,
weary, fagged, jaded (see tire vb)> wan, pallid, ashen,
*pale
Con *vigorous, lusty, energetic, strenuous
hail vb salute, greet, *address, accost
halcyon *calm, serene, placid, tranquil, peaceful
hale adj robust, *healthy, sound, wholesome, well
Ana lusty, *vigorous: sturdy, stalwart, *strong, stout:
spry, *agile
Ant infirm—Con feeble, frail, fragile, decrepit, *weak
hale vb haul, *pull, drag, draw, tug, tow
hall, hallway *passage, passageway, corridor, gallery,
arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory
hallow vb consecrate, dedicate, *devote
Con see those at consecrate
hallucination *delusion, mirage, illusion
Ana *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith: fantasy,
*fancy, vision, dream, nightmare
hamper vb Hamper, trammel, clog, fetter, shackle, manacle,
hog-tie are comparable when meaning to hinder or impede
one so that one cannot move, progress, or act freely. To
hamper is to encumber or embarrass by or as if by an
impediment or restraining influence <the long dress
hampered her freedom of movement> the view is vigor-
ously urged today that rhyme and meter hamper the poet’s
free expression—Lowes> <never . . . had she so desired to
be spontaneous and unrestrained; never . . . had she so felt
hampered by her timidity, her self-criticism, her
depressed and unrestrained habit of never letting herself go—H. G.
Wells> To trammel is more specifically to entangle or con-
fine as if enmeshed in a net <people whose speech and behavior
were trammelled . . . by the usages of polite society—Gibbs> <their
life was at once dangerously trammelled and dangerously free—Buchan>
To clog is to ham-
per the movement, often the ascent, of someone or some-
thing by something extraneous, encumbering, or useless
the wings of birds were clogged with ice and snow—
Dryden> man is ever clogged with his mortality—Brontë> the
Cynic preached abstinence from all common ambi-
tions, rank, possessions, power, the things which
clog man’s feet—Buchan> To fetter is to confine or restrain so
that one’s freedom or power to progress is lost <I refused
to visit Shelley that I might have my own unfettered scope
—Keats> we reverence tradition, but we will not be
fettered by it—Inge> watched a world prepare for war
while he was fettered by the nation’s propensity for isola-
tionism—Kefauver> To shackel and to manacle differ
little in their extended use, both implying such interference
with one’s freedom that one feels that movement, progress,
or action is impossible if the bonds are not broken <he
would not be shackled in his reasoning by the rules of
logic> <grief too can
manacle the mind by the nation’s propensity for isola-
tionism—Kefauver> To shackel and to manacle differ
little in their extended use, both implying such interference
with one’s freedom that one feels that movement, progress,
or action is impossible if the bonds are not broken <he
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manacle the mind by the nation’s propensity for isolation-
tionism—Kefauver> To shackel and to manacle differ
little in their extended use, both implying such interference
with one’s freedom that one feels that movement, progress,
handle

handicraft craft, art, trade, profession
handicraftsman craftsman, workman, artisan, mechanic
ject such words as authority, influence, or power when
Ana

advantage: asset

Ana

swing, flourish, brandish, shake, wave: *direct, aim,

Ana

for the attainment of one's own ends <a small group of men

Russell)

In its extended sense the term often specifically

Ana

use the term suggests mechanical or technical skill <able
even power or to hold sway <of Wu Tao-tzu it is said that

Ana

delicate scientific apparatus) <the

Eliot)

<wielded

Binyon)

The term may also take for its ob-

Ana

a tool in producing a desired result or as a symbol of

Ana

reference to such an instrument as a writer's pen, an art-

Ana

a relation suggestive of hanging, such as that of something

Ana

implies mastery and vigor in the handling of an

Ana

in the streets— Ellis) Wield

Dewey)

own advantage— Wield in its most common

Ana

implies dex-

Ana

sense implies mastery and vigor in the handling of an

Ana

a hanging loosely in such a manner as to swing or

Ana

implies a hanging over the shoulder, or

Ana

Sometimes the term implies a hanging over the shoulder, or

Ana

a relation suggestive of hanging, such as that of something

Ana

hoisting or lowering heavy or bulky articles with ease.

Ana

implies a hanging loosely in such a manner as to swing or

Ana

implies hanging over the air (wielding a sword) <navvies

Ana

staying) (dangling

Ana

usually implies

Ana

implies a dangling loosely in such a manner as to swing or

Ana

implies a hanging loosely in such a manner as to swing or

Ana

implies a hanging loosely in such a manner as to swing or

Ana

2 *beautiful, pulchritudinous, beauteous, comely, good-

Ana

2 *depend, hinge, turn

hanger-on *parasite, sycophant, leech, sponge, sponger,

Ana

hanker yearn, pine, *long, liberal, bountiful, bounteous,

Ana

haphazard *random, chance, chancy, casual, desultory,

Ana

handicap 1 allowance, *advantage, odds, edge

Ana (for common extended sense) advantage: asset

Ana 2 disadvantage, detriment, drawback

Ana

burden, encumbrance, load (see corresponding verbs at BURDEN): disability (see INABILITY): impediment,

Ana

*obstacle

Ana

asset

handicraft craft, art, *trade, profession
handicraftsman craftsman, workman, artisan, mechanic,

Ana

workingman, laborer, operative, hand, roustabout,

Ana

*worker

3 *touch, feel, palpate, paw

Ana

inspect, examine, *scrutinize: try, test (see PROVE)

Ana

liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent

Ana

lavish, prodigal, *profuse

Con

niggardly, penurious, *stingy, parsimonious: frugal,

Ana

sparing, thrifty: *meager, skimpy, scarcity

Ana

*beautiful, pulchritudinous, beauteous, comely, good-

Ana

majestic, stately, august, noble (see GRAND):
elegant, exquisite (see CHOICE): smart, modish, fashion-

Ana

*deft, *dexterous, adroit

Ana

*able, capable, competent

hang 1 Hang, suspend, sling, dangle mean to place or be placed so as to be supported at one point or on one side, usually a point or side at the top. Hang typically implies a fastening to an elevated point or line so as to allow motion to what falls from such a point or line 〈hang the washing on a line〉 〈hundreds of plums hang from the tree's branches〉 〈hang curtains〉 〈carcasses of lamb were hang in the butcher's window〉 〈hang out a flag from a window〉 In extended use hang often implies a position or a relation suggestive of hanging, such as that of something poised or seemingly poised in the air 〈a dim, oblong patch of light hanging slantwise in the darkness— O'Flaherty〉 〈just above its [the poplar's] pointed tip, hang the hollow, silver winter moon— Cat her〉 or of one thing dependent upon another 〈a good deal... hangs on the meaning... of this short word— T. S. Eliot〉 or of something clinging or adhering to something else 〈she hangs on his arm〉 〈thereby hangs a tale—Shak.〉 〈most heavily remorse hang at my heart— Shelley〉 Suspend is preferred to hang (or hang) when support from a point above suggests flexibility, free motion or movement, or a display of skill 〈hams, tongues, and fitches of bacon were suspended from the ceiling—Irving) 〈others [of the rebels] were suspended from the boughs of the oak—Keightley〉 Suspend is also employed more often than hang when a floating in a fluid (as air or water) is suggested (see SUSPENDED) 〈waspflies barred with yellow suspended themselves in the air— Jeffries〉 Sling basically implies the use of a sling for hoisting or lowering heavy or bulky articles with ease. Sometimes the term implies a hanging over the shoulder, or arm, or similar support (as for ease in carrying) 〈sling a basket on her arm〉 〈sling a scaffold from a roof〉 Dangle implies a hanging loosely in such a manner as to swing or sway or twist to and fro 〈dangled his cane from a finger〉 〈the children sat on the high wall, their legs dangling〉 〈for all might see the bottlenecks still swaying at his

Ana

...by unprin-

Ana

sometimes fraudulent handling for the attainment of one's own ends 〈a small group of men by manipulating the convention were able to procure the nomination of their candidate〉 〈agencies by which some human beings manipulate other human beings for their own advantage— Dewey〉 Wield in its most common sense implies mastery and vigor in the handling of an implement (as a tool or weapon) 〈he knows how to wield an axe〉 〈wield a sword〉 〈navvies wielding their hammers in the streets— Ellis〉 Wield also may be employed with reference to such an instrument as a writer's pen, an artist's brush, or a king's scepter to imply not the vigorous movement of the implement itself but its effectiveness as a tool in producing a desired result or as a symbol of power; thus, to wield a scepter means to exercise sovereign power or to hold sway 〈of Wu Tao-tzu it is said that it is said that as if a god possessed him and wielded the brush in his hand— Binyon〉 The term may also take for its object such words as authority, influence, or power when their masterful exercise is implied 〈a great editorial writer wields a tremendous influence over the minds of men〉 〈her newborn power was wielded... by unprin-

Ana

was increased, contested words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
happening, chance, occur, befall, betide, transpire

vb happen

hapless *unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless

Anna unhappy, infelicitous (see unfit): *miserable, wretched

happen vb Happen, chance, occur, befall, betide, transpire are comparable when they mean to come to pass or to come about. Happen is the ordinary and general term and may imply either obvious causation or seeming accident, either design or an absence of design; in its simplest use the term takes the event, situation, or circumstance as its subject (the incident happened two weeks ago) but it may take the impersonal it or the anticipatory there as its subject (it happened that at Dante's time thought was orderly and strong and beautiful—T. S. Eliot) (there happened to be no visitors that day) In still other phrases happen may take a person as the subject, especially when the verb implies a coming upon someone or something, or a coming into a place more or less casually or accidentally, rather than a coming to pass (the miners happened upon a vein of gold) (I go nowhere on purpose: I happen by—Frost) (happened on a cottage almost hidden in elm tree boughs—Times Lit. Sup.) (happened upon a remarkable and neglected volume—Laird) (hoping that no wayfarer would happen along the lane for the next hour or so—Conrad) Chance is closer to happen in its idiomatic uses than any of the other words, and it too is found occasionally with the event as the subject; however, it differs from happen in uniformly implying absence of design or apparent lack of causation (if a bird's nest chance to be before thee—Deut 22:6) (whenever it chanced that the feelings of people were roused—Kinglake) (things they themselves chance to know—Replierry) Occur in distinctive use carries an implication of presenting itself (as to sight, to consciousness, or to one's thoughts); it is, in general, interchangeable with happen only when a definite event or incident or something that actually takes place is the subject (the accident happened yesterday) (the bombing raids on the city occurred early in the war) (it is necessary for the physicist to arrange the situation so that phenomena shall occur in which ... the underlying simplicity will come to light—Darrow) Consequently occur is preferable to happen in negative expressions when the idea of presentation in the realm of fact is uppermost (a naturalistic optimism which regarded an actual event as ... of superior value to an event which did not occur—Inge) (this is possible in theory, but, actually, never seemed to occur—Heiser) This fundamental implication of presentation to sight or mind allows occur, unlike happen, to be used to suggest a coming to one's mind (that characters deteriorate in time of need possibly did not occur to Henchard—Hardy) or a meeting one's eyes or ears (as in print or speech) (the word seldom occurs except in poetry or a turning up or appearing (another instance of this disease may not occur for several years) (corundum occurs in crystals, masses, and grains) Befall and the less common betide are used in preference to any of the preceding words, especially in poetry or in literary prose, when there is an implication of a superior power determining events or of the lack of human power to forecast them (any less misery should befall her—Wordsworth) could detect a conscienceless opening of one's hands for all that may betide under benign sun or watchful arrowy moon—Times Lit. Sup.) (the fate which Beria meted out to so many should now have befallen him—Muggeridge) Transpire, which basically means to leak out or escape in the form of a vapor, retains this notion in much of its extended use, in which it implies a leaking out so as to become known or apparent (it soon transpired that there were two ... conceptions of this problem—Malik) (it had just transpired that he had left gaming debts behind him—Austen) but through a semantic shift the term has developed a value, disapproved by some rigorous purists, in which it is interchangeable with happen or occur (I gave an honest account of what transpired—Michener) (all memorable events ... transpire in morning time and in a morning atmosphere—Thoreau)

happiness, felicity, beatitude, blessedness, bliss all denote the enjoyment or pleasurable satisfaction that goes with well-being. Happiness is the generic term applicable to almost any state of enjoyment or pleasurable satisfaction especially as based on one's well-being, security, effective accomplishments, or satisfied wishes. Felicity, denoting intense happiness is suited chiefly to formal expressions (as of congratulation) or dignified description. Beatitude is supreme felicity (to understand by honorable love romance and beauty and happiness in the possession of beautiful, refined, delicate, affectionate women—Shaw) (I know no one more entitled by unpretending merit, or better prepared by habitual suffering, to receive and enjoy (felicity—Austen) (we may fancy in the happy mother's breast a feeling somewhat akin to that angelic felicity, that joy which angels feel in heaven for a sinner repentant—Thackeray) (about him all the Sanctities of Heaven stood thick as stars, and from his sight received beatitude past utterance—Milton) (a sense of deep beatitude—a strange sweet foretaste of Nirvana—Beetbohm) Blessedness implies a feeling of being highly favored, especially by the Supreme Being, and often, a deep joy arising from the purest domestic, benevolent, or religious affections; bliss adds to blessedness a suggestion of exalted or ecstatic felicity; both blessedness and bliss, like beatitude, often refer to the joys of heaven (thrice blest whose lives are faithful prayers, whose loves in higher love endure; what souls possess themselves so pure, or is there blessedness like theirs?—Tennyson) (bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very Heaven!—Wordsworth)

Ana contentedness or content, satisfaction or satisfac tion (see participial adjectives at satisfy): *pleasure, enjoyment, delight, delectation, joy, fruition

Ant unhappiness —Con despondency, despair, desperation, hopelessness, forlornness (see under despondent): *distress, misery

happy 1 fortunate, *happy, providential

Ana *accidental, incidental, fortuitous, casual: *favor able, auspicious, propitious, benign: opportune, timely (see seasonable)

Ant unhappy

2 felicitous, apt, appropriate, fitting, *fit, suitable, meet, proper

Ana *effective, efficacious, efficient, effective: telling, cogent, convincing (see valid): pat, *seasonable, well timed: right, *correct, nice

Ant unhappy

3 cheerful, *glad, lighthearted, joyful, joyous

Ana contented, satisfied (see under satisfy): gratified, delighted, pleased, gladdened, rejoiced (see please)

Ant unhappy: disconsolate —Con depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see depress): *despondent, despairing, desperate, forlorn, hopeless

happy-go-lucky *random, haphazard, hit-or-miss, chance, chancy, casual, desultory

harangue n oration, *speech, address, lecture, talk, sermon, homily

Ana rant, rodomontade, *bombast

harass hurry, *worry, annoy, plague, pester, tease, tantalize

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**harbinger**

**Ana** *bait, badger, hound, ride, hector, chivy, heckle; vex, irk, bother* (see ** ANNOY**)

**Con** *comfort, solace, console*; *relieve, assuage, alleviate*

**harbinger** *forerunner, precursor, herald*

**harbor** *Harbor, haven, port* are comparable because they have at one time or another meant a place where ships may ride secure from storms. **Harbor** applies to a portion of a large body of water (as the sea) that is partially or almost wholly enclosed so that ships or boats may enter it for safety from storms or may be anchored or moored there in security *(two promontories whose points come near together enclose the harbor)* *(the great natural harbor at Sydney, Australia)* In extended uses **harbor** carries over the notion of quiet and safety inherent in its basic use *(the beauty and the harbor of a snug house—Le Sueur)* **Haven** is chiefly literary or occurs in names of towns and cities where a natural harbor (as a bay, an inlet, or a river mouth) exists and where boats may go for safety during a storm *(Mifflin Haven in south Wales)* *(a blessed haven into which convoys could slip from the submarine-infested Atlantic—Stewart Beach)* More than the other words here considered, it connotes a refuge or place of quiet in the midst of storms *(my... only haven... is in the arms of death—Carlyle)* *(the Colony acquired an unsavory reputation for providing a friendly haven for pirates—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.)* **Port** denotes both a place of security for ships and one suitable for landing men or goods *(to set me safe ashore in the first port where we arrived—Swift)* Consequently, in extended use, it suggests a destination or goal *(me... always from port withheld, always distressed—Cowper)* In commercial use **port** applies to a place, sometimes a harbor, sometimes, especially in place-names, a city or town and its harbor, but still more often in the case of the great ports of transatlantic and transpacific shipping all the approaches, all the inlets, all the facilities *(as docks, wharves, and offices) involved in the business of loading and unloading ships or of embarking and disembarking passengers*(the ports of New York, Cherbourg, and Southampton)

**harbor** *vb* **Harbor, shelter, entertain, lodge, house, board** are comparable when they mean to provide a place *(as in one's home, quarters, or confines) where someone or something may stay or be kept for a time. **Harbor** usually implies provision of a place of refuge especially for a person or an animal that is evil or hunted or noxious *(harbor thieves)* *(cellars that harbor rats and cockroaches)* *(dep in... is simply a refusal by the Government to harbor persons whom it does not want—Justice Holmes)* *(what good is he? Who else will harbor him at his age for the little he can do?—Frost)* In its extended sense the term suggests the receiving into and cherishing in one's mind of thoughts, wishes, or designs and especially of those that are evil or harmful *(nothing is more astonishing to me than that people... should be capable of harboring such weak superstition— Pope)* *(I did not wish him to know that I had suspected him of harboring any sinister designs—Hudson)* **Shelter** more often than **harbor**, takes for its subject the place or the thing that affords *(as distinguished from the person that supplies) protection or a place of retreat; it also distinctively suggests a threat to one's comfort or safety *(as by the elements, by pursuers or attackers, or by a bombardment)*; the term further suggests, as **harbor** does not, a covering or screening *(in such a season born, when scarce a shed could be obtained to shelter him or me from the bleak air—Milton)* *(in Craven's Wilds is many a den, to shelter persecuted men—Wordsworth)* *(sycamore trees sheltered the old place from the north and west—Gogarty)* *(wouldn't you like to shelter somebody in danger, or attempt a rescue, or do something heroic?—Black)* **Entertain** basically implies the giving of hospitality to a person as a guest at one's table or in one's home. The term often suggests special efforts to provide for his pleasure and comfort *(be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares—Heb 13:2)* In its extended sense **entertain**, like **harbor**, implies admission into the mind, and consequent consideration, of ideas, notions, and fears, but unlike **harbor**, apart from the context it carries no connotations of their good or evil, benign or noxious, character, or of any prolonged dwelling upon them, or even of deep and serious consideration *(it had been Eudora's idea that jealousy had gone out. It wasn't entertained by smart people; it was bourgeois—Mary Austin)* *(no proposal having for its object the readmission of Master Byron to the academy could be entertained—Shaw)* *(her brothers and sister privately entertained a theory that their mother was rather a simpleton—Sackville-West)* **Lodge** *(see also ** RESIDE**)* implies the supplying or affording a habitation, often a temporary habitation; often it suggests provision merely of a place to sleep and carries no implications of feeding or entertaining *(Mrs. Brown will lodge three of the party for the weekend)* *(every house was proud to lodge a knight—Dryden)* In the extended use of this sense **lodge** may imply reception as if of a guest or denizen, not only, like **harbor**, into the mind but into anything thought of as a receptacle or as a place where a thing may be deposited or imbedded *(the isolated, small family unit of the patriarchal type, with formal authority lodged in the father—Dollard)* *(so fair a form lodged not a mind so ill—Shak.)* *(a song... had lodged in his memory like a cork stuck fast from the tide in the cleft of shore rock—Victor Canning)* **House** usually implies the shelter of a building with a roof and side walls that affords protection from the weather *(he could find no place in the village to house his family suitably)* *(the rich man has fed himself, and dressed himself, and housed himself as sumptuously as possible—Shaw)* *(house gardening implements in a shed)* *(house an art collection in the new library building)* **House** is somewhat rare in extended use, but it usually implies enclosing or confining in a particular place *(the universal does not attract us until housed in an individual—Emerson)* *(so timorous a soul housed in so impressive a body—Long)* **Board** may mean to provide a person with meals at one's table *(we cannot lodge and board a dozen or fourteen gentlewomen—Shak.)* *(the question is, will she board as well as lodge her guest?—Clara Morris)* but often it implies provision of both room and meals for compensation *(Mrs. Jones boards four teachers at her home)* *(four teachers board at Mrs. Jones's)*

**Ana** foster, cherish, nurture, *nurse*; hide, conceal, secrete; protect, shield *(see ** DEFEND**)

**Con** * eject, expel, oust, evict; banish, exile, deport; exclude, eliminate, shut out

**hard** *solid, *firm*

**Ana** compact, dense, *close: consolidated, compacted* *(see ** COMPACT vb**); *hardened, indurated, concentrated*

**Ant** soft—*(see ** SOFTH**)*

**hard** difficult, arduous are comparable when applied to tasks for mind or body to mean demanding great toil or effort in reaching the appointed or the desired end. **Hard** is the simpler, blunter, and more general term; it implies the opposite of all that is implied by easy, but usually suggests nothing more specific *(a hard lesson)* *(a hard job)* *(a hard book to understand)* *(your easy reading.

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**ana** analogous words

**ant** antonyms

**con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Sherridan said, "damn. hard writing." —Montague

1 Harden, solidify, indurate, petrify, cake are

are not necessarily implied that what is to be undergone is uncongenial... of Winters' Tale or Coriolanus —Alexander

I do not propose... to enter upon the difficult question of Disestabishment —T. S. Eliot

it was a difficult design and had to be executed exactly right —Roark Bradford

Difficult stresses the need of laborious effort, or perseverance, and persistent exertion; thus, one may find a task difficult, but not arduous, because one has no sense of being kept at against one's inclination; an ascent of a mountain may be arduous, but not especially difficult.

the arduous task of formulating legislation necessary to the country's welfare —Roosevelt

(determined to save him from a life of arduous toil —Cole

Ana *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: intricate, knotty, complicated, involved, *complex: exhausting, fatiguing, wearying, tiring (see TIRE vb)

Ant easy —Con facile, light, simple, effortless (see EASY)

harden

1 Harden, solidify, indurate, petrify, cake are comparable when they mean to make or to become physically hard or solid. Harden usually expresses an opposition to soften and therefore may be as often used of the process as of the effect. The term suggests a change in degree with an approach toward a state of firm consistency or texture, though it need not imply impenetrability or resistance to efforts to break, cut, pierce, or bend (java as it cools hardens into rock) (harden candy by chilling it)

Solldify, although differing little from harden, usually expresses an opposition to liquefy and places more stress upon the effect produced than upon the process involved; the term, therefore, suggests a change in quality rather than in degree and is more often applied to a mass subject to compacting or consolidation (java becomes rock when it is solidified) (water solidifies into ice) Indurate, which means to make very hard or very compact, implies usually the making of something that is firm in texture still harder (heat indurates clay) (surgeons... spend raptures upon the first to adaptation by human agency, but this distinction is not commonly observed (a race... well seated in a region, fixed to the soil by agriculture, acclimatized by natural selection —Ripley) (I have not been long enough at this table to get well acclimated —Holmes)

Ana *habitude, accustom, inure: *adapt, adjust, accommodate

Ant soften —Con enervate, emasculate (see UNNERVE): weaken, debilitate, enfeeble, sap, undermine

hardened, indurated, callous mean grown or become hard.

These terms are comparable in both literal (compare HARDS 1) and extended use. Hardened is the most inclusive because it is applicable to any substance, whether originally fluid or solid, or loose or firm in texture, or elastic or inelastic, that has become solider and firmer and increasingly resistant to efforts to cut, pierce, or bend (hardened soap) (hardened lava) (hardened steel)

Consequently, in extended use hardened usually implies a fixing or setting with loss of qualities (as flexibility, elasticity, pliancy, susceptibility, and impressionableness) indicative of a capacity for change (hardened beliefs) (hardened distrust) (a hardened criminal) (a hardened heart) (a hardened little reprobate —Thackeray)

Indurated is common in geological and in medical use with the implication of an increase of hardness or compactness usually in something already firm or hard and sometimes to the point of abnormality (indurated clay) (indurated sandstone) (an indurated abscess). In its extended use it usually stresses abnormal or excessive hardness or stoniness that repels all efforts to penetrate or to soften (indurated stoic as I am —Adams) (her husband's indurated conscience —Henry James)

Callous, in its earliest and still common sense, implies a hardening and thickening of the skin by constant pressure or friction and a consequent loss of sensibility in the part affected (a callous foot) (a callous finger tip) In extended use it usually also implies a loss of sensibility or an insensitiveness that results from constant experience (he has grown callous to such appeals) (now callous to criticism) (the tiresome and callous repetition of old motives which marked the decadence of the classic tradition —Binyon) (pity... is made callous and inactive by kneeling too much —Landor) but sometimes callous means simply unmindfulness and carries little implication of the process of hardening (a callous answer)

Ana consolidated, compacted, concentrated (see COMPACT vb)

Ant softened —Con liquefied, melted, thawed, fused (see LIQUEFY): weakened, enfeebled, debilitated (see WEAKEN)

hardihood *temerity, audacity, effrontery, nerve, cheek.
hardship 393  harmony

gall  
*Ana boldness, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives at BARE) : brazeness, impudence, brashness (see corresponding adjectives at SHAMELESS) : guts, sand, grit, pluck, *fortitude

**hardship** rigor, vicissitude, *difficulty
*Ana adversity, *misfortune, mischance: peril, *danger, jeopardy, hazard: *trial, tribulation, affliction: toil, travail, drudgery (see WORK)

**Con** ease, comfort (see REST)

**harm** n. damage, *injury, hurt, mischief
*Ana detrimentalness or detriment, deleteriousness, perniciousness, noxiousness (see corresponding adjectives at PERNICIOUS): *misfortune, mischance, mishap: impairing or impartment, marring (see corresponding verbs at INJURE)

**Ant** benefit

**harm** vb *injure, impair, hurt, damage, mar, spoil
*Ana *abuse, maltreat, mistreat, misuse: *ruin, dilapidate: *improve, better, ameliorate: profit, benefit

**Con** achieve, accomplish, *establish, effect: *secure, assuring (see INHERIT)

**Ant** ease, comfort (see REST)

**innocuous** differs almost imperceptibly from innocent

**harmless** or *innocent, unoffending are *benefit

**Ant** benefit

**harm** differs almost imperceptibly from harmless

**innocuous** or *innocent, innocent, *innocent, *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent or *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**innocuous** differs almost imperceptibly from harmless

**harmless** differs almost imperceptibly from harmless

**innocuous** differs almost imperceptibly from innocent

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent or *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent or *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit

**harmless** or *innocent, *innocent, *innocent are *without blemish

**Ant** benefit
with Roman tradition—Buchan> Accord is often inter- 
changeable with consonance without loss (<it was in accord 
with Roman tradition>) However, it can imply, as con- 
sonance cannot, personal agreement or goodwill or, often, 
absence of ill will or friction (<for your father’s remem- 
brance, be at accord—Shak.) <engineers have reached a 
certain accord in regard to ethical principles—Wagner> 
Hence the phrase “with one accord” suggests unanimity 
(with one accord they gave a cheer) Concord, like accord, 
often stresses agreement between persons but is more 
positive in its implications, for it suggests peace with 
amity rather than absence or suppression of ill will (<how 
comes this gentle concord in the world?—Shak.) <till 
heart with heart in concord beats—Wordsworth> Concord 
also, when applied to sounds, comes close to harmony 
in its implications. However it seldom except in a technical 
sense in music connotes consonance of tones, but usually 
the pleasant succession of tones that is the quality of 
<melody (the man that hath no music in himself, nor is 
not moved with concord of sweet sounds—Shak.) (the usual 
poetic of her gestures and the musical concord of her 
voice—Wylie>

Ana integration, articulation, concatenation (see under 
INTEGRATE): congruous or congruity, consonance, 
compatibility (see corresponding adjectives at CONSO- 
NANT): concurrence, agreement (see corresponding verbs 
at AGREE)

Ant conflict — Con *discord, strife, contention, differ- 
ence, variance, dissension

2 *symmetry, proportion, balance

Ana grace, *elegance, dignity: *unity, integrity

harry harass, *worry, annoy, plague, pester, tease, 
tantalize

Ana torment, torture, rack, *afflict, try: *trouble, distress: 
*bait, badger, bound, ride, *hector: fret, gall, chafe (see 
ABRADE)

Con *comfort, solace, console: *relieve, assuage, allevi-
 ace, ally

harsh *rough, rugged, scabrous, uneven

Ana repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, abhorrent, obno-
xious: * coarse, gross: st rident, * vociferous, blatant: rigor-
ous, strict, stringent, * rigid

Ant pleasant: mild — Con pleasing, agreeable, grateful, 
gratifying (see PLEASANT): * soft, gentle, bland, smooth, 
lenient, balmy

harvest vb * reap, glean, gather, garner

Ana collect, assemble (see GATHER): * accumulate, amass, 
hoard

haste n Haste, hurry, speed, expedition, dispatch are com-
 parable when meaning quickness or swiftness in movement 
or in action. Haste implies quickness or swiftness in per-
sons rather than in machines, vehicles, or methods of 
transportation; thus, a business that requires haste de-
mands that the persons concerned move or act swiftly 
<she came in straightway with haste unto the king—Mk 
he shouted—W. O. Douglas> But haste may imply other 
goads than urgency or pressure for time; it may imply 
intense eagerness <his tongue, all impatient to speak . . . 
did stumble with haste—Shak.> <I feel no haste and no 
reluctance to depart—Millay> or lack of due reflection and 
precipitancy in decision <hurry in haste and repent at leisure—Old Proverb> or the implication of anger <I said 
in my haste, all men are liars—Ps 116:11> Hurry, though 
often used in place of haste as the simpler term, distinc-
tively carries a stronger implication of confusion, agitation, 
and bustle <whoever is in a hurry, shows that the thing he 
is about is too big for him. Haste and hurry are very differ-
ent things—Chesterfield> <the incessant hurry . . . of daily 
life—Eliot> and more frequently refers to the things which 
are operated or the actions which are performed with 
haste than to the persons concerned; thus, one makes 
haste in the preparation of a report needed immediately, 
but the hurry of its preparation may result in several errors 
being overlooked. Also, hurry may imply the state of mind 
or the need of one who demands haste as well as of the one 
who makes haste <I am in a great hurry for the articles 
ordered> <you need not be in a hurry to fill my order>

Speed (see also SPEED n 2) usually implies mere swiftness 
or rapidity, primarily in motion or movement but second-
carily in action, performance, or accomplishment. Unlike 
haste and hurry, the term, which may be used in reference 
to things as well as to persons, carries no connotations of 
punctuality, urgency, or agitation, although it may carry 
a suggestion of success <the more haste the less speed— 
Old Proverb> <five dark abbatrosses . . . clearly took pride 
as well as pleasure in a performance which had the beauty 
of speed uncontaminated by haste—Harper’s> <many an 
adult reader with trained habits of attention and concentra-
tion will absorb the contents of a book with a speed . . . no 
child can approach—Eliot> Expedition and dispatch imply 
both speed and efficiency especially in business or affairs, 
but dispatch carries a stronger suggestion of promptness 
in bringing matters to a conclusion, and expedition more 
often carries a hint of ease or efficiency of performance 
(they made their plans with expedition) <Sophia put her 
thing on with remarkable expedition—Bennett> <serious 
business, craving quick dispatch—Shak.> <there is nothing 
more requisite in business than dispatch—Addison> <to 
do everything when it ought to be done is the soul of 
expedition—Scott> <the soul of dispatch is decision— 
Hazlitt> <to move with reasonable expedition along the 
narrow pavements of Rotting Hill is impossible—Wynd-
ham Lewis>

Ana * celerity, alacrity, legernity: rapidity, swiftness, 
quickness, expeditiousness (see corresponding adjectives 
at FAST): readiness, promptness (see corresponding adjec-
tives at QUICK): agility, briskness (see corresponding adjectives 
at AGILE)

Ant deliberation — Con * slowness, leisureliness, delib-
erateness, dilatoriness (see corresponding adjectives 
at SLOW): procrastination, delaying or delay, dawdling 
(see corresponding verbs at DELAY)

hasten * speed, accelerate, quicken, hurry, precipitate

Ant delay — Con * retard, slow, slacken, detain (see 
DELAY): lag, procrastinate, dawdle (see DELAY)

hasty 1 speedy, quick, expeditious, rapid. * fast, swift, 
fleet

Ana * agile, brisk, nimble: hurried, quickened (see 
SPEED vb)

Con * slow, deliberate, dilatory, leisurely, laggard

2 * precipitate, headlong, abrupt, impetuous, sudden

Con considered, advised, *deliberate, premeditated, 
designed, studied

hate n 1 hatred, abhorrence, detestation, abomination, 
loathing (see under HATE vb)

Ana * antipathy, aversion: animosity, rancor, hostility, 
* enmity: despite, contempt, scorn, disdain (see under 
DESPISE)

Ant love — Con affection, * attachment: admiration, 
respect, esteem, * regard: reverence, veneration (see 
under REVERE)

2 Hate, hatred are not always interchangeable although 
they both denote intense, settled dislike for a person or 
thing that causes one either to avoid him or it scrupulously 
or to be his or its bitter enemy. Hate is the preferable 
term when the emotion is thought of in the abstract as 
the diametrical opposite of love or when the term is
used without reference to particular individuals (love you cannot help, and hate you cannot help; but contempt is—for you—the sovereign idocy—Galsworthy) (it takes a very remarkable poet, like Pope . . . to elevate malice into hate—Day Lewis) In concrete use hate is seldom found outside of poetry except when contrasted with love, also in concrete use; it then denotes the object of one's hate (the scum of men, the hate and scourgery of God—Marlowe) (a generation whose finest hate had been big business—Paxson) Hate is the preferable term when the emotion referred to is actually experienced and is therefore personal and individual in character; hate is definable because men are in agreement concerning its distinguishing marks, but hatred escapes exact definition because its implications, other than that of intense dislike, can be gathered only from the context or with reference to its object. Usually it implies in addition one or more such emotions as antipathy, aversion, rancor, vindictiveness, resentment, or fear (he had a deep-seated hatred of aristocrats) (a violent hatred of restrictions on his freedom) (a healthy hatred of scoundrels— Carlyle) (his special type of satire had its roots not in hatred but in sympathy. His wrath was an inverted love—Henry James) (hated is the coward's revenge for being intimidated—Show) hatred also is often used in reference to its effect on the one who is hated; in such cases the nature of the emotion is not stressed, but its power to harm (he sowed doubtful speeches, and reaped plain, unequivocal hatred—Lamb) (battered by hatred, seared by ridicule—Flecker) In concrete use hatred usually denotes a particular instance (as of obsession by the emotion of hatred or of suffering as a result of another's hatred) (given to violent hatreds) (the victim of human hatreds) (a family famous for its hatreds—Disraeli) (the human race lives in a welter of organized hatreds and threats of mutual extermination—Russell)
or legal right to hold as one's property and under one's full control (own a house) (own several horses) (when a child is old enough, he should... be allowed to own books—Russell) (some parents treat their children as if they owned them) Possess is preferred in law to own as implying one's having full title and right to a particular property to the exclusion of everyone else; thus, a husband and wife might say that they own a piece of land when legally only the husband possesses it. In general use possess differs from own in being referable to other things than property (as a characteristic, a quality, a power, or a faculty) (possess sentiment) (the States possessed the power to exclude or admit them [slaves]—John Marshall) (that astonishingly retentive memory which we possessed as little boys—Inge) (the great medicinal value possessed by this water—Heiser) Enjoy (see also like) implies the having of something as one's own or for one's use with all its benefits and advantages; in this sense there is no necessary connotation of pleasure or delight in having or using, but, except in law, the word often does carry a hint if not a definite suggestion of it (during his lifetime he enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the excellence of his sermons—T. S. Eliot) (while man enjoyed... an unlimited freedom to be wicked—Henry Adams) (classes that enjoy certain rights and privileges) Con want, *lack, need

hazens 396 healthful

haze... a house... a house—Allen Johnson) Mist applies to what can be only dimly apprehended because of its remoteness (its origins are lost in the mists of antiquity—Coulton) or to something which prevents exact knowledge or clear understanding (times... half shrouded in the mist of legend—Freeman) Fog implies an obscuring of the mental or spiritual vision or of whatever can be detected only by such vision (the fog of ignorance in which so many live) (life and its few years—a wisp of fog betwixt us and the sun—Reese) (the subject is wrapped in fogs of vague thinking—Overstreet)

head, headman *chief, leader, chieftain, master

headlong *precipitate, impetuous, abrupt, hasty, sudden

Ana rash, reckless, daring, daredevil, foolhardy (see adventurous)

headstrong ungovernable, *unruly, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful


headway pace, *speed, velocity, momentum, impetus

Ana advance, progress (see under advance vb): *motion, movement

heal *cure, remedy

healthful, healthy, wholesome, salubrious, salutary, hygienic, sanitary are comparable when they mean conducive or beneficial to the health or soundness of body or mind. Healthful is more common than healthy as the term carrying this sense (see also healthy 2), but the two are often interchangeable (a healthy climate) (one of the healthiest climates in England—Bennett) (healthy recreation) (the French boy gets healthy recreation—Grandgent) (sound sleep is healthy) (all mothers wish their children to sleep, because it is... healthy—Russell) (the second fruit of friendship is healthful and sovereign for the understanding—Bacon) Wholesome (see also healthy 2) is a more homely word than healthy that is typically perfectly interchangeable with the latter (provide wholesome, well-balanced meals) (books that are wholesome reading) (mathematics... is a wholesome discipline because it requires a high degree of concentration and because it shows so inexorably the difference between right and wrong—Grandgent) but wholesome is the one of these words that may also be used in a much weakened sense to mean not detrimental to health or well-being (some sausages may contain wholesome filler as well as meat and seasonings) (reexamining our idea of a wholesome food, particularly from the point of view of its freedom from chemical additives which may be harmful to the consumer—JAMA) Salubrious applies chiefly to climate or to air that is pleasantly invigorating yet devoid of harshness or extremes (the salubrious mountain air and water—C. B. Davis) Salutary implies a tonic, corrective, or similarly beneficial effectiveness; often it is applied to something that is itself unpleasant (salutary advice) (idle ladies and gentlemen are treated with salutary contempt—Shaw) (the use of force in education should be very rare. But for the conquest of fear it is, I think, sometimes salutary—Russell) Hygienic suggests reference to the means and the rules of promoting physical or mental health, especially of the public. The term therefore commonly implies use of approved means or obedience to approved rules because they are conducive to health (instruct children in the hygienic care of mouth and teeth) (stuffy schoolrooms are not hygienic) (provision is made... for safe and hygienic working conditions—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) Sanitary implies reference to measures taken or that can be taken to guard against infections or conditions that promote disease. The term therefore usually implies the promotion of health, especially public health, through interference with causes that bring about disease or epidemics (sanitary plumbing) (sanitary regulations) (the
heap

sanitary care of foods} {drainage of swamps and similar sanitary measures} Sanitary is sometimes used in place of healthful but with a stronger emphasis upon effectiveness} {solitary communion with nature does not seem to have been healthful or sweetening in its influence on Thoreau’s character—J. R. Lowell}

*beneficial, advantageous, profitable: remedying or remedial, correcting or corrective (see corresponding verbs at correct): helping or helpful, aiding (see corresponding verbs at help)

* deleterious, detrimental, noxious, *pernicious

healthy 1 *healthful, wholesome, salubrious, salutary, hygienic, sanitary

* healthy, sound, wholesome, robust, hale, well are comparable when meaning having or manifesting health of mind or body or indicative of such health. Healthy may imply the possession of full vigor and strength of body or mind or it may merely imply freedom from signs of disease or abnormality 2 *healthy body 3 *healthy boy} {during a healthy and active life—Elion} Often the term applies not to one having health but to what manifests one’s health or vigor or serves as a sign of it 4 *health has a healthy color in his cheeks—Dickens} 5 *she has a healthy appetite 6 *healthily craving for the sap and savor of a more personal, national art—Binyon} {in healthy reaction to the romantic fustian of the…nineteenth century—Christopher Fry}

Sound even more strongly implies the possession of perfect health or the absence of all defects and therefore suggests not even the slightest sign of disease or of physical weakness or defect 7 *sound mind in a sound body} {that child is … much too emotional to be ever really sound—Conrad} 8 *his tastes were healthy, his wits sound—Rose Macaulay}

Wholesome (see also healthful) implies a healthiness that impresses others favorably, especially as indicative of a person’s physical, mental, and moral soundness or often more specifically of a person’s balance or equilibrium 9 *thankful … that he had his mother, so sane and wholesome—D. H. Lawrence}

* such studies … promote … a wholesome dislike of sophistry and rhetoric—Inge} {her eyes shining, her face aglow, looking oddy wholesome in a smeared white painter’s smock—Wouk}

Robust implies the antithesis of all that is delicate; it usually connotes manifest vigor of health as shown in muscularity, fresh color, a strong voice, and an ability to work long and hard 10 *exercise tends to develop robust boys and girls} {a hearty, robust man in his middle sixties—Mannix} 11 *he is in robust health} {speak in a robust voice} 12 *Hale, which is a close synonym of sound, is applied chiefly to elderly or aged persons who not only show no signs of infirmity or senility but manifest qualities of men in their prime 13 *he is hale and hearty at 85} {Pete Gurney was a lusty cock turned sixty-three, but bright and hale—Masefield}

Well, which is commoner as a predicative than as an attributive adjective, is a rather noncommittal term; it implies freedom from disease or illness but does not necessarily suggest soundness or robustness 14 *is your father well?} 15 *he is always well} 16 *she has never been a well person} {however ill one has been, he can (usually) get better, and keep getting better—he can get well—Menninger}

* vigorous, lusty, energetic: * strong, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious

* unhealthy — Con infirm, frail, feeble, *weak

heap n pile, stack, shock, cock, mass, bank (see under heap vb)

* aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomerate: collection, assemblage (see under gather)

heap vb Heap, pile, stack, shock, cock, mass, bank are comparable as verbs when they mean to bring together into a more or less compact group or collection a number of things and as nouns when they denote the group or collection so assembled. Heap is the least definite in its implications; it usually implies a moundlike shape and more or less careless or fortuitous arrangement; it may or may not imply a personal agent, an assemblage of like things, close packing, or a large quantity 17 *throw all the discarded clothes into a heap} {heap the sand in this corner of the lot} {the miser gloated over his heaps of coins} {the wind heaps the leaves under the garden wall} 18 *stacks of firewood were heaped all about the stove—Mason}

Pile distinctively implies the laying of one thing or one layer on top of another in a more or less orderly formation; it usually implies a personal agent and an assembling of like things or things of approximately the same size or shape 19 *pile magazines according to their sizes} {a pile of letters on a desk} 20 *pile logs} {a pile of bricks}

Stack more strongly implies orderly and compact arrangement and the assembling of like things; it almost invariably suggests personal agency and a particular shape or form, and it has a distinctly restricted range of idiomatic references. Thus, one stacks hay, straw, or grain in the sheaf into a cylindrical form or a four-sided, round-cornered form of a compact mass so placed as not to shed rain; one stacks firewood by arranging the pieces neatly into a rectangular pile; one stacks arms when one sets up rifles so that they form a pyramid; one stacks lumber by so arranging it in a pile that air may circulate and warping be minimized 21 *hay curing in the stack} {a stack of lumber} So strongly does stack suggest care in arrangement that it carries specific connotations in some of its applications; thus, to stack cards is to arrange them secretly for cheating; a stack is in Great Britain a measure of stacked coal or firewood equal to four cubic yards. Shock and cock are the narrowest of these terms. Shock is used primarily of sheaves of grain (as wheat, rye, or oats) or of stalks of Indian corn which are stacked upright with butt ends resting on the ground 22 *when the frost is on the pumpkin and the foddler’s in the shock—Riley} Occasionally it, like cock, is used with reference to hay stacked in a conical pile 23 *cock up the hay from the windrow}

Mass (see also mass n under bulk) usually suggests amorphousness; it also implies either a capacity in the things which are brought together for cohering with or adhering to each other so as to form a blended or fused whole or a highly compact or dense agglomerate, or an external process which forces them to cohere or adhere; thus, a pasty substance used in making up pills and troches is called a mass by pharmacists; some flowers (as violets) tend to grow in masses or to set up rifles so that they form a pyramid; one stacks masses of smoke hung amid the darting snakes of fire—Meredith} {a vine, remarkable for its tendency, not to spread and ramble, but to mass and mount—Cather}

Bank (the verb is often followed by up) is used chiefly in reference to substances which when affected by moisture, freezing, or pressure form, or seem to form, into compact masses 24 *bank the snow on each side of the path} 25 *bank up a sandpile} {build a snowbank} {cloud banks} {the wiser heads in Rome, seeing the clouds banking in the North, had clamored for the employment of the ablest of Roman com-
manders—Buchan
Ana *accumulate, amass, hoard: collect, assemble, *gather
Con *scatter, disperse, dissipate, dispel

hearing, audience, audition all mean a formal opportunity to be heard by persons having authority to question or the power of decision. Hearing is not only the general word applicable to such an opportunity not only to be literally heard but to demonstrate worth or qualities in any rational manner (a new trend which is struggling for a hearing—Sapir) but is also a technical term. In legal use it designates a formal listening by a judge or tribunal to the arguments and proofs offered either in interlocutory proceedings or in a preliminary examination in a criminal case; however, only in equity practice is it applicable to a trial. It is also used in government and politics for a formal opportunity offered to citizens to state their views on proposed legislation or administrative action, or to present their objections to assessments on property, or to give evidence in a legislative or other investigation. Audience is more often used of a hearing that is granted as a favor or mark of esteem than of one that can be demanded as a right; therefore it is used particularly in reference to interviews by appointment granted by a sovereign, a high-ranking ecclesiastic (as a pope), or a diplomatic representative of high standing (the French ambassador upon that instant craved audience; and the hour, I think, is come to give him hearing—Shak.) (I had an audience . . . with the Spanish Minister—Disraeli) Audition is applicable to a hearing by expert judges of a performer (as a singer, a musician, a public speaker, an actor, or a dancer) in order to test the merits of his performance with, usually, a view to his possible engagement (operative auditions)

hearsay n *report, rumor, gossip

heart *center, middle, core, hub, nucleus, midst, focus

heartache, heartbreak *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, regret

hearten *encourage, inspirit, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel
Ana *strengthen, fortify, invigorate, energize: rally, arouse, rouse, *stir
Ant dishearten—Con *discourage, dispirit, deject: *depress, weigh

heartfelt *sincere, hearty, unfagged, wholehearted, whole-souled
Ana genuine, veritable, *authentic, bona fide: profound, *deep

hearty heartfelt, *sincere, unfagged, wholehearted, whole-souled
Ana warm, warmhearted, responsive (see TENDER): *deep, profound: exuberant, *profuse
Ant hollow

heave vb raise, *lift, hoist, elevate, boost, rear

heavily *celestial, empyreal, empyrean
Con hellish, *infernal: earthly, earthy, terrestrial, mundane, worldly, sublunary

heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumbersome, hefty.
Something is heavy which is denser and more compact in substance or larger in size or amount than the average of its kind or class and so weighs more in proportion (lead is a heavy metal) (a heavy stone) (a heavy child for his age) (a heavy silk) (a heavy bread). In extended use what is heavy means down the senses or the spirits or is of such nature that the mind or the body finds difficult to bear or endure (there came through the open door the heavy scent of the lilac—Wilde) (there was the crushing sense . . . of having been put down as a tyresome and heavy young man—Benson) (when a great writer . . . creates a speech of his own which is too clumsy to be flexible and too heavy to be intimate—Ellis) Often, also, heavy is applied to the heart, the mind, or the body to imply a being weighed down (as with grief, worry, weariness, or overwork) (the old minister’s heart was often heavy in his breast—Deland) (when he was not too heavy with fatigue—Mary Austin)

At other times the term merely implies a lack of some quality (as lightness, vivacity, or grace) which enliven and stimulates (compared with her, other women were heavy and dull . . . they had not that something in their glance that made one’s blood tingle—Cather) Something is weighty which is actually and not merely relatively heavy (the larger trucks will carry the heavy packages) (as weighty bodies to the center tend—Pope) In extended use what is weighty is highly important or momentous (weighty matters of state) (weighty questions for consideration) (a work whose weighty theme should give it unity enough—Times Lit. Sup.) or produces a powerful effect or exerts an impressive influence (weighty argument) (a weighty speech) (there were also weighty reasons of statecraft to influence him—Buchan) Something is ponderous which is exceedingly heavy because of its size or its massiveness and cannot move or be moved quickly (a ponderous shield) (a ponderous machine) (the sepulcher . . . hath oped his ponderous and marble jaws—Shak.) (in extended use what is ponderous is unduly intricate, involved, complicated, or labored (his ponderous work on the fairy mythology of Europe—Meredith) (ponderous jests) (I have heard mathematicians groaning over the demonstrations of Kelvin. Ponderous and clumsy, they bludgeon the mind into a reluctant assent—Huxley) Something is cumbrous or cumbersome which is so heavy and so bulky that it is difficult to deal with (as in moving or carrying) (the only currency in circulation was of iron, so cumbrous that it was impossible to accumulate or conceal it—Dickinson) (its space was pretty well occupied with the two beds, and the cumbrous furniture that had been bought for a larger house—Archibald Marshall) (the cumber some old table with twisted legs—Dickens) In extended use both words are applicable to what is both ponderous and unwieldy (he is the Philistine who upholds and aids the heavy, cumbrous, blind, mechanical forces of society—Wilde) (he also uses a cumbersome and high-sounding terminology which has a mystifying effect—Weldon) Something is hefty which one estimates as heavy or weighty (as by holding in one’s hands or by measuring with one’s eyes) (a hefty fellow, in the habit of standing no nonsense—Maugham) (a hefty chair) (she has grown hefty since I saw her last) In extended use the word may imply a generous amount or portion (a hefty boost in wages) (a good, hefty slice of pie)

Ana solid, hard, *firm: oppressing or oppressive, weighing down or upon, depressing (see corresponding verbs at DEPRESS)
Ant light

hobble vb *bait, badger, hector, chivy, hound, ride
Ana plague, pester, harass, harry, *worry, annoy; disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit, *embarrass: rack, torment (see AFFLICTION)

hecttor vb *bait, badger, chivy, heckle, hound, ride
Ana tease, tauntize, plague, pester, *worry: bother, vex, irk, *annoy: fret, chafe, gall (see ABRADE)

heedless thoughtless, *careless, inadvertent
Ana *forgetful, oblivious, unmindful: *abstracted, absent, absentminded, distraught: frivolous, light-minded, flippant, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS): remiss, lax, slack, *negligent, neglectful
Ant heedful—Con attentive, *thoughtful, considerate: *watchful, vigilant, alert

hefty *heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumbersome

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
height, altitude, elevation mean the distance a thing rises above the level on which it stands, or the vertical distance between a given level taken as a base and a thing that is above it. Height may be used with reference to whatever can be so measured, whether high or low by a standard of comparison (letters not more than one-twentith of an inch in height) <the tree rises to a height of one hundred feet> It may be used interchangeably with any of the other words, but it is not so specific. While altitude and elevation are often interchangeable, altitude may be preferred in referring to vertical distance above the surface of the earth or above sea level or to the vertical distance above the horizon in angular measurement (an airplane flying at an altitude of 12,000 feet) <(the altitude of a cloud)> <the altitude of a star> Elevation is used especially in reference to vertical height above sea level on the surface of the earth; thus, one would speak of the altitude rather than the elevation of a balloon; a village situated at an elevation, preferable to altitude, of 2000 feet <atmospheric pressure depends on elevation> <(Pike's Peak has an elevation of 14,110 feet)>


heinous *outrageous, atrocious, monstrous Ana *flagrant, glaring, gross, rank: nefarious, flagitious, infamous (see VIGOUR)\textit{Ant} venial —Con trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry hellish *infernal, chthonian, Hadean. \textit{Tartarean, stygian Ana} devilish, diabolical, *fiendish, demoniac help vb 1 \textit{Help, aid, assist} and their corresponding nouns help, aid, assistance are often used with little distinction as meaning (for the verbs) to furnish another person or thing with what is needed (as for the accomplishment of work or the attainment of an end) or (for the nouns) the support so furnished. All usually imply cooperation or a combination of effort. Help, however, carries a stronger implication of assistance toward the end or objective than do the others <every little bit helps> <you are hindering rather than helping> (a drug that helps one to sleep) <please help me over the fence> Aid strongly suggests the need of help or relief and therefore sometimes imputes weakness to the one aided and strength to the one aiding but this is not the case. She knows . . . that saints will aid if men will call —Coleridge <cannonballs may aid the truth but thought's a weapon stronger; we'll win our battles by its aid—Mackay> <his undergraduate work . . . was aided by tuition grants—Current Biog.> \textit{Assist}, which seldom loses its original implication of standing by, distinctively suggests a secondary role in the assistant or a subordinate character in the assistance; thus, a deputy assists rather than aids his superior; a good light assists the eyes in reading (every additional proof that the world is a closely interwoven system . . . assists religious belief—Inge) <moves through the streets at a clip that suggests they have been called to assist at a rather serious fire—Panter-Downes> Ana - *support, uphold, back, champion: *benefit, profit, avail: forward, further, promote, *advance Ant hinder —Con impede, obstruct, block, bar (see HINDER): *frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk: *embarrass, discomfit, harm, hurt, *injure 2 *improve, better, ameliorate Ana *palliate, gloss, extenuate, whiteness, whiten: alleviate, *relieve, mitigate help n aid, assistance (see under HELP vb 1) \textit{Ana} cooperation, uniting or union (see corresponding verbs at UNITE): supporting or support, backing (see SUPPORT vb)

\textit{help} *assistant, coadjutor, aid, aide, aide-de-camp
\textit{hem} vb *surround, environ, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, gird, girdle, ring Ana *enclose, envelop, wall, cage, fence: confine, circumscribe, restrict (see LIMIT) hence consequently, *therefore, then, accordingly, so henchman *follower, adherent, disciple, partisan, satellite, sectary

\textit{herald} n forrunner, harbinger, precursor \textit{Herculean} *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, cyclopean, titanic, Brabdingnagian

\textit{hereditary} congenital, inborn, inherited, *inanimate, inbred Ana transmitted, conveyed (see CARRY): *inherent, constitutional, intrinsic, ingrained \textit{heretic} n Heretic, schismatic, sectarian, sectary, dissenter, nonconformist are comparable when denoting a person who from the point of view of a particular church or religious faith is not orthodox in his beliefs. \textit{Heretic} applies to one who teaches and maintains doctrines that are contrary to those which are actually taught by the church or faith to which he belongs or has belonged <the precursors of Luther were for the most part regarded as heretics> <he drew a circle that shut me out—heretic, rebel, a thing to flout—Markham> <to delete from history its heretics and its radicals would be to deprive it of that rare quality known as independence of mind—Neff> Schismatic applies to one who separates from, or escapes from, the establishment of a church or communion usually by differing on a minor point or points of doctrine; thus, from the point of view of the Roman Catholic Church, those Eastern Christians who seceded to form the Orthodox Church are schismatics, whereas Luther, Calvin, Cranmer, and other leaders of the Reformation are heretics: to the Church of England, the early Puritans and Quakers were schismatics <it was difficult to get any bishop to run the risk of ordaining men whom Rome regarded as schismatics—Moss> \textit{Sectarian} may be applied to a member of a religious denomination or sect, often neutrally but sometimes with the implication of a rigorous and bigoted adherence. Sectary, which is chiefly historical, more than sectarian, implies membership in a sect that is relatively small and composed of ardent and often by connotation narrow-minded and bigoted partisans <the passing of the bill by Parliament was advocated both by churchmen and by sectarians> <collectivist movements within Christianity have proceeded almost entirely from the Anabaptists and other sectaries—Inge> \textit{Dissenter}, which basically means one who dissents, in the present connection, applies to a person who separates himself from and worships in a communion other than an established church (as the Church of England); nonconformist is ordinarily synonymous with dissenter, but the term has been specifically applied in England to persons who refused to accept certain religious doctrines or accepted to follow certain religious practices imposed by the established church; thus, many of the 2000 clergymen who refused to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity in 1662 were regarded as nonconformists: Roman Catholics in England (as a class) have been held to be nonconformists rather than dissenters, since they did not accept the Church of England at any time. Nevertheless the terms are often used interchangeably <Wesley was not a schismatic, or even, in the doctrinal sense, a dissenter. He desired, not to secede from the Established Church, but to fill it with new life—Atlantic> <the English and Scotch Nonconformists have a great horror of establishments>
heroism, hermit, hermaphroditic, hermaphrodite

heritage, inheritance, patrimony, heretical

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
hesitation 401

reached and so usually connotes weakness or treat
<let us hold fast . . . without waving—Heb 10:23>
<the front line which had been advancing rapidly wavered
under the heavy fire> <you waver in your convictions
—Jefferies> 

Vacillate implies prolonged hesitation re-
Sulting from one's inability to reach a fixed or final de-
cision; the term connotes alternate decision and indecision
or a shifting (as in opinions, choices, or loyalties) <he
may pause, but he must not hesitate—and tremble, but
he must not vacillate—Ruskin> <he had vacillated
between various substitutes for Oswald up to the very
moment when he named the four upon whom he decided
finally—H. G. Wells> <I have vacillated when I should
have insisted; temporized when I should have taken
definite action—Marsh> 

Falter suggests a wavering in purpose or action that is evident or is made evident in such signs of fear or nervousness as trembling or the breaking of the voice <with voice that did not falter
though the heart was moved—Wordsworth> <neither to
change, nor falter, nor repent—Shelley> <his eyes did
not flinch and his tongue did not falter—Conrad>

Ana *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosity, mistrust:
procrastination, delaying or delay, dawdling (see corre-
sponding verbs at DELAY)

Con resolution, spirit, mettle, *courage, tenacity: *con-

fidence, assurance, self-possession, aplomb

heterodox, heretical are comparable when they mean
analogous words 

heterogeneous

Ana analogous words 

Ant antonyms 

Con contrasted words 

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Hiatus *break, gap, interruption, interval, interim, lacuna

Hick bumpkin, yokel, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout,
*boor, churl

Hide vb Hide, conceal, screen, secrete, cache, bury, en-

sconce are comparable when meaning to withdraw or to
withhold from sight or observation. Hide, the general
term, and conceal are often interchangeable. But hide
may or may not suggest intent <let me go, that I may
hide myself in the field—1 Sam 20:5> <the snow hides all
the ground> or a putting into a place out of the range of
others’ sight <hide the money under a mattress> <he
hid somewhere in his grimy little soul a genuine love for
music—Kipling> 

Conceal, on the other hand, more often implies intention <hidden things that had never been
concealed, that had merely been dropped into forgotten
corners and out-of-the-way places, to be found a long
while afterward—Roberts> or effective hiding <Sophia
had held that telegram concealed in her hand and its
information concealed in her heart—Bennett> or a refusal
to divulge <I am glad to be constrained to utter that which
torments me to conceal—Shak> <Elizabeth was forced to
conceal her lover from her father—Woolf> 

Screen implies a hiding or concealment of someone or some-
thing in danger of being seen or known by interposing
between him or it and others something (as a screen or
curtain) which shelters and prevents discovery <Wildeve
screened himself under a bush and waited—Hardy> <the mere idea of a woman’s appealing to her family
to screen her husband’s business dishonesty—Wharton>

Secrete implies a depositing, often by stealth, in a place
screened from view or unknown to others <secrete
smuggled goods in a cave> <squirrels secrete their winter
supply of nuts> <and in mere sound secrete his inmost
sense—de la Mare> 

Cache implies an even more carefully
chosen hiding place than secrete, for it usually implies
protection from thieves or from the elements; sometimes
the notion of secure storage more or less completely ob-
sures that of concealment <the explorers took only
enough food and ammunition for the three days’ trip, the
rest they cached in pits dug for that purpose> 

Bury implies a covering with or a submerging in something that hides or conceals or serves as a hiding place <buried his face in his
hands> <his intention had been to bury the incident in his
bosom—Wharton> 

Enconce in the relevant sense implies concealment especially in a raised or enclosed place
<bounded into the vehicle and sat on the stool, ensconced
from view—Hardy> <ensconced the boy in a cubbyhole—
Peggy Bacon>

Ana cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage: *sup-

press, repress

Con expose, parade, flaunt, display, exhibit, *show:
emerge, loom, *appear

Hide n *skin, pelt, rind, bark, peel

Hidebound *illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant,
bogged

Ana restricted, circumscribed, limited (see LIMIT vb)

HIDEOUS *ugly, ill-favored, unsightly

Ana revolting, repulsive, *offensive, loathsome: repellent,
obnoxious, abhorrent, distasteful (see REPUGNANT):
homely, *plain

Ant fair —Con *beautiful, lovely, comely, pretty, beauteous, handsome

High, tall, lofty mean above the average in height. High, the
general term (opposed to low), implies marked expansion
upward and is applied chiefly to things which rise from a
base or foundation (a high hill) (a high building) or are
placed at a conspicuous height above a lower level (as a
floor or the ground) (a high ceiling) (a high-arched bridge) 

Tall (often opposed to short) applies to what rises
or grows high as compared with others of its kind, especially when its breadth or diameter is small in proportion to its height; thus, in idiomatic use one would ordinarily refer to a high hill but a tall man (a tall tree) Lofty is often poetical for high, but it usually implies even greater and more imposing altitude (a lofty peak) (a lofty perch) (the loftiest star of unascended heaven—Shelley) High alone of these words is used to express degree or intensity (high speed) (high power) (high color) (high seasoning) (a high wind) (a high fever)

In extended use high connotes distinction, elevation, and sometimes pride or arrogance (heaven's high king—Millon's) (she . . . thought him cold, high, self-contained, and passionless—Tennyson) (nobody else could utter those two words as he did, with such gravity and high courtesy—Cather) Lofty suggests moral grandeur or dignity (exultation . . . solemn, serene and lofty—Shelley) (that lofty musing on the ultimate nature of things which constitutes, for Pascal, "the whole dignity and business of man")—Huxley The term may also imply haughtiness or superciliousness (she is greatly disliked because of her lofty airs) (looked down upon him with the loftiest contempt—Dickens) Tall in extended use is usually slangy or informal and often implies exaggeration or departure from the strict truth (indulging in tall talk about the vast mysteries of life—White) (she is given to tall stories) Ana elevated, lifted, raised, reared (see LIFT vb): *deep, profound, abysmal: heightened, enhanced, intensified (see INTENSIFY): increased, augmented (see INCREASE vb) Ant low

high-spirited *spirited, metsomes, spunky, fiery, peppery, gingly Ana gallant, chivalrous, courtly, courteous (see CIVIL): audacious, bold, *brave, intrepid hilarity jollity, *mirth, gle Ana merriment, blitheness, jocundity (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY): cheerfulness, gladness, joyfulness, joyousness, lightheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD): *fun, play, sport, jest, game

hinder adj hinder, rear, *posterior, after, back Ant fore, front hinder vb Hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar, dam all mean to put obstacles in the way of a person or thing or of his or its action. To hinder is to check or hold back someone or something in action or about to act, move, or start; the term usually stresses harmful or annoying delay or interference with progress (from your affairs I hinder you too long—Shak.) (the artist's) education is . . . hindered rather than helped by the ordinary processes of society which constitute education for the ordinary man—T. S. Eliot) Sometimes, however, hinder definitely implies prevention (the rain hindered their going) (machines are sometimes hindered by speed from delivering their best performance—Diehl) To impede is to impose upon a person or thing that is moving or in action or in progress something that slows him or it up (as by clogging, hammering, or fettering); the term seldom suggests the stopping of movement or progress, but it commonly implies difficulties so great that movement or action are painfully slow or seriously impaired (around their tattooed limbs they often wore coiled brass rings or bands, which in time became so tight that they impeded the circulation—Heiser) (the teaching of mathematics is . . . impeded by the use of Roman symbols—Grandgent) (he . . . placed his hand on hers, impeding the rapidity of her embroidery needle—Rose Macaulay) To obstruct is to hinder free or easy passage; the word implies interference with something in motion or in progress or obstacles in the path or channel (highways obstructed by fallen trees after a storm) (the tall building obstructed the light from the west) (the view was obstructed by billboards) (the restriction of the power of the House of Lords to obstruct legislation—Plummer)

To block (often with up) is to obstruct so effectively as to close all means of egress or ingress and to prevent all passage (shifting sand blocked the entrance to the channel) (his nose was blocked up by a cold) (in these wild places . . . a snowstorm . . . does not block the King's highways and paralyze traffic as [in] London—Jefferey) To bar is to block or to prohibit passage, ingress, or egress (a long freight train . . . barred the passage along the road—Anderson) (that route is barred to steamers—Kipling) Sometimes the implication of prohibition is so strong that there is no hint of blocking (the law of arms doth bar the use of venomed shot in war—Butler d. 1680) To dam (often with up) is to obstruct with obstacles that prevent a continued flow (as of water, speech, or emotion) and so provide no outlet or exit (felled trees damned up the brook) (the strait pass was damned with dead men—Shak.) (trembling with damned-up emotion) Ana arrest, check, interrupt: *hamper, fetter, clog, trammel, shake, manacle, hog-tie: *restrain, inhibit, curb, check: baffle, balk, *frustrate Ant further —Con *advance, forward, promote: *speed, accelerate, quicken

hire n *wage or wages, pay, salary, stipend, fee, emolument

hire vb Hire, let, lease, rent, charter are comparable when they mean to take or engage something or grant the use of something for a stipulated price or rate. Because some of these words are referable only to the act of the owner and some only to the act of the one who engages, and because they vary in their applications, they are not always true synonyms. In their narrowest use hire and let are complementary terms, hire meaning to engage the use or occupancy of something at a price or rate, and let meaning to grant its use or occupancy for a stipulated return (we hired a house for the summer after having some difficulty in persuading the owner to let it) Nevertheless hire, especially when used of persons or, by implication, their services, may be employed in either sense (hire a servant) (hire oneself (often with out) as a servant) (hire workers by the day) (men willing to hire themselves out at any wage) In distinctive use lease means to let on a contract by which the owner conveys to another for a set term, and usually at a fixed rate, land, buildings, or similar property (the lands in America [in Colonial days] . . . are in general not tenanted nor leased out to farmers—Smith) But lease may also be employed in the sense of to hire on a lease (they have leased the house where they live for three years) Rent implies payment in money (or in kind) for the use of land and the buildings thereon. As long as this idea is stressed, the verb may denote either to hire or to let a property (rent their house from the college) (the college rents these houses only to professors) Rent (in the sense of either hire or let) is also employed in reference to various commodities other than real property (rent books from a circulating library) (rent an automobile for the summer) Charter means to hire by a contract (charter party) similar to a lease whereby the use of a ship is given for a certain time and the safe delivery of its cargo
is promised (it was impossible to charter a ship for the purpose—Irving) The word is often extended to other means of transportation (as buses or airplanes) and then usually implies to reserve by hiring or leasing the exclusive use of a vehicle that is normally available to the general public (charter a bus for a club picnic) 

**Ana** secure, obtain, *get, procure: engage, contract, *promise 

**hireling** adj *mercenary, venal, hack 

**Ana** servile, menial, *subservient: *mean, abject, sordid 

**historic, historical** are sometimes distinguished in meaning. Historic is used when the idea of association with history in the sense of being celebrated, well-known, or deserving to be well-known is stressed (we shall visit many historic spots on our trip) (this is historic ground on which we are standing) (the incident became historic in the Square—Bennett) (the historic conference in 1948, when Lysenko announced his formal endorsement by the Communist Government—Martin Gardner) Historical, on the other hand, implies use of or dependence on or relation to history, especially of facts or events; thus, an historic event is one that is important or famous, while an historical event is one that is supported by the evidence of history (he is conducting an historical investigation of the Pelagian heresy) (an historical novel) (we doubt the historical truth of his conclusions) (a historical phenomenon as deeply rooted as English snobbery is not to be swept away) (in the night—Brogan) (the author examines his own background and the historical accident which caused him to reverse the emigration of his ancestors from England to America—R. B. West) 

**Ana** famed, *famous, celebrated, renowned 

**history, chronicle, annals** mean a written record of events important in the life or career of a race, a nation, an institution, or a region. A history is more than a mere recital of what has occurred; in the modern conception, at least, it requires order and purpose in narration, but not necessarily a strictly chronological order nor a common definitely defined purpose. Usually, also, it is thought of as an interpretation of events especially in their causal relationships. It may exhibit fullness and completeness or, on the other hand, selection of details, especially when a single aspect is considered or a thesis is to be proved. A chronicle is a recital of events in chronological order without interpretation (the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) (Holinhed's Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland) Annals is not always clearly distinguishable from chronicle except in its emphasis upon the progress or succession of events from year to year. The term need not imply a discursive treatment or a continued narrative, for some of the ancient annals are merely records of important events in each year of the time covered. However, in the selection of titles for modern historical works these distinctions are not always observed, for chronicle and annals are sometimes chosen as less formal or pretentious than history or because chronicle stresses narrative quality and annals the selection of noteworthy events (in the earlier Middle Ages, history was written chiefly in the form of annals, that is, the enumeration of the notable events of each year, or of chronicles, in which happenings were recorded in somewhat more continuous, but still strictly chronological and unanalytical form—R. A. Hall) 

In their extended senses only history and annals are closely comparable. Both of these words designate more or less shifting abstractions. History usually signifies the known past, or the sum total of events that are remembered because recorded by historians or evidenced by documents, monuments, and remains (nothing like this has happened hitherto in the history of man) (a land without ruins is a land without memories—a land without memories is a land without history—Ryan) Annals most often signifies the sum total of events, with their dates, that have become fixed in the mind because of the momentousness, often tragic momentousness, of those events (the short and simple annals of the poor—Gray) (happy the people whose annals are blank—Carlyle) Chronicle, on the other hand, is often applied to something concrete (as a person or thing) that records, relates, or manifests events as they happen (pitch upon the veriest camp follower of the New Poetry as the abstract and brief chronicle of its procedure—Lowes) (the neighborhood . . . was one of those highly favored places which abound with chronicle and great men—Irving)
holders' grip on governmental machinery—A. D. H. Smith
<moreover habits acquired very early feel, in later life, just like instincts; they have the same profound grip—Russell
> Grasp implies the power to reach out and get possession or control of something; in its basic applications it may be distinguished with difficulty from grip (did not expect to feel his hand snatched away from her grasp as if from a burn—Conrad) but in its now more common extended applications especially to what can be possessed by the mind it frequently distinctively connotes remarkable powers of comprehension on the one hand or outstanding range of mastery on the other (ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?—Browning) (his grasp of the singular entirety of medieval civilization—Cram) (what competent person supposes that he understands a grain of sand? That is as much beyond our grasp as man—Justice Holmes) (Gray and Collins were masters, but they had lost that hold on human values, that firm grasp of human experience, which is a formidible achievement of the Elizabethan and Jacobean poets—T. S. Eliot)
> Clutch basically implies a seizing and holding with the avidity or rapacity of or as if of a bird of prey (a rabbit in the clutch of an owl) In its extended use it stresses, far more than any of the preceding nouns, the notion of control as distinguished from possession (fell into a user's clutches) (in the clutch of a great fear) (in the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud—Hemley) or that of the act or fact of grasping with violence, with effort, or with frantic determination (as under the impulsion of terror) (in the clutches of a desperate infatuation—Schwartz) (the clutch of a drowning man at a straw) (I can't hold on ten seconds more...my clutch is going now—Marryat) (in the dry, womanless clutch of the army—Irwin Shaw)

Ana possession, ownership (see corresponding verbs at HAVE): control, command, *power, authority

hold back hold, withhold, reserve, detain, retain, *keep, keep back, keep out

hole n Hole, hollow, cavity, pocket, void, vacuum are comparable when they mean an open or unfilled space in a thing. Hole may apply to an opening in a solid body that is or that suggests a depression or an excavation (those holes where eyes did once inhabit—Shak) (a gopher lives in a hole in the ground) or to one that passes through the material from surface to surface (look through a hole in the wall) (a hole in a garment) Hollow, which specifically implies opposition to solid, basically suggests an unfilled space within a solid object, usually one that has a surface opening (a cave is a hollow in a rock) (a nest in the hollow of a tree trunk) The term, however, is often applied to a depression in a surface (the ground was not quite smooth, but had many little heights and hollows) or to a deep and narrow valley (as a gully or ravine) (I hate the dreadful hollow behind the little wood—Tennyson) Cavity is a somewhat more learned word than hollow with much the same implications as the latter in its basic sense (an old cavity excavated by a woodpecker—Burroughs) The words are often used interchangeably, but cavity is preferred in technical use (a cavity in a tooth) (the abdominal cavity) Pocket is often employed in place of cavity for an abnormal or irregular space (as a bubble-like one in a substance or a sacklike one in a body). It is particularly referred to one that is a source of danger, especially in possessing the tendency to hold or to collect a foreign substance (as dirt, air, or pus) (a pus pocket in the lungs) (a pocket in an iron casting) (an air pocket in a pipe carrying a liquid interferes with the flow) (we found many persons at work...searching for veins and pockets of gold—Bayard Taylor) Void applies to an apparently empty space, especially one of marked extent or of conspicuous duration, whether in a thing that is normally continuous (the air-filled voids of the soil—A. M. Bateman) or between things that are normally separate (the American planner will have...to give up his opaque passion for the transparent wall and go back to the alternation of solid and void that is characteristic of the Japanese house—Mumford) (the immense void between the earth and the nearest of the planets) (we suffer when we have time to spare and no printed matter with which to plug the void—Huxley)
> Vacuum basically and especially in technical use applies to space entirely devoid of matter; more often, however, it is applied to the space within an enclosed vessel in which by mechanical means the air has been practically, though seldom completely, exhausted. In its extended use the term applies to a condition or situation which resembles a true vacuum in its emptiness of all that normally should fill it or exert influence on anyone or anything that remains in it (you are not asked, as you are by so many novelists, to concern yourself with the fortunes of two or three people who live in a vacuum...but with the fortunes of all the sorts and conditions of men who make up the world in which we all live—Maughan) (he felt a sort of emptiness, almost like a vacuum in his soul—D. H. Lawrence)

Ana *aperture, oriﬁce, interstice: perforation, puncture, bore, prick (see corresponding verbs at perforate): slit, slash, cut (see cut vb)

holiness, sanctity are often used without distinction to mean either the state or the character of one who is spiritually perfect or of something which is sacred or hallowed.
> Holiness more often implies spiritual perfection, whether intrinsic and essential (the holiness of the Lord) or acquired by effort (the holiness of a saint) than it does sanctity, although the latter implication is not uncommon (and an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it—Isa 35:8) Sanctity may be used either as denoting saintliness or the holiness attained by a saint (die in the odor of sanctity) (men of eminent sanctity—Burke) or the quality of being sacred or by law and especially by natural or divine law immune from violation (the sense of the dignity of human nature is an even more civilized feeling than the sense of the sanctity of human life—Browning) (there is no greater sanctity in the right to combine than in the right to make other contracts—Justice Holmes)

Ana sacredness, divineness or divinity, spirituality, blessedness, religiousness (see corresponding adjectives at holy): devoutness or devotion, piousness or piety (see corresponding adjectives at devout): *goodness, virtue, rectitude

holler vb *shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, whoop

 Ana vociferate, clamor, bellow, *roar

holler n shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, whoop (see under shout vb)

 Ana bellow, roar, vociferation, bawl (see under Roar vb)

hollow adj empty, *vain, nugatory, otiose, idle

Ana & Con see those at empty adj 2

hollow n cavity, *hole, pocket, void, vacuum

Ana excavation, digging (see corresponding verbs at dig): *gulf, chasm, abyss: oriﬁce, *aperture

ho­lo­caust *fire, conflagration

holy, sacred, divine, spiritual, religious, blessed are comparable chiefly as epithets applied to persons or things associated with religion or worship and therefore either regarded with special reverence or veneration or thought of as having a character apart from what is material or
secular. Their choice is often a matter of idiom rather than of meaning inherent in the term. Holy (compare HOLLINESS) usually implies some quality or some attribute in the thing itself which makes it either suitable for use in worship or an object of veneration. As the strongest of these terms in its suggestion of a claim upon one's reverence, it is the only one directly applied to the Supreme Being in praise or laudation (Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty—Rev 4:8) It also forms a part of some titles of the godhead or of a person of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit) It is also applied to some persons or group of persons as a mark of highest reverence or esteem; thus, the Holy Family consists of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus; the Holy Father is a frequent designation of the Pope; the Holy Synod is the governing body in some Orthodox churches. The term is comparably applied to particular things with a similar implication of reverence and esteem; thus, the central Eucharistic service of Christian churches is often called Holy Communion; Palestine is known as the Holy Land; water blessed for use in religious services is holy water; Holy Week is a week set apart for especially pious observances. In more general use holy is often the word chosen when one wishes to impute to what is so described some inherent character that dissociates it from what is mundane, material, or transitory (so holy and so perfect is my love—Shak.) (all is holy where devotion kneels—Holmes) (some words are considered so holy they must never be spoken aloud, such as the ancient Hebrew word for God—Chase) Sacred (see also SACRED) 2) differs from holy chiefly in implying a character given to a thing by blessing, dedication, consecration to religion or worship or to the uses of religion or worship, or by its being devoted wholly to such ends or uses; the term therefore usually suggests an opposition to what is profane or exists for profane uses; thus, the vessels used in a Eucharistic service are preferably called sacred vessels; sacred as opposed to profane history is biblical history or history dealing with biblical characters or biblical events; sacred as opposed to profane literature may denote any or all of the books of the Bible or sometimes any or all writings (as the Bible, the Talmud, and the Koran) which are regarded by various religions as sources of revealed truth (Sacred Writ) (sacred music) (in its appointed compartment in the synagogue rested the sacred Torah—Time) In more general use sacred applies chiefly to what one treasures as a thing apart, not to be violated or contaminated by being put to vulgar or low uses or associated with vulgar or low ends (when they saw all that was sacred to them laid waste, the Navajos lost heart. They did not surrender; they simply ceased to fight—Cather) (nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of our own mind—Emerson) Divine in its oldest and most definite sense implies either the character of deity or an origin from or an association with deity; thus, "divine being" implies both a difference from "human being" and from "angelic being" and the possession of some nature or essence of deity (the belief that Christ is both human and divine) (a divine right is one that comes from God) (divine service is a service having for its end the worship of God) In its weaker senses divine may suggest a supernatural or a superhuman character or origin or, in hyperbolic use, a perfection that is above that which is found on earth (the great mysteries declare that their experiences have some kind of cosmic and divine significance—Jour. of Religion) (that mighty orb of song, the divine Wordsworth—Wordsworth) (the strains . . . of divinest music—Farrar) (by what magic was it that this divine sweet creature could be allied with that old churl!—Meredith) Spiritual implies an opposition in character or in quality to what is bodily, material, earthy, or mundane; it may suggest incorporeal existence (angels are conceived of as spiritual beings) (the spiritual part of man) or independence from the merely physical or sensible (a spiritual marriage) (the leaders of Islam saw its spiritual foundations endangered by the subtle infidelities of pure rationalism—Gibb) or a definite relation to the soul or spirit in its aspiration toward or dependence on a higher power or in its perception of eternal values (the responsibility of human nature, not merely on the moral side, but equally on the spiritual side—Mackenzie) (the spiritual richness, the subtle emotional qualities, which illumined the great styles of the past—Belluschi) (our Declaration of Independence was written by men whose minds reached the spiritual level of eternal principles—McGranery) Spiritual in some chiefly technical legal and theological uses is more or less equivalent to ecclesiastical and then usually implies an opposition to temporal or civil (a spiritual lord, or lord spiritual, is a bishop or archbishop of the Church of England who has a right to sit in the House of Lords) (the boundary between lay and spiritual authority was never defined in pre-Conquest England—Stenton) Religious (for the application of this term to persons, see DEVOUT) implies an opposition to secular and a relation of some kind to religion; thus, religious history is the history of a religion or religions; religious literature is not the same as sacred literature but has a character that is determined by religion or by religious belief or feeling; religious music, unlike sacred music, is not necessarily suitable for use in services or prayer, for, although it includes sacred music, the term may also apply to music not composed for church use but animated by feeling or prompted by themes associated with religion (he stated that his discourses to people were to be sometimes secular, and sometimes religious, but never dogmatic—Hardy) (except for the nominal subjects of the legends, one sees nothing religious about them; the medallions, when studied . . . turn out to be less religious than decorative—Henry Adams) Blessed basically means consecrated (the Blessed Sacrament) and usually also suggests a supremely sacred character (our Blessed Lord) (the Blessed Virgin) In its derived senses blessed means beatified and supremely happy because enjoying the sight of God in heaven (the blessed spirits in heaven) In general use blessed may mean no more than enjoyable, pleasant, or satisfying (that extra blessed quarter hour in bed—Spectorsky) (we have no green vegetables here in winter, and no one seems ever to have heard of that blessed plant, the lettuce—Cather) (Ana) hallowed, consecrated, dedicated (see DEVOTE) adored, worshiped, venerated, reverenced, revered (see REVERE) devout, pious, religious (Ana) unholy —Con *profane, secular: *impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious, profane homage reverence, deference, obeisance, *honor *adoration, veneration, reverence (see under REVERE) fealty, *fidelity, devotion, loyalty, allegiance: tribute, panegyric, eulogy, *encomium home house, *habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile homely *plain, simple, unpretentious *Ana familiar, intimate, close: *usual, wonted, customary, habitual: ill-favored, *ugly *Ant comely, bonny homily sermon, talk, *speech, address, oration, harangue, lecture homunculus manikin, midget, *dwarf, pygmy, runt honest *upright, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable *Ana truthful, veracious (see corresponding nouns at
honesty, honor, integrity, probity are comparable when meaning uprightness as evidenced in character and actions. Honesty implies refusal to lie, steal, defraud, or deceive (you can rely on his honesty) (he is a man of scrupulous honesty) (this crisis will be surmounted if the Church has the faith and courage, and, above all, the common honesty, to face it candidly—Inge) (was not greatly pleased with Lincoln, though admitting his honesty and fair mindedness—W. C. Ford) Honor (see also fame) adds to honesty the implication of high-mindedness or a nice sense of allegiance to the standards of one's profession, calling, or position (business honor is the foundation of trade) (I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved I not honor more—Lovelace) (the fourth generation of Ralstons had nothing left in the way of convictions save an acute sense of honor in private and business matters—Wharton) (a national administration of such integrity that its honor at home will ensure respect abroad—Eisenhower) Integrity implies such rectitude that one is incapable of being false to a trust or a responsibility or to one's own standards (his unimpeachable integrity as treasurer of a widows' and orphans' fund—Hawthorne) (the poet's sense of responsibility to nothing but his own inner voice, is perhaps his only way of preserving poetic integrity against the influences of a perverse generation—Day Lewis) Probity stresses tried or proved honesty or integrity (that sort of probity which such men as Bailey possesses—Keats) (probity in domestic policy and wise judgment in foreign policy—A. E. Stevenson) 

Honor n 1 glory, renown, *fame, celebrity, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety 

A synonym for honor is fame; and the word is also used to designate the greatness or distinction of a person or thing, especially in death. It is also used to express the appreciation of the public for some act or service. 

Honor is the opposite of disgrace or disrepute, shame, ignominy, infamy, infamy.

2 Honor, homage, reverence, deference, obeisance all mean respect or esteem shown another as his due or claimed by him as a right. Honor may apply to the recognition of one's title to great respect or esteem or to an expression or manifestation of such respect and esteem (hold every good and conscientious man in high honor) (he declined the honor that was offered him) (they feel deeply the honor of belonging to the Senate, and the necessity of protecting the Senate against dishonorable men—New Republic) Homage adds to honor implications of accompanying praise or tributes of esteem especially from those who owe allegiance or service (all these are . . . thy gentle ministers, who come to pay thee homage, and acknowledge thee their Lord—Milton) In its extended use the term carries a stronger implication of a worshipful attitude than honor carries (to the poetry of Byron the world has ardently paid homage—Arnold) ("They say I'm hand-some." "You're lovely, Bella!" She drank in his homage—Meredith) Reverence (see also reverence) implies profound respect mingled with love or devotion (in general those parents have the most reverence who deserve it—Johnson) (it be hooves those of us who cherish the past to study Alfred's life and works with a special reverence—Malone) Defiance implies such respect for the person or his position or such reverence for his personality or such honor for his years or achievements that one courteously yields or submits one's own judgment, opinion, or preference to his (the arrangements for the flower show were altered out of deference to the wishes of the duchess) (a certain deference, not to say servility, to the heads of colleges is perhaps necessary to a physician that means to establish himself here—Gray) (looked like a great man . . . deriving dignity from a carriage which, while it indicated deference to the court, indicated also habitual self-possession and self-respect—Macaulay) (an attitude of hostility to aristocracy because it was aristocracy, was as incomprehensible to him as an attitude of deference—Galsworthy) Obeisance implies a show of honor or reverence by some act or gesture (as bowing or kneeling) that indicates submission, humility, or acknowledgment of defeat (the Spanish prince was welcomed . . . by a goodly company of English lords, assembled to pay him their obeisance—Prescott) Sometimes the term is used in place of one of the other words in this group to suggest abject humiliation on the part of the one who pays honor or reverence (a throne to which conquered nations yielded obeisance—Steel) (continually making humble obeisance to supercilious superiors—Wier) 

A synonym for obeisance is adulation; but this term has some other meanings as well, so the word obeisance is more specific. 

Honor, homage, reverence, deference, obeisance are all more or less respectful terms, but there is no neat line of distinction between them all; they are often used interchangeably. 

A synonym for obeisance is homage.
hop vb *skip, bound, curvet, lope, lollop, ricochet

hopeful, optimistic, roseate, rose-colored are comparable when they mean having or showing confidence that the end or outcome will be favorable or for the best. **Hopeful**, which is often used in distinction from **sanguine** (see **CONFIDENT**), usually implies some ground, and often reasonably good grounds, for one’s having hope; it therefore typically suggests confidence in which there is little or no self-deception or which may be the result of a realistic consideration of the possibilities (*the air of youth, hopeful and cheerful—Milton*) <delivers a final comeuppance (see FRUSTRATE)>

**Ant** despair (of): despond

hopeless, despairing, despondent, forlorn *deceive, mislead: cozen, cheat, overreach: *confuse, muddle, fuddle, befuddle: baffle, outwit, circumvent (see FRUSTRATE)

hop vb *expect, look, await


Ant despair (of): despond

hospitable *robust, hearty, hearty-hearted: hospitable, genial (of): genial, companionable

horrible 1 Horrible, horrid, horrific, horrendous mean inspiring horror or abhorrence. **Horrible** (see also **FEARFUL** 2) is the general term for what inspires horror (*some . . . horrible form, which might deprive your sovereignty of reason—Shak.*) <delivers a final comeuppance (see FRUSTRATE)>

**Ant** good, *pleasant, pleasing, grateful, delightful: agreeable, companionable

horrifying, appalling, dismaying, daunting (see **DISMAY vb**): terrorizing, terrifying, frightening, alarming (see **FRIGHTEN**)

2 horrible, terrible, terrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful, *perilous

Ana, Ant, & Con see those at **HORRIBLE 1**

horrid *horrible, horrid, horrendous

Ana distasteful, repellent, *repugnant, obnoxious: offensive, repulsive, revolting, loathsome

Ant fascinating —Con *pleasant, pleasing, grateful, gratifying: attractive, alluring, charming, enchanting (see under **ATTRACT**)

2 horrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful, terrible, terrific

Ana see those at **HORRIFIC 1**

horribly *horribly, horridly

Ana horrifying, appalling, dismaying, daunting (see **DISMAY vb**): terrorizing, terrifying, frightening, alarming (see **FRIGHTEN**)

2 horrible, terrible, terrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful

Ana see those at **HORRIFIC 1**

**Ant** facile, *easy, effortless, plausible, plausible: *spurious, spurious

horrifying, appalling, dismaying, daunting (see **DISMAY vb**): terrorizing, terrifying, frightening, alarming (see **FRIGHTEN**)

2 horrible, terrible, terrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful

Ana see those at **HORRIFIC 1**

horror *fear, dread, fright, alarm, dismay, consternation, panic, trepidation

Ana aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, abhorrence, repel-

lency or repulsion, distastefulness or distaste (see corresponding adjectives at **REPU
gnant**): recoiling or recoil, flinching, shrinking, blenching (see corresponding verbs at **RE
col**)

Ant fascination

hors d'oeuvre *appetizer, aperitif

horse sense see **SENSE** n 2

hospitalize *social, gregarious, convivial, cooperative, companionable


Ana 407 hospitable

Cor

hospitable *robust, hearty, hearty-hearted: hospitable, genial (of): genial, companionable

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
host inhosipitable —Con churlish, boorish (see under BOOK): *indifferent, aloof; detached: reserved, taciturn, uncommunicative (see SILENT)

host *multitude, army, legion

hostage pawn, *pledge, earnest, token

hostility *enmity, animosity, antagonism, antipathy, rancor, animus

hate, *hate: ill will, malevolence, malignity, malignancy, *malice: aggression, *attack: opposing or opposition, combating, resisting or resistance (see corresponding verbs at RESIST)

Con *friendship, amity, cordiality, good-will: forbearance, tolerance, clemency, leniency, indulgence (see under FORBEARING)

hound vb ride, hector, *bait, badger, heckle, chivy


house n home, *habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile

house vb lodge, board, shelter, *harbor, entertain

hovel *flit, flutter, flitter, flicker

n home, *habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile

hover *flit, flutter, flitter, flicker

hang, suspend: poise, balance (see STABILIZE): float, *fly, skim, sail

howl vb 1 *bark, bay, growl, snarl, yap, yap

2 *roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, ululate

A wail, blubber, *cry: lament, bewail, *deplor

howler boner, *error, mistake, blunder, slip, lapse, faux pas, bull

hub n core, *center, middle, nucleus, heart, focus, midst

hubub *din, uproar, pandemonium, hubbub, babel, clamor, racket

hubby *color, shade, tint, tone

huff n dudgeon, pique, resentment, *offense, umbrage

A petulance, huffiness, irritability, fractiousness (see ANGRY: angry, mad, indignant, irate

hug huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian are comparable when meaning exceedingly or excessively large. Huge is a rather general term indicating extreme largeness, usually in size, bulk, or capacity: an enormous volume of heavy, inky vapor, coiling and pouring upward in a huge and ebony cumulus cloud—H. G. Wells) (the Texan question and Mexican War made huge annexations of Southwestern territory certain—Nevin & Comagger) Vast denotes extreme largeness or broadness, especially of extent or range: the Great Valley of California, a vast elliptical bowl averaging 50 miles in width and more than 400 miles long—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.) (consider the vast varieties of religions ancient and modern—Cohen) Immense suggests size far in excess of ordinary measurements or accustomed concepts: an immense quill, plucked from a distended albatross’ wing—Melville) (found the balloon at an immense height indeed, and the earth’s convexity had now become strikingly manifest—Poe) (the immense waste of war—Brogan) Enormous also indicates a size or degree exceeding accustomed bounds or norms: huge wagons, enormous loads, scarcely any less than three tons—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.) (the princes of the Renaissance lavished upon private luxury and display enormous amounts of money—Mumford) Elephantine suggests the cumbersome or ponderous largeness of the elephant

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
humdrum adj • moist, damp, *wet, dank
fake, sham, *imposture, cheat, fraud, deceit, *wit, irony, satire, sarcasm, repartee
humble vb • humble, degrade, debase, demean, *abase
Con grave, *serious, earnest, solemn, sober
hunger vb • yearn, hanker, pine, thirst, *long
Anathema, *desire, covet, wish, want
hunt vb • search, ransack, rummage, *seek, scour, comb, ferret out
Anathema pursue, chase, *follow, trail
hurl fling, cast, *throw, pitch, toss, sling
Con • catch, capture: grasp, clutch, seize, grab, *take
hurricane 1 • wind, breeze, gale, zephyr
2 • whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, tornado, waterspout, twister
hurry vb • speed, quicken, precipitate, hasten
Anathema impel, drive, *move
Ant delay • Con retard, slow, slacken, detain (see delay): procrastinate, lag, loiter, dawdle (see delay)
hurry n • haste, speed, dispatch, expedition
Con • swiftness, rapidity, expeditiousness, quickness, speediness (see corresponding adjectives at fast): *celerity, alacrity, legiterity: flurry, *stir, bustle, pother, ado
hurt vb • injure, harm, damage, impair, mar, spoil
Anathema • afflict, torture, torment: *trouble, distress: *wrong, oppress, persecute, aggrieve
hurt n • injury, harm, damage, mischief
Anathema • pain, ache, pang, thro, twinge, stitch: *injustice, wrong, grievance
husbandry farming, *agriculture
husky • muscular, brawny, sinewy, athletic, burly
Anathema stalwart, stout, *strong, sturdy, tough: *powerful, puissant, potent, forceful
hygienic sanitary, *healthful, healthy, wholesome, salubrious, salutar
hymeneal nuptial, marital, connubial, conjugal, *matrimonial
hymn vb • sing, troll, carol, descant, warble, trill, chant, intone
Anathema extol, laud, acclaim, *praise
hyperbole • exaggeration, overstatement
hypercritical captious, caviling, carping, censorious, faultfinding, *critical
Anathema finicky, fastidious, fussy, pernickety, squeamish, particular (see nice)
hypochondriac • melancholic, melancholy, atriabilious
hypocrisy • sanctimony, pharisasm, cant • mean the pretense or affectation of being more virtuous or more religious than one actually is. The same differences in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding adjectives, hypocritical, sanctimonious, pharisical, canting. Hypocrisy and hypocritical, the most inclusive of these terms, imply an assumption of goodness, sincerity, or piety by one who is either not good, sincere, or pious or is actually corrupt, dishonest, or irreligious. I thought where all thy circling wiles would end—in feigned religion, smooth hypocrisy—Milton) (be hypocritical, be cautious, be not what you seem but always what you see—Byron) (Archer's New York tolerated hypocrisy in private relations; but in business matters it exacted a limpid and impeccable honesty—Wharton) (much of the religiosity which unwise parents delight to observe in their children is . . . innocent hypocrisy—Inge) (the passing stranger who took such a vitriolic joy in exposing their pretensions and their hypocrisy—Brooks) Sanctimony and sanctimonious are terms of opprobrium implying an affectation or merely outward pretense of holiness or of piety (he took pleasure in comparing the sanctity of the early Christians with the sanctimony of many modern churchgoers) (the preacher urged his flock to seek holiness but to take care lest they fall into sanctimony) (sanctimonious professions of faith) (a woman who was religious without being...
hypothesis (Stokes) Pharisism and pharisical imply a stern and censorious attitude to the manners and morals of others or a conviction of one’s own moral superiority, or both; the terms frequently suggest sanctimony or, less often, out-and-out hypocrisy (pharisism, stupidity, and despotism reign not in merchants’ houses and prisons alone—Farrell) (the assured, the positive, the pharisical temper, that believes itself to be impregnably in the right and its opponents indubitably in the wrong—Benson)

Cant (see also Dialect) and canting imply the use of religious or pietistic language or phraseology in such a way as to suggest sanctimony or hypocrisy rather than genuine holiness or deep religiousness; often, however, the terms suggest reference not only to such outward indications of sanctimony and hypocrisy but to the state of mind or the attitude of one who is so pharisical, or so deeply convinced of his righteousness or holiness, that he is unaware that he is displaying his religion in a mechanical or perfunctory rather than in a sincere manner and in a spirit of arrogance rather than of humility (a canting moralist)

(a canting assumption of his righteousness) (the whole spiritual atmosphere was saturated with cant...an affectation of high principle which had ceased to touch the conduct, and flowed on in...insincere and unreal speech—Froude) (one of those rare artists...who, by virtue of some inward grace, constantly flowing through the intellect, purge the mind of cant—Brooks)

Ana dissimulation, duplicity, guile, *deceit: *pretense, pretension, make-believe

hypocritical sanctimonious, pharisical, canting (see under HYPOCRISY)

Ana unctuous, oily, slick, *fulsome: feigned, affected, assumed, simulated, shammed, counterfeited, pretended (see Assume)

Con genuine, veritable, bona fide, *authentic: *sincere, heartfelt, wholehearted, whole-souled, unfeigned

hypostatize reify, externalize, materialize, incarnate, *realize, actualize, embody, objectify

hypothesis, theory, law are often interchangeable in general use. In their technical senses they are usually discriminated by the scientists and philosophers who employ them. In general the terms denote an inference from data that is offered as a formula to explain the abstract and general principle that lies behind the data and determines their cause, their method of operation, or their relation to other phenomena. In such usage hypothesis implies tentativeness in the reference because of insufficient evidence and applies to a well-founded conjecture that serves as a point of departure for scientific discussion or as a tentative guide for further investigation or as the most reasonable explanation of an imperfectly comprehended phenomenon (a scientist says in effect—“Observation shows that the following facts are true; I find that a certain hypothesis as to their origin is consistent with them all”—Jeans)

(a resemblance to electric polarization is very close; it is in fact so close that it would not be foolish at all to make the hypothesis that the iron contains not only electrons but also tiny corpuscles of some subtle magnetic fluid—Darrow) (in the last chapter I proposed the hypothesis that a pure poetry exists, employing the term “lyric” to describe poems which “consist of poetry and nothing else”—Day Lewis) Theory, in general use, often means little more than hypothesis or conjecture (“Let us sit quiet, and hear the echoes about which you have your theory.” “Not a theory; it was a fancy”—Dickens) (in the course of my work in Egypt, I had formulated certain theories of my own about plague, and could not reconcile them to the findings of the Commission—Heiser) but in precise technical use it presupposes more supporting evidence than hypothesis does, a wider range of application, and greater likelihood of truth. It is not always obvious when hypothesis and when theory should be used; in comparable applications hypothesis is preferred by some scientists as the more modest in its claims, theory being preferred by others as suggesting such confidence in the reliability of the inference and its supporting evidence as to imply that it deserves acceptance (the Darwinian explanation of the origin of species is regarded by some as a hypothesis, but is more often designated as the theory of evolution) (that exact verbal expression of as much as we know of the facts, and no more, which constitutes a perfect scientific theory—T. H. Huxley) (in 1905 Einstein crystallized these concepts and hypotheses in his theory of light quanta, according to which all radiation consisted of discrete bullet-like units—Jeans) (there was also a nascent theory of sound waves; and out of it there grew...a tremendous mathematical doctrine of waves which nowadays has almost come to dominate the physics of these times—Darrow)

Law (for fuller treatment see PRINCIPLE) emphasizes certainty and proof and therefore applies to a statement of an order or relation in phenomena that has been found to be invariable under the same conditions (in philology, Grimm’s law is a statement of the regular changes which the stops, or mute consonants, of the primitive Indo-European consonant system have undergone in the Germanic languages) However, since such laws are subject to correction or alteration by the discovery of contradictory or additional evidence, the term is often changed in the course of time to theory; thus, what has long been known as Newton’s law of gravitation is currently being revised as a result of Einstein’s discoveries and is sometimes designated as Newton’s mathematical theory of universal gravitation.

Ana conjecture, surmise, guess (see under CONJECTURE vb): inference, deduction, conclusion (see under INFER)

hypothetical conjectural, *supposed, supposititious, reputed, putative, purported

Ana *theoretical, speculative, academic: *doubtful, dubious, problematic, questionable

Con *certain, inevitable, necessary: proved, tested, tried, demonstrated (see PROVE)

hysteria delirium, frenzy, *mania
icon  *image, portrait, effigy, statue, photograph, mask
iconoclast  *rebel, insurgent
icy  glacial, arctic, gelid,  *cold, frigid, freezing, frosty, cool, chilly

Ant  fiery

idea, concept, conception, thought, notion, impression mean what exists in the mind as a representation of something that it apprehends or comprehends or as a formulation of an opinion, a plan, or a design. Idea is the most compre- hensive and widely applicable of these terms: it may be used of an image of something at one time or another actually perceived through the senses, or of something never perceived but visualized from bits of information described his idea of a penthouse  his idea of heaven does not correspond to that of most persons our ideas of a good time aren't the same, and never will be—Rose Macaulay or of something that is the clearly or vaguely defined product of fancy, imagination, or inventive power he invented a new kind of buoy which was found by the authorities to be excellent in idea, but impracticable—Ellis the idea of holiness has its history, like other religious ideas, and the history is not edifying—Iinge of those accepted ideas, which are always wrong, that China is and was a country of immovable and unchanging traditions—Binion. It may denote a mere suppo- sition I had no idea that the law had been so great a slavery—Austen or a good or practical solution or sug- gestion a very clever point that . . . . You are really full of ideas—Shaw or a ridiculous or preposterous sugges- tion Mr. Elton in love with me! what an idea!—Austen Concept applies in logic to the idea of a thing which the mind conceives after knowing many instances of the cate- gory to which it belongs and which is devoid of all details except those that are typical or generic the concept of “horse,” “table,” “mountain” the author of Mein Kampf has abolished the whole concept of the citizen as we have known it from the days of Pericles—Dorothy Thompson In more general use the term applies to a formulated and widely accepted idea of what a thing should be we find among the Greeks germinal concepts which are a vital part of modern thought—Buchan thus the popular concept of what news was came more and more to be formed upon what news was printed—Mott. Concept is often used in place of concept in this latter sense; in fact it is sometimes preferred by those who wish to keep concept as a technical term of logic. However concept so strongly suggests the activity of the mental power of bringing into existence an idea of something not yet realized or not yet given outward form that it often im- plies not only the exercise of the reflective powers but of the imagination as colored by feeling; the term therefore more often applies to a peculiar or an individual idea than to one held by men as a whole or by an entire class, pro- fession, or group compare Poe’s conception of poetry as “the rhythmical creation of beauty” with the Aristotelian conception of it as the imitation of human actions according to probability and necessity what I needed was . . . some clear conception of the meaning of existence—L. P. Smith. Concept is also, especially in literary and art criticism, the usual term for the idea or design conceived by the writer or artist in advance of or in company with his giving it expression or form Dante’s boldness of conception the dramatist’s power to express his conception with frankness and daring the conception comes through the actual execution—Alexander. Thought applies either to an expressed or to an unexpressed idea, especially one that comes into the mind as a result of medita- tion, reasoning, or contemplation a child’s thoughts about God he had not a thought of disaster have to wait for the occasional genius, or the occasional lucky thought—Whitehead his mind ran over the great cities . . . . Of them all, only New York was as it had always been, and he was angered at the thought—Buck. Notion often adds to idea’s implication of vagueness the suggestion of caprice or whim or of half-formed or tentative purpose or intention her notion of a delta was a lot of channels and islands—Forester one never does form a just idea of anybody beforehand. One takes up a notion, and runs away with it—Austen modest, sober, cured of all her notions hyperbolical—Cowper but notion may also come close to concept in suggesting a general or universal concept arriving at the notion of law—Babbitt or to conception in denoting the meaning content assigned by the mind to a term have no adequate notion of what we mean by causation—Sapir. Impression (see also impression 1) usually suggests an idea which comes into the mind as the result of an external stimulus I should like to know your first impressions of this book. Poetry . . . aims at the transmission . . . of impressions, not facts—Lowes. Looking out over the steep hills, the first impression is of an immense void like the sea—Jefferies. Ana *opinion, view, belief, conviction, sentiment: *hypothesis, theory, law ideal adj  abstract, transcendent, transcendental Ana utopian (see ambitious): surpassing, peerless, supreme Ant  actual ideal n  pattern, exemplar, *model, example, standard, beau ideal, mirror Ana *truth, verity: perfection, *excellence identical 1 also identic selfsame, *same, very, equivalent, equal, tantamount Ana corresponding, correlative, convertible (see reciprocal) Ant diverse —Con  *different, disparate, divergent: *distinct, separate, several 2 *like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, uniform Ana matching, equaling (see match): agreeing, squaring, tallying, jibing, corresponding (see agree) Ant *different identification  *recognition, apperception, assimilation Ana perception, *discernment, discrimination: image, percept, sense-datum, sensum, *sensation identify, incorporate, embody, assimilate are comparable when they mean to bring (one or more things) into union with another thing. Identify involves the idea of a union of things that are or are thought of as identical, or the same; it may imply the actual making of a thing or things the same as another every precaution is taken to identify the interests of the people and of the rulers—Ramsay it is the writer’s business to identify words with things, emotion with thought—Muller or it may refer to the mental ap- prehension of a real or imagined identity between things Min was identified with Horus the son of Isis—Mercer should make us wary toward those who . . . have identified Americanism with a partisan policy in behalf of concealed economic aims Dewey. This latter use may analogous words  Ana antonyms  Ant contrasted words  Con See also explanatory notes facing page I
connot confusion in thought or self-deception (it is easy to identify cynicism with honesty and hence with truthfulness—Hamburger) Incorporate implies a union of one or more things with another, or of different things, so that when blended, fused, or otherwise united they constitute a uniform substance, a single body, or an integral whole (fertilizers should, in general, be incorporated with the soil) (what is learned is of no value until it is incorporated into one's store of knowledge) (what he does is to incorporate verbatim a good many of Leonardo's notes into a narrative that is entirely his own—William Murray) Embody (see also realize 1) is more restricted in its range of application than incorporate because it can be used only when one or more things are made part of another thing that is an ordered whole (as an organized structure, a group, or a system) (yet so much of these treaties has been embodied in the general law of Europe—Mackintosh) (a recognized scholar, whose discussion... embodies the finest fruits of contemporary opinion and research—E. H. Swift) Assimilate (see also absorb 1) falls short of identify because it does not always imply the actual fusion or blending or, when self-deception is conned, the actual confusion, of two things. Like identify, however, assimilate implies the making of two or more things exactly alike, either actually or in thought; thus, to assimilate one's beliefs to those of another is to change one's beliefs with those of another to make them one and indistinguishable as well as the same; the d of the Latin prefix ad- is often assimilated to a following consonant as in affectus (our manufacturing class was assimilated in no time to the conservative classes—H. G. Wells)

Idiom

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ignorant

Idiom

1 dialect, *language, speech, tongue
Ana jargon, patois, cant, argot (see dialect)
2 expression, locution, *phrase
Idiosyncrasy *eccentricity
Ana peculiarity, individuality, distinctiveness or distinction, characteristic or characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic): manner, way, *method, mode: mannerism, affectation, *pose
Idiot imbecile, moron, *fool, simpleton, natural
Idiety adj 1 vain, nautygoro, otiose, empty, hollow
Ana fruitless, bootless, *futile, vain: *ineffective, inefficient, ineflicious: trivial, paltry, *petty, trifling
Con significant, pregnant, meaningful (see expressible): profitable, *beneficial, advantageous
2 *inactive, inert, passive, supine
Ana indolent, faineant, *lazy, slothful: dawdling, lagging, procrastinating (see delay)
Ant busy —Con industrious, diligent, assiduous, sedulous (see busy)

Idle vb Idle, loaf, lounge, loll, laze mean to spend time not in work but in idleness. Idle may be used with reference to persons or to things that move lazily or without purpose; it may also be employed to connote either strong censure or a pleasant or justifiable action (why do you idle away all your days?) (it is impossible to enjoin idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do—Jerome) (the brook idles through the pasture) (her fingers idled over the keys) (it is pleasant to saunter out in the morning sun and idle along the summer streets with no purpose—L. P. Smith) Loaf suggests either a resting or a wandering about as though there were nothing to do; it does not necessarily imply contempt, although its agent noun loafer when used seriously nearly always carries that implication and has often affected the meaning of the verb (Tennyson does

The greater part of his literary work... between breakfast and lunch, and loafs the rest of the day—Boston Journal) (I loaf and invite my soul, I lean and loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer grass—Whitman) (the idea of the university as a place of leisure where rich young men loaf for three or four years is dying—Russell) (men who came into the shop to loaf during winter afternoons—Anderson) Lounge, though occasionally used as equal to idle or to loaf, typically conveys an additional implication of lazily resting or reclining against a support or of physical comfort and ease in relaxation (he stood... lounging with his elbow against the bar—Dickens) (against the sunny sides of the houses, men lounged, or played at deck on a rock—Mary Austin) The agent noun lounger is, however, usually derogatory, though slightly less so than loafer (he is not a loafer, but he is a lounger on street corners during his free hours) (the loungers at the bar were beginning to show signs of leaving—MacFall) Loll also carries an implication of a posture similar to that of lounge, but it places greater stress upon an indulent or relaxed attitude (there were not yet any jaded people lolling supine in carriages—Shaw) (on Sunday afternoons... when a crowd was there to loll on the front porch and swap stories—Caldwell) Laze usually implies the relaxation of a busy person enjoying a vacation or his moments of leisure (I had a very pleasant time, sailing, fishing, and lazing about—J. R. Lowell) (it was nice lazing this way. About time she had a holiday—Christie)

Ana rest, relax, repose (see corresponding nouns at rest): *saunter, stroll, amble
Idolize *adore, worship
Ana dote, love, *like: venerate, *revere, reverence
Con *despise, contemn, scorn, disdain: *hate, abhor, detest, loathe, abominate
If, provided are both used to introduce conditional clauses. When merely a possibility which may or may not be true is expressed, if is the usual conjunction (if this counsel... be of men, it will come to naught—Acts 6:38) When the clause which follows names a stipulation or proviso, provided (or sometimes providing) is the usual form (it is not hard to know God, provided one will not force oneself to define him—Arnold) (providing they pay you the fixed rent—Ruskin)

Ignite kindle, *light, fire
Ant stifle: extinguish

Alien

1 mean, sordid, abject
Ana base, low, vile: churlish, boorish, loutish (see under boor)
2 men who have been brought up in a uniform substance, a single body, or an integral whole (was brought up... to be a standard set for the educated or cultivated man... you might read all the books in the British Museum (if you want to know God, you will not force yourself to define him—Christie)

Idiom

412
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Antonym</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
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<td>ill-fated</td>
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Note: The above table lists some of the words from the text in a more reader-friendly format.
illusion

is dark is made bright or what is complicated, obscure, or vague is made clear (the oblique band of sunlight... illuminated her as her presence illuminated the heat—Hardy) (the greatest truths are perhaps those which being simple in themselves illuminate a large and complex body of knowledge—Alexander) (he longed... to hear more about the life of which her careless words had given him so illuminating a glimpse—Wharton) Illuminate is chiefly literary or poetical for illuminate (what in me is dark illuminate—Milton) (no lurid fire of hell or human passion illuminies their scenes—Eliot) Light, lighten, and enlighten carry a stronger implication of providing with light for clear seeing than of throwing a light upon.

Light is the most consistently literal of these terms, though it often carries a suggestion of brightening the way of one who otherwise might stumble or go astray (the room was brilliantly lighted) (all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death—Shak.) (seas roll to waft me, suns to light me rise—Pope) (the old man scratched a match, the spark lit up the keyhole of a door—Lowell) Lighten, like light, basically implies a making brighter or a lessening of darkness, but it has more extended and poetic use (lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord—Book of Common Prayer) (I would not convey the thought that an opinion is the worse for being lightened by a smile—Cardozo) Enlighten, which has almost wholly lost its basic meaning of to make physically light or bright, is common when filling with intellectual or spiritual light is implied (the Chinese philosopher... needed no discovery of science to enlighten him; that enlightenment was part of his philosophy—Binyon). Sometimes the term implies that one has been supplied with information necessary to the understanding of something (in her simplicity she did not know what it [her mistake] was, till a hint from a nodding acquaintance enlightened her—Hardy) and sometimes it implies sufficient education and experience to enable one to meet all needs and, especially in the adjective enlightened, to remove or overcome superstition, prejudice, or intolerance (the civilized and enlightened portions of the world at the time of the Declaration of Independence—Taney) Illustrate (see also exemplify) is somewhat rare in a sense which approaches that of illuminate and in which it suggests the shedding of luster rather than of light, embellishment rather than elucidation, and distinct exhibition rather than a bringing into view (the poet or philosopher illustrates his age and country by the efforts of a single mind—Gibbon) (narrow of vision but steadfast to principles, they fronted life resolutely, honoring and illustrating the supreme worth of freedom—Replplier) (the latest portrait of the chief justice of the Supreme Court) (the last portrait of the chief justice of the Supreme Court) Photograph applies only to a portrait that is made by means of a camera and sensitive plates or films. Mask applies primarily to a molded copy of a face made in wax or plaster; thus, a death mask is a copy made very soon after a person has died, especially a cast or impression taken directly from the face of the dead person.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
imaginal  *imaginative, imaginable, imaginary
imaginatory adj  1 Imaginary, fanciful, visionary, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic are comparable when they are applied to conceotions or to the persons who form the conceptions and mean unreal or unbelievable and out of keeping with things as they are or conceiving such unreal or unbelievable things. Something is imaginative which is fictitious and purely the product of an active or an excited imagination (imaginatory) {imaginary} ill and fancied tortures —Addison} {those nervous persons who may be terrified by imaginative} dangers are often courageous in the face of real danger—Ellis} Something is or, less often, one is fanciful which or who indicates a giving rein to the power of conceiving or producing things that have no real counterpart in nature or in fact {in Wales he found a cottage perfectly roofed with fern} . . . Had a painter put this in a picture, many would have exclaimed: “How fanciful!”—Jeffreys} {Rousseau’s fanciful image of primitive man, un contaminated by science or art, undepraved by thought—Grandgent} Something is visionary which, although it seems real and practical to the one who conceives it, is usually the product of a dream or vision of an unreal or fanciful imagination and is incapable of realization {visionary schemes for world conquest} {Goldsmith had long a visionary project, that . . . he would go to Aleppo, in order to acquire a knowledge . . . of any arts peculiar to the East, and introduce them into Britain—Bosswey} {this was a visionary scheme . . . a project far above his skill—Swift} One is visionary who is given to such dreams, visions, and fancies and inspired by the hopes they arouse {if a man happens not to succeed in such an enquiry, he will be thought weak and visionary—Burke} {planning, as his visionary father might have done, to go to Brazil to pick up a fortune—Van Doren} Something is fantastic {see also FANTASTIC 2} which is or, more often, seems extravagantly fanciful or queer and hence incapable of belief or, sometimes, approval {in words, as fashions, the same rule will hold; alike fantastic, if too new, or old—Pope} {his strange coming, his strange story, his devotion, his early death and posthumous fame—it was all fantastic—Cather} {a fantastic world inhabited by monsters of iron and steel—Bromfield} Something is chimerical which is wildly or fantastical visionary or unreal {an universal institutional church is as chimerical an idea as an universal empire—Inge} {the defeat was more complete, more humiliating . . . the hopes of revival more chimerical—Times Lit. Sup.} Something is or one is quixotic which or who is motivated by extravagantly chivalrous devotion to visionary ideals {quixotic as a restoration of medieval knighthood—Cohen} {to insist upon clemency in the circumstances would . . . have required quixotic courage—Buchan} {the economic notion that our present population . . . can live on this island and produce by their work a real income that will give them a rising standard of comfort and leisure, is utterly quixotic—Hobson} Ana *fictitious, fabulous, mythical, legendary, apocryphal: transcendent, transcendental, *abstract: utopian {see AMBITIOUS} {delusory, delusive {see MISTEADING}; illusory, seeming, *apparent
Ant real, actual
2 imaginative, imaginal, imaginable
imagination, fancy, fantasy are comparable when denoting either the power or the function of the mind by which mental images of things are formed or the exercise of that power especially as manifested in poetry or other works of art. The meanings of all of these terms have been greatly influenced by changing psychological and aesthetic theories, with the result that in the past they have often carried implications or connotations and sometimes denotations not observable in modern use. Imagination is not only the most inclusive of these terms but the freest from derogatory connotations. As an inclusive term it may apply either to the power of forming images of things once known but now absent {our simple apprehension of corporeal objects, if present, is sense; if absent, is imagination—Glanvill} or to the power of forming images of things not seen, or actually nonexistent, or incapable of actual existence {one feels that a livelier melodic imagination would serve the needs of classical opera better—Evett} In the first instance the term suggests the use of memory as well as of the image-making power {recall the past in one’s imagination} {her face haunted his imagination} In the second it usually suggests either a new combination of elements found in one’s experience or an ability to conceive of something, seen only fragmentarily or superficially, as a complete, perfected, and integral whole {a man of no imagination is less likely to feel physical fear} {with imagination enough to see the possible consequences} and imagination {bodies for the forms of things unknown, the poet’s pen turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name—Shak} {it is only through imagination that men become aware of what the world might be—Russell} {facts . . . give us wherewithal to think straight and they stimulate the imagination: for imagination, like reason, cannot run without the gasoline of knowledge—Grandgent} Fancy (see also FANCY 3) usually means the power to conceive and give expression to images that are far removed from reality or that represent purely imaginative things {she saw, with the creative eye of fancy, the streets of that gay bathing place covered with officers—Austen} {the world which any consciousness inhabits is a world made up in part of experience and in part of fancy—Krutch} In aesthetic use there is a tendency to make imagination and fancy antithetical. Imagination is often used to designate the power of representing the real or what gives an illusion of reality in its entirety and organic unity and, usually, in its ideal or universal character; fancy, the power of inventing the novel and unreal by recom bining the elements found in reality. So interpreted, imagination represents men not only in their outward but in their inward life, and produces a Hamlet; fancy presents them in alien surroundings, or essentially changed in their natural physical and mental constitution, and produces centaurs and Brobdignagians {the imagination, or shaping or modifying power; the fancy, or the aggregative and associative power—Coleridge} {Martians, the little green men of popular fancy—Mendelssohn’s fancy gives additional soaring power to the poet’s—Kolodin} Fantasy often takes the place of fancy in naming the power of unrestrained and often extravagant or delusive fancy or its exhibition in art {first} . . . live a complete fancy life of fantasy between the lines of print—Huxley} {this mechanical man or robot idea has been decidedly overdone in the writings of fantasy—Furness} Ana invention, creation {see corresponding verbs at INVENT}: conceiving or conception, realizing or realization {see corresponding verbs at THINK}
imaginitive, imaginative, imaginable, imaginary, though not synonymous, are sometimes confused because of their verbal likeness. Imaginative applies to something which is the product of the imagination or has a character indicating the exercise or the power of the imagination; thus, imaginative writings are often distinguished from such factual writings as historical, expository, and argumentative; an imaginative poet is one whose imagination
heightens his perception of people and things (it is a common fallacy that a writer... can achieve this poignant quality by improving upon his subject matter, by using his “imagination” upon it and twisting it to suit his purpose. The truth is that by such a process (which is not imaginative at all!) he can at best produce only a brilliant sham. —Cather) [workaday scientists]... are prone to identify the poetical with the impractical, the imaginative with the imaginary, the fictional with the false... —Muller] Imaginal, meaning of the imagination or within the conceptive powers of the imagination, has been used, especially by psychologists, to fill the need for an adjective which refers to the imagination only as a function of the mind rather than as a creative power or to images as the mental representations which follow a sensation; thus, a person belongs to an imaginal type rather than to another because of his tendency to have sensory images of a particular kind (as visual, tactile, or auditory) (perhaps they owe their imaginal coloration to some childhood experience—Cutsforth) Imaginable often means little more than conceivable, but more precisely it may imply that the thing so qualified can be seen or apprehended in a clear mental image. St. Thomas was perhaps of all the apostles the one most easily imaginable in the present —Mackenzie] Imaginary (for fuller treatment see imaginary) implies existence only in the imagination —Muller] Conversations, a book by Walter Savage Landor giving imaginary dialogues and imaginary letters between famous persons of long ago (the vague unrest of a husband whose infidelities are imaginary—Glasgow) Ana imagining, fancying, realizing, conceiving (see think) creative, inventive (see corresponding verbs at invent) Con *prosical, prosy, matter-of-fact imagine conceive, fancy, realize, envisage, envision, *think Ana *invent, create: fabricate, form, fashion, shape, *make: conjecture, surmise, guess imbicile idiot, moron, *fool, simpleton, natural imbibe *absorb, assimilate Ana *receive, take, admit, accept: *soak, saturate, steep, impregnate: permeate, pervade, penetrate, impenetrable: acquire, obtain, *get Ant ooze, exude imbue inoculate, leaven, ingrain, *infuse, sulphure Ana *inform, inspire, fire, animate: impregnate, saturate, *permeate, pervade imitate *copy, mimic, ape, mock Ana impersonate (see act vb) simulate, feign, counterfeit (see assume) caricature, burlesque, parody, travesty (see under caricature n) immaterial, spiritual, incorporeal are comparable when meaning not composed of matter. Immaterial is the most comprehensive of these terms because it makes the line of cleavage between itself and its opposite, material, not only clear and sharp but not open to confusion. If, therefore, one wishes a word to carry no other possible implication immaterial is the appropriate term; it may then apply to things believed to have real but not actual (compare real) or phenomenal existence or to things that are purely mental or intellectual constructions (material beings) you feel like a disembodied spirit, immaterial —Maugham] immaterial forces (material objects of thought) in making mind purely immaterial... the body ceases to be living—Dewey] Spiritual (see also holy) may imply the absence of the material or tangible (millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen —Milton) The term, however, so often applies to some-thing which has another side or nature variously spoken of as material, animal, physical, or bodily that the word is frequently used, not to describe the character of a whole (a man, all creatures, a belief, or the world), but to distinguish the part which has the nature of a spirit or soul from the part which has not. In distinction from immaterial it frequently, therefore, connotes a supernatural, an intellectual, or a moral character (it is the spiritual always which determines the material—Carlyle) Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force, that thoughts rule the world—Emerson] Incorporeal basically denies the possession or presence of a body or material form; in general use it usually suggests invisibility (incorporeal intelligences) the supposed activities and transactions of putative incorporeal beings—Flew] but, especially in legal use, it may imply intangibility or impalpability (the second group of intangibles... are incorporeal rights which do not diminish the rights of others in material things. Such rights as patents, royalties, trademarks, goodwill, and franchises fall into this category—W. H. Anderson] Ant material —Con physical, corporeal, sensible, objective (see material) immaterial, unmatured, unripe, unmellow mean not fully developed. Except for this denial of full development, the terms agree in implications and connotations with the affirmative adjectives mature, matured, ripe, mellow discriminated at mature Ant crude, callow, green, *rude: *premature, precocious, untimely, childish, *childlike Ant mature —Con matured, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-up (see mature adj) immediate *direct Ana *nearest, next: intuitive, *instinctive Ant mediate (knowledge, relation, operation): distant (relatives) immense huge, vast, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Hercules, cyclopean, titan, Brodbergian Ana tremendous, prodigious, stupendous, *monstrous: *large, big, great immeasurable *dip, submerge, duck, source, dump Ana drench, *soak, saturate, sop, impregnate: infuse, imbue, ingrain: engross, absorb (see monopolize) immigrant n 1 *stranger, alien, foreigner, outlaw, outsider, émigré 2 *émigré immigrate emigrate (see under emigrant) immigration emigration (see under emigrant) imminent *impending Ana threatening, menacing (see threaten): likely, *probable, possible: *inevitable, ineluctable, inescapable, unescapable, unavoidable: expected, awaited (see expect) Con *distant, remote, far-off: *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic immobile *immovable, immotile Ana mobile immoderate inordinate, *excessive, exorbitant, extreme, extravagant Ana *profuse, lavish, prodigal, exuberant: teeming, over-flowing (see teem) Ant moderate —Con temperate (see moderate adj): restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see restrain): reasonable, *rational immoral, un moral, nonmoral, amoral are all briefly definable as not moral, yet they are not often interchangeable and are frequently confused, largely because the implications and connotations of the second element are not the
same in each compound. **Immoral**, which implies an active opposition to what is **moral**, may designate whatever is discordant with accepted ethical principles or the dictates of conscience. **Mortality** cannot be legislated but . . . **Legislation** can be **immoral**—**Gallagher**. In the way in which he concealed the smaller points in order to win the important objectives and mastered the political game without yielding his own integrity, Roosevelt symbolized the moral man confronted by the dilemmas that an **immoral society** creates—**Link** and then indicates that what is so designated is fundamentally wrong, unjustifiable, or sinful. But, like **moral**, **immoral** may often base its values not on principle but on custom and then may imply no more than discordance with accepted social custom or the general practice. **Refusal** to acknowledge the boundaries set by convention is the source of frequent denunciations of objects of art as **immoral**—**Dewey**. For a farm settler to start out with a decent home, efficiently produced, still seems **immoral** in many quarters—**New Republic**. In its frequent specific application to sexual and, especially, irregular sexual matters **immoral** tends to fluctuate between the two extremes of its usage range according to the concurrent rigidity of the social outlook. It may in the former case come close to **licentious or lewd** in pejorative quality and in the second lose most of its pejorality and mean little more than improper or immodest. Lead an **immoral life**? **Immoral** people. **Unmoral**, nonmoral, and **amoral** all, in contrast to **immoral**, imply in one way or another a passive negation of what is moral especially as indicated by absence of or freedom from a code that ought to prevail and the evasion of which constitutes wrongdoing. In its most typical use **unmoral** implies a lack of moral perception and ethical awareness and is appropriately applied to persons or to their behavior when these exhibit such a lack: thus, an infant or an idiot may be described as **unmoral** because in neither case is there a capacity to distinguish right from wrong a man so purely primitive that he was of the type that came into the world before the development of the moral nature. He was not immoral, but merely **unmoral**—**London**. **Gertrude Stein’s** discussions reflect primitiveness also in the attitude taken towards sex, for the characters are depicted as being like savages, innocently **unmoral**—**Braddy**. But **unmoral** may sometimes imply a mere disregard of or failure to be guided by moral principles and is then close to **conscienceless**. The **great un moral power** of the modern industrial revolution—F. L. **Wright** and occasionally it may, along with **nonmoral** and **amoral**, imply that what is so qualified cannot be appraised in terms of morality since it is not a part there are no special benefits for doing good, nor any great penalties for being bad. The supernatural power of **Melanesian religion is simply amoral**—**Nida**. **Ana** *licentious, lewd, lascivious, libertine, libidinous, lecherous, wanton, lustful; *abandoned, profligate, dissolute, reprobate; obscene, gross, ribald (see coarse) **Ant** moral: chaste, pure **Immoral**, **deathless, undying, unfading** mean not subject to death or decay and, hence, everlasting. With the exception of **immoral**, all of these words are chiefly in poetic use and are distinguishable especially in their connotations and applications. Basically **immoral** implies little more than exemption from liability to death and is usually applied to the soul or spirit of man any such harmony is in **immortal** souls; but whilst this muddy vesture of decay doth grossly close it, we cannot hear it—**Shak**. Sometimes **immoral** equals **eternal** {the first to express the belief that the soul was divine and **immortal** in duration—**Heslet**} but more frequently it keeps close to the basic sense in being applied to something comparable to the soul in that it lives on in fullness of vigor after its maker or possessor has died. **Immortal** epics of Homer {this verse that gives **immortal** youth to mortal maids—**Landor**}. **Oh may I join the choir invisible of those immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence—George Eliot} the single **immoral** act of John Wilkes Booth in snuffing out the life of a beloved president—**Miery**. **Deathless** also implies incapacity for death; it is seldom applied to the soul but rather to immaterial things that transcend the limitations of mortal existence {art’s deathless dreams—**Shelley**} virtue crowned with glory’s deathless meed—**Wordsworth**. **Undying** is applied chiefly to emotions or passions marked by such intensity or vitality as to be or so to seem incapable of extinction while life lasts. {**undying love**} {**undying hatred**} a patriot’s heart, warm with **undying fire**—**Wordsworth** {Lawrence’s undying conviction of the necessity for . . . harmonization—**Millett**} **Unfading** often comes close to **undying** in meaning but connotes persistence of brightness or bloom rather than of intensity {**unfading** recollections} {true charity . . . thrives against hope, and in the rudest scene, storms but enlivens its unfading green—**Cowper**}. **Ana** *everlasting, endless **Ant** mortal—**Con** transitory, fleeting, fugitive, ephemeral, evanescent, **transient** **Immovable**—**Motive** *immovable, immobile **Immovable**, **immobile, immotive** mean incapable of moving or being moved. Except for this denial of power, the terms otherwise carry the implications and connotations of the affirmative words as discriminated at movable. **Ant** moveable **Immunify** *exemption **Ant** susceptibility **Immure** *imprison, incarcerate, jail, intern **Ana** confine, circumscribe, *limit, restrict **Con** liberate, *free, release **Impact** n. **Impact**, impingement, collision, clash, shock, concussion, percussion, jar, jolt mean a forcible or enforced contact between two or more things, especially a contact so violent as to affect seriously one or the other or all of the persons or things involved. **Impact**, though it often means this and no more, may be used more generally to imply contact between two things, one of which at least is driven or propelled in the direction of the other and produces a definite effect on it, though not necessarily a physical effect or one that results in injury *the impact of a hammer upon a nail* a target constructed to resist the impact of a bullet *live in an age where every mind feels the impact of new ideas* it is not electricity which we see, it is the air rendered incandescent by the vehemence of the impacts of the electrons against its molecules—

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**Ana** analogous words  
**Ant** antonyms  
**Con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
The document contains a discussion of the use of various words related to collisions, impacts, and concussions. It explains the differences in meaning and usage of terms such as "clash," "impact," "concussion," and "shock." The text also discusses the implications of these terms in different contexts, such as in scientific theories, religious beliefs, and legal or medical contexts.

For example, "clash of beliefs" refers to ideas that are irreconcilable or incompatible, while "impact of sound" refers to the effect of sound on consciousness. The text also notes that "impair" refers to damage or destruction, whereas "impossible" refers to something that cannot be done.

The document is rich with examples and definitions, making it a valuable resource for anyone interested in the nuances of language and the ways in which words are used to express complex ideas.
with the preserve “good form” that we are impervious to the claims and clamor of that ill-bred creature—life!—

Galsworthy.} Impermeable implies impenetrability, whether natural or artificially acquired, by a liquid or a gas and incapacity for becoming soaked or permeated; the term applies chiefly to substances (as some clays) which do not absorb water, to cloths treated so as to be rainproof, or to materials which do not admit the passage of air, light, gas, or water (cosmo-regulation in the eel is achieved by an impermeable outer covering of slime—Dowdeswell) 

(Impermeable rocks) (gas pipes should be made of an impermeable metal) (impermeable roofing) (he was not drunk, since the resilient composition of which his nerves were made was almost impermeable to alcohol—West) 

Ant passable 

impassible insensitive, *insensible, anesthetic 

impassioned, passionate, ardent, fervent, fervid, perfervid mean actuated by or showing intense feeling. Impassioned, though applicable to persons, is more often found in reference to utterance or artistic expression or to the mood or mental state which evokes such utterance or expression. The word usually implies intensity without violence and feeling of such depth, sincerity, and potency that it passes naturally and inevitably from the person into his expression (poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all science—Wordsworth) (the letters... are written by this master of impassioned recollection in a style so musical, so magical and moving, that the experiences he recounts become our own—L. P. Smith) (as his impassioned language did its work the multitude rose into fury—Froude) Passionate, on the other hand, implies vehemence and, often, violence of emotion; when the latter idea is suggested, the word also may connote loss of rational guidance or wasteful diffusion or misdirection of emotional power (a passionate denunciation) (a passionate reformer) (passionate partisanship) (passionate feeling is desirable, provided it is not destructive—Russell) (to match mere good, sound reasons, against the passionate conclusions of love is a waste of intellect bordering on the absurd—Con) (the passion of fear and the impassively ruthless war spirit, common to Communists and Fascists—Cohen) Ardent differs from passionate largely in its freedom from derogatory implications and in its connotations of qualities suggestive of flame or fire. It is especially appropriate when vehemenes is implied and the intense feeling expresses itself in eagerness, zeal, enthusiasm, or acts of devotion (an ardent desire for the truth) (an ardent supporter of liberal ideas) (an ardent lover) (heredity in man is hardly the simple thing that many of the ardent eugenists would have us believe—Furnas) (gave constant proofs of his ardent longing for an education—Merriman) 

Fervent also implies a quality of fire, but it suggests a fire that glows rather than one that bursts into flame. Hence, though it implies strength and depth of feeling, it more often suggests steadiness than vehemenes and inward quiet rather than outward activity. It is applicable especially to wishes, prayers, or hopes that are heartfelt or devout, but it is also applied to an emotion, or to a person feeling such an emotion, that is free from turbulence (fervent thanks) (fervent good wishes) (a fervent Christian) (fervent prayers) (Jane’s feelings, though fervent, were little displayed—Austen) (the gods approve the depth and not the tumult, of the soul; a fervent, not ungovernable, love—Wordsworth) 

Fervid, like impassioned, is applied more to moods and expressions than to persons; in contrast to impassioned, however, it sometimes suggests more obvious, more warmly expressed, and, often, more spontaneous emotion (who could help liking her? her generous nature, her gift for appreciation, her wholehearted, fervid enthusiasm?—L. P. Smith) Frequently it carries a strong suggestion of feverishness which distinguishes it sharply from fervent; thus, fervent thanks suggest the depth and sincerity of the emotion which prompts them; fervid thanks suggest profoundness or an overwrought state of mind (his fervid manner of love-making offended her—Bennett) Perfervid carries an implication of too great emotional excitement or of overwrought feelings; more than fervid, it casts doubt upon the sincerity of the emotion that is displayed with vehemence (to court their own discomfiture by love is a common instinct with certain perfervid women—Hardy) (in his perfervid flag-waving moments—S. H. Adams) 

Ana vehement, *intense, fierce, violent: *deep, profound: *sentimental, romantic, maudlin 

Ant unimpassioned —Con dispassionate, uncolored, objective (see fair adj) 

impassive, stojic, phlegmatic, apathetic, stolid are comparable when they mean slightly if at all responsive to something that might be expected to excite emotion or interest or to produce a sensation. The distinctions to be drawn between these adjectives hold true also of their corresponding nouns, impassivity or impassiveness, stojicism, phlegm, apathy, stolidity. One is impassive who feels or shows no emotion or sensation, without necessary implication of insusceptibility (his majestic impassivity contrasting with the overt astonishment with which a row of savagely ugly attendant chiefs grinned and gaped—Shaw) (under their impassive exterior they preserve...emotions of burning intensity—Lathrop) One is stojic who is indifferent to pleasure or pain; the word frequently suggests unfinching fortitude (not only the cataclysm of a world, but also the stojic and impassive temper that endures it—Lowes) (a stojic atmosphere of fortitude in adversity—Orville Prescott) 

Phlegmatic implies a temperament or constitution in which emotion is hard to arouse or, when aroused, is moderate or restrained (cold and phlegmatic must be who is not warmed into admiration by the surrounding scenery—Wortton) (a lofty phlegm, a detachment in the midst of action, a capacity for watching in silence—Edmund Wilson) Apathetic usually implies either a remiss and culpable indifference or such a preoccupation with a particular depressing emotion (as care, grief, or despair) or bodily pain as makes one insensible to other emotion or pain and deficient in or devoid of the usual human interests (there is only one alarming aspect of our national debt...the apathy and ignorance of the American public with regard to it. The common attitude is...why should an ordinary citizen add the national debt to his other workaday worries—Scherman) (the row of stolid, dull, vacant plowboys, ungainly in build, uncomely in face, lifeless, apathetic—Butler d. 1902) (an uncomplaining apathy displaced this anguish; and, indifferent to delight, to aim and purpose, he consumed his days, to private interest dead, and public care—Wordsworth) 

Stolid implies heavy, dull, obtuse impassivity or apathy or utter blankness of countenance mirroring or suggesting such quality; often, specifically, it suggests impassive, mechanical, plodding, unquestioning, unresourceful adherence to routine (stolid Saxon rustics, in whom the temperature of religious zeal was little...above absolute zero—Huxley) (the stolidest mask ever given to man—Meredith) 

Ana *cool, composed, collected, imperturbable; reserved, taciturn, *silent, reticent: callous, *hardened, indurated; *insensible, insensitive 

Ant responsive —Con *tender, compassionate, sympathetic, warm, warmhearted 

impassivity, impassiveness apathy, stolidity, phlegm,
impatient

impatient, nervous, unquiet, restless, restive, uneasy, fidgety, jump, jittery are comparable when they mean manifesting signs of unrest or an inability to keep still or quiet. Impatient implies an inability to bear some trial (as delay, opposition, discomfort, or stupidity) with composure; it therefore connotes, as a rule, not physical but mental or emotional unrest and may suggest unrestrained reactions (as of eagerness, irritability, brusqueness, testiness, or intolerance) so tedious is this day as is the night before some festival to an impatient child that hath new robes—Shak. Cease your contention, which has been too long; I grow impatient—Pope. When we pursue the ultimate significance of the colors into yet wider regions . . . I fear the august common sense of the Occident becomes affronted and impatient—Binyon. The temper of the youth of his country is violent, impatient, and revolutionary—Fischer. Nervous implies unsteadiness of nerves and a proneness to excitability (a nervous, fretful woman) you and I, whose ordinary daily talk maintains its slow or hurried, nervous or phlegmatic . . . but always pedestrian gait—Lowes. Becoming more nervous as the gloom increased—Hudson. Unquiet, though basically meaning no more than not quiet, is usually used with a strong implication of prolonged or conspicuous agitation or of troubling or disturbing distractions that hinder one's peace of mind or spirit or prevent concentration; the word is applicable both to the person and to the thing which troubles him (these unquiet times) unquiet meals make ill digestions—Shak. They have not the restless unquiet temperament associated with the Anglo-Saxon race—Alfred Buchanan. Restless usually implies constant and more or less aimless motion or activity; often, specifically, it connotes mental agitation (our heart is restless until it repose in Thee—Pusey. Indubitably not happy . . . restless and disquieted, his disquietude sometimes amounting to agony—Arnold) or eagerness to change (he was restless and dissatisfied with his life—Anderson) or continuous or unceasing movements to and fro or back and forth (the restless sea) a restless crowd (he was as restless as a hyena—De Quincey). Restive (see also CONTRARY 2), which once meant unwilling to move, has gradually become a synonym of restless. In this sense it implies impatience under attempts to restrain, to control, or, especially, to keep attentive and suggests either inability to keep still or to persist in what one is doing (they were all becoming restive under the monotonous persistence of the missionary—Cather. As restive and dissatisfied as a party of 7 bridge players—Eddington. Uneasy usually implies restlessness born of anxiety, doubt, uncertainty, or insecurity (he is uneasy over business conditions) an uneasy conscience (an uneasy sense that all was not well with his family) uneasy lies the head that wears a crown—Shak. So we come down, uneasy, to look, uneasily pacing the beach. These are the dikes our fathers made: we have never known a breach—Kipling. The first uneasy stir of the sleeper—Mumford. Fidgety implies restless movements resulting from nervousness, boredom, or uneasiness of mind; it usually suggests an inability to keep one's hands, feet, or body still or to settle down to a task or occupation toward the end of the day the pupils become fidgety—He declared if I was fidgety he should have no occasion to bother me perhaps he did not realize . . . that the persons who felt fidgety or disquieted about the matter were not likely to write in about it, lest they appear irreverent—E. B. White. Jumpy and jittery imply extreme nervousness that exhibits itself in tremulous, uncertain movements. Jumpy, however, usually suggests a fearful or apprehensive mood and lack of control over one's temper as well as over one's muscles (if you didn't drink so much, you wouldn't be so jump—Barnaby Conrad) Jittery suggests domination not only by fears but by recollections that destroy one's nervous control and impair one's mental stability the chief factor in making children jittery is jittery parents—Time.

Ana fretful, querulous. *irritable, snappish, waspish: *eager, anxious, avid, keen: impetuous, *precipitate, headlong, hasty, sudden, abrupt

Ant patient —Con composed, imperturbable, unflappable, unruffled, *cool: *calm, serene, tranquil, placid

Impeach indict, incriminate, *accuse, charge, arraign

Con condemn, denounce, blame, censure (see CRITICIZE): try, test, *prove

Impeccable, faultless, flawless, errorless are comparable when they mean absolutely correct and beyond criticism. Impeccable usually applies to something with which no fault can be found or which is irreproachably correct (the only impeccable writers are those that never wrote—Hazlitt) her logical process is impeccable—Grandgent. An impeccable figure in trim dinner jacket and starched shirt—Capote. Faultless is often used in place of impeccable without loss, but it is sometimes preferred when the emphasis is upon the absence of defect or blemish rather than upon technical correctness (whoever thinks a faultless piece to see, thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be—Pope) in faultless English and with merciless logic, lashed all the miners' socialistic theories—Collins. Its distinctive implication, however, is often that of insipidity or tediousness (faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null, dead perfection, no more—Tennyson). Flawless applies especially to natural products in which no cracks, blemishes, or imperfections can be detected (a flawless diamond) or to character or reputation which is admirably excellent (destroyed his flawless reputation by a single act) or to a work of art or its execution when comparably fine (a flawless lyric) the flawless technique of the pianist) a flawless story published in 1895 . . . somewhat forecasts James's final type—Van Doren. Errorless usually implies absence of all mistakes, especially of such mistakes as are technically regarded as errors; thus, an errorless baseball game may not involve flawless playing. Ana inerrant, unerring, *infallible: *correct, accurate, precise, right, nice: perfect, entire, whole, intact Con *deficient, defective: *superficial, shallow, uncritical, cursory: culpable, *blameworthy

Impecunious *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, poverty-stricken, necessitous

Ant flush —Con *rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent

Impede *hinder, obstruct, block, bar, dam

Ana clog, *hamper, fetter, trammel, shackle, manacle, hog-tie: *embarrass, discomfit, disconcert, rattle, faze: thwart, baffle, balk, *frustrate

Ant assist: promote —Con *advance, further, forward: *help, aid

Impediment *obstacle, obstruction, bar, snag

Ana *difficulty, hardship, rigor, vicissitude: barrier, *bar, handicap (see ADVANTAGE 1)

Ant aid: assistance: advantage (sense 1)

Impel drive, *move, actuate

Ana compel, constrain, *force: *provoke, excite, stimulate: *incite, instigate, foment: goad, spur (see corresponding nouns at MOTIVE)

Ant restrain —Con curb, check, inhibit (see RESTRAIN)

Impending, imminent are comparable when they mean very likely to occur soon or without further warning. Both retain in this sense some feeling of now rare or disused
imperceptible, insensible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, impermeable

Insensitive, insensible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, impermeable all mean incapable of being apprehended by the senses or intellect (as in form, nature, extent, or degree) even though known to be real or existent. Except for this denial of apprehensibility, these terms carry the same implications and connotations as the affirmative antonyms at perceptible: the imperceptible movement of the hour hand; he grew into the very fullness of the tick—Conrad) observed a fault in the daily conduct of the house—Bennett. Anal: analogous words imperceptible, intangible, impermeable, imperceptible, impermeable, impermeable, imperceptible, impermeable.

Ant imperceptible

imperfection, deficiency, shortcoming, fault mean a failure in persons or in things to reach a standard of excellence or perfection. Imperfection is the most general of these words; it usually does not imply a great departure from perfection and is usually replaceable by a more specific term (as flaw, blemish, defect, failing, frailty, or foible) which emphasizes its slightness rather than its enormity. The statue has one imperfection—Replier) the early Christians followed the Stoics: property was a result of man's imperfection. It should be accepted regretfully, and society should take care that too much did not collect in too few hands—Agar) coffee is graded by the number of imperfections in the sample—Ukers')

Deficiency carries a clear implication of lack or of inadequacy, whether moral or mental, physical or spiritual; it applies particularly to persons, but it may refer also to an inadequacy in things which affects the persons involved. Unlike imperfection, it often implies a great departure from a standard of perfection or sufficiency. Mr. Collins was not a sensible man, and the deficiency of nature had been but little assisted by education or society—Austen) the disastrous want and weakness of Shelley...—his utter deficiency in humor—Arnold) another food deficiency was responsible for one of the most debilitating and crippling diseases of the Orient—Heiser) Shortcoming implies deficiency but is seldom used in quite the same sense. Often it implies a standard of perfection or of excellence which is hard to reach and then suggests not so much the degree of imperfection or deficiency as (the doer)’s sense of failure to reach the standard or (the critic’s or judge’s) unwillingness to use a harsher or more direct term the shortcomings of representative government—my book has many shortcomings. I fear) do not let them, as poor people, make everyone else suffer for their shortcomings—Shaw) let him only preach well, and all his shortcomings as a curate would be forgiven—Mackenzie) management shortcomings in one form or another cause most business failures—Nation’s Business) Fault (see also FAULT) is more direct and clear-cut in statement than any of the others; it usually implies personal culpability for the failing in a person or direct blameworthiness for the shortcoming or defect in a thing; often, also, it permits description of the failing or defect (he has... the fault of defective mantelpiece clocks, of suddenly stopping in the very fullness of the tick—Conrad) Sophia observed a fault in the daily conduct of the house—Bennett. Anal: analogous words imperious, impermeable, impermeable, impermeable, impermeable, impermeable, impermeable, impermeable.

Perfeci impermeable impermeable, impermeable, impermeable

ana *close, near, nigh: approaching, nearing (see approach vb): likely, probably: threatening, menacing (see threat vb)

impenetrable imperious, impermeable, *impassable

Ana *close, dense, compact, thick: solid, hard, *firm: compacted, concentrated, consolidated (see compact vb): callous, hardened, indurated: obdurate, adamant, *inflexible

Ant penetrable —Con) *soft, mild, gentle, lenient: indulgent, merciful, clement, *forbearing, tolerant

impenetrate interpenetrate, penetrate, *permeate, permeate, permeate, impregnate: saturate

Ana *enter, probe, penetrate: invade, entrench (see trespass): drench, *soak

imperative 1 peremptory, imperious, *masterful, domineering

Ana commanding, ordering, bidding (see command vb): magisterial, *dictatorial, dogmatic, oracular: arbitrary, autocratic, despotic (see absolute)

Con supplicating or supplicatory, entreaty, imploring, beseeching, begging (see corresponding verbs at beg): mild, gentle, lenient, *soft

2 *pressing, urgent, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant

Ana compelling, constraining (see force vb): critical, crucial, *acute

imperceptible, insensible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, impermeable

Ana imperceptible, insensible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, impermeable all mean incapable of being apprehended by the senses or intellect (as in form, nature, extent, or degree) even though known to be real or existent. Except for this denial of apprehensibility, these terms carry the same implications and connotations as the affirmative adjectives discriminated at perceptible: the imperceptible movement of the hour hand; he grew into the scheme of things by insensible gradations—H. G. Wells) the almost imperceptible beauty of style and expression—Prescott) we shall consider that more subtle and intangible thing, the soul which he sought to build up in his people—Buchan) that inappreciable particle of an element called an atom—(the imperceptible factors, such as temperament and mental stability, which make or mar a promising career)

Ant perceptible
Adaptability.
implement 423 implicit

and, it stresses the fixedness or permanency of what has been taught (the teacher, the parent, or the friend can often do much to implant this conviction—Eliot) (implanting in their minds doubts of the political realism of their American friends—Brogan) Inculcate implies persistent or repeated endeavor with the intent to impress firmly on the mind (had sedulously inculcated into the mind of her son . . . maxims of worldly wisdom—Edge-worth) (skillful, conscientious schoolmistresses whose lives were spent in trying to inculcate real knowledge—Grandgent) Whatever happened, Newland would continue to inculcate in Dallas the same principles and prejudices which had shaped his parents’ lives—Wharton Instill carries the implication of a gradual and gentle method of imparting knowledge; it usually suggests either a teaching that extends over a long period of time (as from infancy to adolescence) or a pupil that cannot, because of age, lack of background, or the like, take in at once what is taught (those principles my parents instilled into my unwary understanding—Browne) (the Viceroy plumed himself on the way in which he had instilled notions of reticence into his staff—Kipling) (it would be useless, in early years, to attempt to instill a stoic contempt for death—Russell)

Ana *infuse, imbue, inoculate, ingrain, leaven: impregnate, saturate, impenetrate, penetrate, permeate, pervade

implement n Implement, tool, instrument, appliance, utensil mean a relatively simple device for performing a mechanical or manual operation. Nearly all of these words (the distinct exception is appliance) are interchangeable in their general senses, but custom and usage have greatly restricted them in their specific and most common applications. An implement, in general, is anything that is requisite to the effecting the end one has in view or to performing that work or the acquirement and communication of ideas—Eliot (implants of modern warfare consist of all the weapons necessary to a well-equipped army, navy, and air force) (mathematics is still the necessary implement for the manipulation of nature—Russell) In specific use implement is the usual term when the reference is to a contrivance for tilling the soil (as a spade, a plow, a harrow, or a cultivator) (farming implements) (gardening implements) Historically it is the preferred term for any of the articles which are essential to the performance of a religious service (the implements of the Mass include vestments as well as chalice, paten, and altar stone) It is also the usual term for the devices made especially from stone or wood by primitive peoples as weapons or for use in digging, carrying, or lifting or in making clothing and equipment. A tool, in general, is anything that facilitates the accomplishment of the end one has in view; it is therefore something particularly adapted in its nature or by its construction to make possible or relatively easy the work one is doing (it’s difficult to be a good cook without the proper tools) (a scholar needs foreign languages as tools) (comparison and analysis . . . are the chief tools of the critic—T. S. Eliot) In specific use tool is the preferred term when reference is made to the implements used by artisans (as carpenters and mechanics) or craftsmen in accomplishing a particular kind of work (as sawing, boring, piercing, or chipping) (a saw, a gimlet, an awl, a chisel are tools) Ordinarily tool suggests manipulation by the hand, but some machines for doing work that may be accomplished more slowly by manual labor and tools are called machine tools (as the lathe). An instrument (see also mean n 2, paper 1) is in general a delicately constructed device by means of which work (not exclusively a mechanical operation) may be accomplished with precision. Many instruments are by definition tools, but instrument is the preferred term among persons (as surgeons, dentists, draftsmen, surveyors, and artists) whose technique requires delicate tools and expertise and finesse in their manipulation. Some instruments, however, are not tools, but implements in the larger sense, for they are requisite to the achieving of definite purposes but do not necessarily facilitate any manual operations (a thermometer and a barometer are recording instruments essential to the meteorologist) (a telescope is an astronomical instrument) (a piano, a violin, a cello are musical instruments by means of which a performer evokes musical sounds) (language is the essential instrument for the acquirement and communication of ideas—Shehan) An appliance may be a device that adapts a tool or machine to a special purpose usually under the guidance of a hand; thus, a dentist’s drill may be called an appliance when it is attached to a dental engine; in industry an appliance is often distinguished from a tool, though they may both do the same kind of work, in that a tool is manipulated by hand and an appliance is moved and regulated by machinery. Additionally, an appliance may be a device or apparatus designed for a particular use and especially one (as a mechanical refrigerator or a vacuum cleaner) that utilizes an external power supply, especially an electric current. A utensil is in general anything that is useful in accomplishing work (as cooking and cleaning) associated with the household; it may be applied to tools (as egg-beaters, graters, rolling pins, brooms, and mops) used in cookery and other household work, but it is most commonly applied to containers (as pots, pans, pails, and jars), especially those which form part of the kitchen, dairy, or bedroom equipment. Consequently utensil, in other than household use, often means a vessel (sacred utensils of a church)

Ana *machine, mechanism, apparatus: contrivance, devise, contraption, gadget

implement vb *enforce

Ana effect, fulfill, execute, achieve, accomplish, *perform: *realize, actualize, materialize

implicate *involve

Ana *concern, affect: incriminate (see accuse)

Con *exculpate, absolve, acquit, exonerate

implication, inference are often interchangeable, but they may be distinguished when they specifically refer to something that is hinted at but not explicitly stated. Implication applies to what is hinted, whether the writer or speaker is aware of it or not or whether the reader or hearer recognizes it or not (speak of their own language with at least an implication of disparagement—Sampson) When, however, the reader or hearer recognizes what is implied and gathers from it its full significance or makes an explicit statement of it, he has drawn or made an inference (he said no more, waiting for someone to draw the desired inference from this utterance—Wister) (you misunderstood the implications of his speech, so that your inferences misrepresent his point of view) (by implication you are arguing that this is the only possible solution) (by inference from what you leave unsaid, I know you believe this the only possible solution) (he did not perceive the implications of his remark) (the inferences to be drawn from his remark are inescapable)

Ana hinting or hint, suggestion, intimation (see corresponding verbs at suggest): *insinuation, innuendo

implicit, virtual, constructive mean being such by correct or justifiable inference rather than by direct statement or proof. Something is implicit (as opposed to explicit) which is implied (as by the words, acts, appearance, character, or methods of the person or thing concerned) but is not definitely stated or expressed (a good present behavior is an implicit repentance for any miscarriage in what is past—Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
importance, consequence, moment, weight, significance, importance, mean, denote, signify

impalpable, imperceptible, inappreciable, involve, comprehend, include, embrace, subsume

imply 1

uncivil, discourteous, rude, ill-mannered, entreat, beseech, supplicate, beg, importune, implore

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
impostor, faker, quack, mountebank, charlatan denote a person who makes pretensions to being someone or something that he is not or of being able to do something he cannot really do. Impostor applies especially to one who passes himself off for someone else (there is an impostor abroad, who takes upon him the name of this young gentleman, and would willingly pass for him—Addison) However the word often serves as a general term for anyone who assumes a title, character, or profession that is not his own (charged that Kim Il Sung was an impostor trading on the name of a legendary Korean resistance leader—Time) Faker applies to one who gives himself the appearance of being what, in character or in profession, he is not (the accused man is not insane, he is merely a clever faker) A hypocrite is a moral or religious faker (he is essentially a faker with a large contempt for the ignorance and gullibility of the American voter—Current History) Quack is the popular and contemptuous term for an ignorant, untrained, or unscrupulous practitioner of medicine or law or seller of remedies or treatments, and usually carries a strong implication of fraud or self-delusion (dishonesty is the raw material of the world, the flesh, and the devil—Book of Common Prayer) they [Indians] held that the basest counterfeit of the world, the flesh, and the devil was the counterfeit of five-dollar bills) The term is also applied to something other than it actually or truly is (his newly purchased painting by Raphael was proved to be a clever counterfeit) What is the difference between a counterfeit and a forgery?—Cowper (its values ... are an imposture) Deceit, however, usually suggests the work of a deceiver or of one that misleads or leads astray (the charlatan—George Eliot) replaced by the charlatans and the rogues—by those without learning, without scruples, or both—Asher Moore

Ana cheat, fraud, fake, humbug (see imposture) Deceiver, beguiler, misleader (see corresponding verbs at deceive)

imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, deceit, deception, counterfeit all mean something which pretends to be one thing in its nature, character, or quality but is really another. Imposture applies not only to an object but to an act or practice which is passed off to another as genuine, authentic, or bona fide (several of the gallery's paintings reputed to be the work of Rubens and Rembrandt were impostures) (the hero is as gross an imposture as the heroine—Shaw) (its values ... are an imposture: pretending to honor and distinction, it accepts all that is vulgar and base—Edmund Wilson) Cheat applies chiefly to something or sometimes to someone that wins one's belief in its or his genuineness, either because one is deliberately misled or imposed upon by another or is the victim of illusion or delusion (when I consider life, it's all a cheat. Yet fooled with hope, men favor the deceit—Dryden) (what ... man ... shall prove (what argument could never yet) the Bible an imposture and a cheat—Cowper) (hence, pageant history! hence, gilded cheat!—Keats) (if I passed myself off on Miss Carew as a gentleman, I should deserve to be exposed as a cheat—Shaw) Fraud applies to a deliberate, often criminal, perversion of the truth (many persons persisted in believing that his supposed suicide was but another fraud—M'Carthy) (we may take it as undisputed that Swinburne ... did something that had not been done before, and that what he did will not turn out to be a fraud—T. S. Eliot) Applied to a person it may be less condemnatory and suggest pretense and hypocrisy (the pious fraud who freely indulges in the sins against which he eloquently preaches—La Farge) Sham applies to a close copy of a thing, especially to one that is more or less obviously a fraudulent imitation (a strong living soul in him, and sincerity there; a reality, not an artificiality, not a sham!—Carlyle) he smiled, in his worldliest manner. But the smile was a sham—Bennett) Fake applies either to a person that represents himself as someone he is not or, more often, to a worthless thing that is represented as being something that it is not; fake differs from fraud in not necessarily implying dishonesty in these representations, for a fake may be a joke or a theatrical device, or it may be a clear fraud (this testimonial is clearly a fake) one of the great fakes of all time was the Cardiff Giant (actors using fakes instead of real swords on the stage) (he pretends everything is what it is not, he is a fake—K. A. Porter) Humbug applies to a person or sometimes a thing that pretends or is pretended to be other and usually more important than he or it is, not necessarily because of a desire on the part of the person involved to deceive others but often because he is self-deceived (you will take to politics, where you will become ... the henchman of ambitious humbugs—Shaw) what humbugs we are, who pretend to live for beauty, and never see the dawn!—L. P. Smith)

Deceit and deception both apply to something that misleads one or deludes one into taking it for what it is not. Deceit, however, usually suggests the work of a deceiver or of one that misleads or leads astray (the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil was the counterfeit of five-dollar bills) The term is also applicable to a thing or, less often, to a person that passes for something other than it actually or truly is (his newly purchased painting by Raphael was proved to be a clever counterfeit) She had the illusion that she was not really a married woman and a housemistress, but only a kind of counterfeit—Bennett) An a trick, ruse, feint, artifice, wile, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy

impotent 1 *powerless

Ana ineffectual, ineffectual, inefficacious, inefficient: incapable, incompetent: disabled, crippled, debilitated, enfeebled (see weaken) Ant potent—Con *powerful, puissant, forceful, forcible: vigorous, energetic, strenuous: effective, effectual, efficacious, efficient: able, capable 2 *sterile, barren, unfruitful, infertile Ant virile

impovery bankrupt, exhaust, *deplete, drain

Ant enrich—Con enhance, heighten, *intensify: augment, *increase

imprecation curse, malediction, anathema

Ana excommunication, damnation, objuration (see corresponding verbs at execrate): blasphemy, profanity, swearing
impress

impression

imprint

print

stamp

impressible

impressed

impressively

impressiveness

imprison

incarcerate

jail

insecure

imperator

impostor

imprecation

imprecationally

imprecationary

imprecationaryly

imprecationaryness

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A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
improper 427

improve 1 Improve, better, help, ameliorate are comparable when denoting to mend or correct in part or in some degree. Improve, the general term, and better, more vigorous and homely, apply both to objects and to states or conditions that are not of necessity bad. The faculties of the mind are improved by exercise—Locke.' Striving to better, oft we mar what's well—Shak.) With a reflexive pronoun improve implies a change for the better within oneself, a better a change for the better in one's social or financial status. She had from her youth improved herself by reading—Fordye.) Girls marry merely to 'better themselves,' to borrow a significant vulgar phrase—Wollstonecraft. To help is to improve while still leaving something to be desired. A coat of paint would help that house.

Ameliorate is chiefly used in reference to conditions that are hard to bear or that cause suffering and implies partial relief or changes that make them tolerable. There is no hope whatever of ameliorating his condition—Peacock. (Abolish feudalism or ameliorate its vices—W. O. Douglass.)

Ana *benefit, profit: amend, *correct, rectify, reform, revise: enhance, heighten (see intensify)

Ant impair: worsen—Con corrupt, pervert, vitiate, *debase, deprave: injure, harm, damage, mar

improvised *improvised, impromptu, offhand, *extemporaneous, extemporaneous, extemporary

impugn gainsay, contradict, negative, traverse, *deny, contravene

impartial *impartial, impartial, unbiased, indifferent, unbiased, impartial

inability *impossible, impossible, insuperable, infeasible, infeasible, insurmountable, insuperable

Analogous words  Con antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
inactive 428 incense

idle, empty, hollow, nugatory: vacuous, blank (see empty)
Con *expressive, significant, meaningful, pregnant

inanimate lifeless, *dead, defunct, deceased, departed, late
Ana inert, *inactive
Ant animate —Con *living, alive

inappreciable imponderable, impalpable, *imperceptible, insensible, intangible
Ant appreciable, ponderable

inappropriate unfitting, inapt, improper, unsuitable, *unfit, unhappy, infelicitous
Ana unbecoming, unseemly, *indecorous: incongruous, discordant, *inconsonant
Ant appropriate —Con fitting, proper, happy, felicitous, suitable, meet, *fit

inapt unhappy, infelicitous, inappropriate, unfitting, unsuitable, improper, *unfit
Ana inept, maladroit, gauche, *awkward, clumsy: banal, flat, jejune, *insipid
Ant apt —Con happy, felicitous, appropriate (see fit): apposite, germane, pertinent, *relevant

inarticulate *dumb, speechless, mute
Ana *silent, taciturn, reserved
Ant articulate —Con *vocal, fluent, eloquent, voluble, glib

insomuch as since, *because, for, as

inaugurate 1 install, induct, invest, *initiate

incapable adj Incapable, incompetent, unqualified mean mentally or physically unfit, or unfitted by nature, character, or training, to do a given kind of work. Except for this denial of fitness the terms otherwise correspond to the affirmative adjectives in their attributive use as discriminated at able, especially when their limitations in application and their distinguishing implications are considered.
Ana inefficient, *ineffective: disabled, crippled, debilitated (see weaken)
Ant capable —Con competent, *able, qualified: efficient, *effective

incarcerate *imprison, jail, immure, intern
Ana confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit

incarnate vb embody, hypothesize, materialize, externalize, objectify, *realize, actualize, reify

incendiary adj *combustible, inflammable, flammable, inflammatory

incense n redolence, *fragrance, perfume, bouquet
Ana odor, aroma, *smell
Ant vce enrage, infuriate, *anger, madden
Ana exasperate, *irritate, rile, provoke, nettlesome, aggravate: *offend, outrage, affront, insult
Ant placate —Con appease, mollify, *pacify, propitiate, conciliate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
incentive  inducement, *motive, spring, spur, goad, impulse

Ana  *stimulus, incitement, stimulant, excitant, impetus: provoking or provocation, excitement, stimulation (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): reason, *cause, determinant

inception  *origin, source, root, provenance, provenience

Ana  beginning, commencement, starting or start, initiation, inauguration (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): rising or rise, origination, derivation (see corresponding verbs at SPRING)

Ant  termination —Con  *end, ending, terminus: completion, finishing, concluding or conclusion, closing (see corresponding verbs at CLOSE)

incessant  continuous, constant, unremitting, perpetual,

Ana  unceasing, interminable, endless, *everlasting:

*steady, constant: vexing, irking, annoying, bothering (see ANNOY)

Ant  intermittent —Con  periodic, recurrent (see INTERMITTENT)

incent  *adultery, fornication

incident  n  episode, event, *occurrence, circumstance

incidental  *accidental, casual, fortuitous, contingent, adventitious

Ana  *subordinate, secondary, collateral: associated, related, linked, connected (see JOIN)

Ant  essential (sense 2) —Con  fundamental, cardinal, vital (see ESSENTIAL)

incise  engrave, etch, chisel, *carve, sculpture, sculpt, scalp

Ana  imprint, print, stamp, impress (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION): depict, delineate, limn (see REPRESENT)

incisive, trenchant, clear-cut, cutting, biting, crisp  are applied to utterances, thoughts, style, or mentalities and mean having or manifesting the qualities associated with sharpness, keenness, and acuteness, especially of mind. Incisive usually implies not only qualities in the thing so described which give it the power to penetrate, pierce, or cut through but also the production of such an effect upon the person impressed; thus, an incisive voice or tone of voice is one that is not only sharply clear and edged but one that affects the nerves of the ear as though it were cutting into them; an incisive command is so sharply imperative and direct that it can neither be misunderstood nor disobeyed —Bismarck's will had not that incisive, rapidier quality, that quality of highly tempered steel—flexible, unbreakable, of mortal effect, decisive... which had Richelieu's—Bellloc <when finally pushed into a corner, he would be more incisive, more deadly, than any man seated foursquare and full of importance at a governmental desk—Sackville-West> <the clear, incisive genius which could state in a flash the exact point at issue—Whitehead> <Trenchant carries a stronger implication than does incise of cutting so as to define differences, categories, or classes with sharpness and perfect clearness or of probing deeply into the innmost nature of a thing so as to reveal what is hidden or concealed<a trenchant analysis> <when roused by indignation or moral enthusiasm, how trenchant are our reflections!—James> <the trenchant divisions between right and wrong, honest and dishonest, respectable and the reverse, had left so little scope for the unforeseen—Wharton> <no one... was more trenchant than he in his criticism of the popular faith—Dickinson> <a most trenchant defender of civil rights—Chafee> Clear-cut is applied chiefly to the effect of the qualities which make for penetration, incisiveness, trenchancy, or accuracy; it suggests sharp chiseling, clear definition, or distinct outlines, and the absence of all soft edges, hazi-

ness, or confusion in the thing or things so described <clear-cut features> <clear-cut utterance> <clear-cut distinctions> <the demands of Communism are too imperative, too clear-cut for the writer who wants only the cessation of mental pain and a private peace in his own time—Day Lewis> <his description of this condition was so clear-cut that others readily recognized it—Blumer> Cutting is often used in place of incisive when a less pleasant or less agreeable quality or effect is to be connoted; the term frequently suggests sarcasm, acrimony, asperity, or harshness that wounds or hurts, but it sometimes carries a hint, at least, of such mental qualities as penetrating truthfulness and acute discernment <eloquence, smooth and cutting, is like a razor whetted with oil—Swift> <he can say the driest, most cutting things in the quietest of tones—Bronte> <I suppose you’d leave me here without money or anything?” she said in a cold, cutting voice—Benett> Biting, when it is applied to utterances, expressed ideas, or style, suggests a power to grip and deeply impress itself on the mind or memory; it therefore often suggests a caustic or mordant quality <biting epigrams> <her biting words> <domineering and censorious of any that stood in his way, with a biting wit—T. D. Bacon> Crisp (see also FRAGILE 1) suggests not only incisiveness but either vigorous terse-ness of expression or a bracing, invigorating quality <the brittle crispness and tenacity, decisive as a child’s expression of its needs—Pater> <it is a relief to come to a dictation that is frequently crisp, and incisive, and terse—Lowes> <a languorous work, ... with occasional interludes of crisp brilliance—Anthony West>

Ana  terse, succinct, laconic, *concise: poignant, *pungent, piquant

Con  prolix, diffuse, verbose, *wordy: *loose, lax, slack: unctuous, *fusome

incite, instigate, abet, foment  are comparable when they mean to spur on to action or to excite into activity. Incite stresses stirring up and urging on; frequently it implies active prompting <the riot was incited by paid agitators> <it was just like Lady Pinkerton... to have gone round to Hobart inciting him to drag Jane from my office—Rose Macaulay> Instigate, in contrast with incite, unequivocally implies prompting and responsibility for the initiation of the action; it also commonly connotes underhand-ness and evil intention; thus, one may be incited but not instigated to the performance of a good act; one may be incited or instigated to the commission of a crime <the early persecutions were... instigated... by the government as a safety valve for popular discontent—Inge> <his peculiar tastes had instigated him to boldness in some directions—Edmund Wilson> Abet tends to lose its original implication of baiting or hounding on and to emphasize its acquired implications of seconding, supporting, and encouraging <unthinkingly, I have laid myself open to the charge of aiding and abetting the seal cutter in obtaining money under false pretenses—Kipling> <Mr. Howells... seconded him as often as not in these innocuous, infantile ventures, abetting him in the production of... plays of an abysmal foolishness—Brooks> Foment stresses persistence in goading; thus, one who incites rebellion may provide only the initial stimulus; one who foments rebellion keeps the rebellious spirit alive by supplying fresh incitements <the apparent moral certainties of the mid-thirties—such as the notion that wars are fomented by munitions makers—F. L. Allen> 

Ana  stimulate, excite, *provoke, pique, galvanize: arouse, rouse, *stir

Ant  restrain —Con  curb, check, inhibit (see RESTRAIN): frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent, baffle, balk, outwit

Anna analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
incitement *stimulus, stimulant, excitant, impetus

Ana spur, goad, incentive, inducement, impulse, *motive, spring: provoking or provocation, excitement, stimulation, piquing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): motivation, activation, actuation (see corresponding verbs at ACTIVATE)

Ant restraint: inhibition

Incline vb 1 lean, *slant, slope

Ana bend, *curve: *swerve, veer, deviate: deflect, *turn

2 Incline, bias, dispose, predispose mean to influence one to take a stated or implied attitude to something or to someone or to have such an attitude as a result of prior influences. Incline (see also SLANT) implies that the mind or the feelings have been so affected that one is already leaning toward one of two or more possible conclusions, projects, decisions, or objects (as of affection). The word suggests no more than the tipping of the balance toward one and therefore connotes merely a tendency to favor one more than the other or others. <such considerations are not supposed to be entertained by judges, except as inclining them to one of two interpretations—Justice Holmes> (the vast majority of people do not incline to be drunkards—Fisherheim) (Mr. Owen inclines to cover up Lloyd George's odious treatment of King George V—Sykes) (on this visit I found Australia generally inclined to be inimical—Heiser) Bias implies a stronger and more settled leaning than incline; it usually connotes a prejudice for or against it would be mortifying to . . . many ladies could they . . . understand how little the heart of man is affected by what is costly or new in their attire; how little it is biased by the texture of their muslin—Austen (she was unfairly biased towards the Liberal party in the state, and too apt to approve of the measures they passed—Rose Macaulay) Dispose differs from incline in stressing the implication of putting one into a frame of mind that is proper or necessary for the end in view or that makes one ready or willing to do something or to take some stand; therefore it often connotes the sway of one's disposition, mood, temper, or attitude (his open face disposes one to believe him innocent) (the depression disposed many persons to become more thrifty) (a thinker so little disposed to treat the names of these religious philosophers with respect—Inge) (those disposed to violate or evade the decrees of the sovereign—Cohen) Predispose differs from dispose in implying the existence of the frame of mind or of the proper disposition in advance of the opportunity to manifest itself in action (circumstances are predisposing men to accept principles which they attacked a few years ago) (if she is flattered and indulged, she will be predisposed to be favorable to him) (we are much influenced in youth by sleepless nights; they disarm, they predispose us to submit to soft occasion—Meredith) Predispose is also used of a physical tendency or condition which makes one susceptible to a given infection or disease (predisposed to tuberculosis) (the coldness and dampness . . . predispose the miner to rheumatism) (disinclining to cover up Lloyd George's odious treatment of King George V)—Justice Holmes (mum genus under which all things without exception could be eventually subsumed—James)

Ana influence, *affect, sway: *move, drive, impel

Ant disincline, indispose

Include, comprehend, embrace, involve, imply, subsueme are comparable when meaning basically to contain something within as a part or portion of a whole. Include suggests that the thing included forms a constituent, component, or subordinate part (the genus Viola includes the pansy as well as various violets) (the collection will not include any examples of the artist's earlier paintings) (an edition of the Bible which includes the Apocrypha) (it would not be argued today that the power to regulate does not include the power to prohibit—Justice Holmes) (few of the great men of our nation Early national history extended their humanitarianism to include the Indian tribes—Hyman) Comprehend suggests that within the scope or range of the whole under consideration (as the content of a term, a concept, a conception, or a view) the thing comprehended is held or enclosed even though it may or may not be clearly distinguishable or actually distinguishable (it was not tolerance; it was something greater that comprehended tolerance but went far beyond it—G. W. Johnson) (for philosophy's scope comprehends the truth of everything which man may understand—H. O. Taylor) Embrace (see also ADOPT) suggests a reaching out to gather the thing embraced within the whole (as the content of a mind or of a course of study or a construction or interpretation of a law) (the scene before the reedleman's eyes . . . embraced hillocks, pits, ridges, activities, one behind the other—Hardy) (by Baudelaire's time it was no longer necessary for a man to embrace such varied interests in order to have the sense of the age—T. S. Eliot) Whatever disagreement there may be as to the scope of the phrase "due process of law," there can be no doubt that it embraces the fundamental conception of a fair trial—Justice Holmes Involve suggests inclusion by virtue of the nature of the whole, whether by being its natural or inevitable consequence (surrender involves submission) (it is quite probable that many of those who would make the best doctors are too poor to take the course. This involves a deplorable waste of talent—Russell) or one of its antecedent conditions (clerkship did not necessarily involve even minor orders—Quiller-Couch) (I should . . . supply the humanistic elements of education in ways not involving a great apparatus of learning—Russell) or one of the parts or elements which comprise it by necessity or definition (that fusion of public and private life which was involved in the ideal of the Greek citizen—Dickinson) Imply is very close to involve in meaning but stresses a thing's inclusion not, as involve does, by the nature or constitution of the whole but as something which can be inferred because hinted at (see also SUGGEST 1) (the tone of the book was implied by shrewd advertisements featuring the author's open, smiling face—J. D. Hart) or because normally or customarily part of its content especially by definition (embrace implies a reaching out to gather to oneself or within one's grasp) (emergency and crisis imply conflict—Langfield) or because invariably associated with the thing under consideration as its cause or its effect or as its maker or its product (a watch implies a watchmaker). For this reason imply may, in comparison with involve, suggest a degree of uncertainty; thus, silence is often said to imply consent, but it would be rash to say that it involves consent. Subsume, a technical term in logic, philosophy, and the classificatory sciences, implies inclusion within a class or category (as an individual in a species or a species in a genus) or a being comprehended by a general principle or proposition (absolutely generic unity would obtain if there were one sum-
incompatible

**Ana** unrivaled, unmatched, unapproached, unequaled (see affirmative verbs at MATCH)

**Con** ordinary, *common: fair, mediocre, *medium, second-rate, average

incompatible incongruous, *inconsonant, inconsistent, discordant, discrepant, uncongenial, unsym pathetic

**Ana** antagonistic, counter, *adverse: *antipathetic, adverse: contrary, contradictory, antithetical, antipodal, antipodean, *opposite: irreconcilable, unconformable, unadaptable (see corresponding affirmative verbs at ADAPT)

**Ant** compatible —**Con** congruous, *consonant, consistent, congenial: harmonizing or harmonious, corresponding or correspondent, agreeing (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

incompetent unqualified, *incapable

**Ana** inefficient, *ineffective

**Ant** competent —**Con** *able, capable, qualified: skilled, proficient, expert, masterly

incongruous *inconsonant, uncongenial, incompatible, inconsistent, discordant, discrepant, unsym pathetic

**Ana** alien, foreign, extraneous (see EXTRINSIC): grotesque, bizarre, *fantastic

**Ant** congruous —**Con** fitting, suitable, appropriate, meet, *fit: *consonant, compatible, congenial, consistent

inconsistent *inconsonant, incompatible, incongruous, uncongenial, unsym pathetic, discordant, discrepant

**Ana** divergent, disparate, diverse, *different: irreconcilable (see corresponding affirmative verb at ADAPT)

**Ant** consistent —**Con** *consonant, compatible, congruous: according or accordant, agreeing, tallying, jibing, corresponding or correspondent (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

inconsonant, inconsistent, incompatible, incongruous, uncongenial, unsym pathetic, discordant, discrepant mean not in agreement with one another or not agreeable one to the other. Except for this denial of reciprocal agreement or agreeableness, the first six words correspond to the affirmative adjectives as discriminated at CONSONANT especially in regard to their specific implications. Discordant is more common than inconsonant when applied, in the sense of devoid of harmony, to things coming into contact or comparison with each other (discordant voices) (the discordant views of cabinet officers) Discrepant is often preferred to inconsistent in attributive use especially when a wide variance between details of two things that should be alike or consistent is to be suggested; thus, “two discrepant accounts of an accident” suggests more obvious differences in details than “their accounts are inconsistent.” Inconsistent is more frequent in predicative use.

**Ant** consonant —**Con** congruous, compatible, consistent, congenial (see CONSONANT): harmonized or harmonious, attuned (see corresponding verbs at HARMONIZE)

inconstant, fickle, capricious, mercurial, unstable mean lacking or showing lack of firmness or steadiness in purpose, attachment, or devotion. Inconstant, usually applied to persons though sometimes to things, suggests an inherent or constitutional tendency to change frequently; it commonly implies an incapacity for fixity or steadiness (as in one’s affections, aspirations, or course) (sweat not by the moon, the inconstant moon, that monthly changes in her circled orb—Shak.) (people seldom know what they would be at, young men especially, they are so amazingly changeable and inconsistent—Austin) (Spanish assistance from the sea was inconstant, almost accidental—Jones) Fickle retains only a hint of its basic implication of deceitfulness or treacherousness, but its basic implications of instability and unreliability are colored by the suggestion of an incapacity for being true, steadfast, or certain (Fortune, Fortune! all men call thee fickle—Shak.) (bitter experience soon taught him that lordly patrons are fickle and their favor not to be relied on—Huxley) (she is fickle! How she turns from one face to another face—and smiles into them all!—Milley) Capricious suggests qualities which manifest or seem to manifest a lack of guidance by a power (as law, authority, or reason) that tends to regularize movements or acts. When used in reference to persons, it suggests guidance by whim, mood, freak, or sudden impulse (Louis XIII . . . a boy of eight at his accession . . . grows up capricious, restricted and cold, hardly normal—Bellocc he judged her to be capricious, and easily wearied of the pleasure of the moment—Wharton) When used in reference to things, it implies an irregularity, an uncertainty, or a variability that seems incompatible with the operation of law (a capricious climate) (the capricious hues of the sea—Lamb) (the capricious uncertain lease on which you and I hold life—Quiller-Couch) (the olive is slow-growing, capricious in its yield—Huxley) Mercurial is a synonym of the other words here discriminated only when it carries a strong implication of resemblance to the metal mercury and its fluctuations when subjected to an external influence. The word, however, also carries implications (as of swiftness, eloquence, cleverness, and volatility) derived from its earthy association with the god Mercury. Consequently when it applies to persons, their temperaments, or their natures, it usually suggests a pleasing even if baffling variability, an amazing succession of gifts capable of being displayed at will or at need, and such other qualities as sprightliness, restlessness, flashing wit, and elusive charm (the gay, gale lant, mercurial Frenchman—Disraeli) (I was ardent in my temperament; quick, mercurial, impetuous—Irving) (it seems impossible that her bright and mercurial figure is no longer among us, that she will delight us no more with the keen precision and stabbing brilliance of that jewelled brain—New Republic) Unstable, which is applicable to persons as well as to things, implies a constitutional incapacity for remaining in a fixed position mentally or emotionally as well as physically; it suggests, therefore, such fluctuations in behavior as frequent and often unjustified changes in occupation or in residence or sudden and startling changes of faith or of interests (unstable as water, thou shalt not excel—Gen 49:4) (his nature, lamentably unstable, was not ignoble—Macaulay) (woman’s love . . . is volatile, insoluble, unstable—M. L. Anderson) (an unstable world economy . . . subjected to periods of wars, inflation, and depression—Farmer’s Weekly)

**Ana** *changeable, changeful, variable, protean, mutable: *faithless, disloyal, false, treacherous, traitorous, perfidious: volatile, frivolous, light, light-minded (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

**Ant** constant —**Con** *stable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty: true, loyal, staunch, steadfast, *faithful

inconvenience vb Inconvenience, incommode, discommodate, trouble are comparable when they mean to subject to disturbance or annoyance. Inconvenience usually suggests little more than interference with one’s plans, one’s comfort, or one’s freedom of action; it seldom carries suggestions of more than a temporary or slight disturbance or annoyance (I hope the new arrangement will not inconvenience you) (do not inconvenience him by intruding upon him while he is writing) (she was frequently inconvenienced by the strong scent of tobacco which the fresh breeze conveyed through the porthole—Wylie) Incommod e and, even more, discommod e carry a somewhat heightened suggestion of disturbance or annoyance, but not enough to imply actual suffering or injury; rather, they connote some mental agitation (as embarrassment or
vexation) or more or less disagreeable interference with one's comfort or plans (Lucian was soon incommode by the attention his cousin attracted—Shaw) "passenger disservice"—all the things which go to delay flights or otherwise to incommode the passenger—R. P. Cooke (it could not incommode you to receive any of his Grace's visitors or mine—Scott) (finding herself and the younger children incommode in the boat—Galt) Trouble is often used in polite intercourse in a sense close to that of inconvenience, when it suggests even less effort or disturbance {may I trouble you to pass the salt} (will it trouble you to drop this letter in the box when you are passing?) It is, however, also used to imply serious disturbance or annoyance (as worry, deep concern, or great pains); in this sense and sometimes in the lighter sense, it is frequently reflexive {men troubled themselves about pain and death much as healthy bears did—Henry Adams} {an artist who does not trouble about the philosophy of things, but just obeys the dim promptings of instinct—Montague}.

Ania disturb, *discompose: interfere, intermeddle, *meddle incorporate vb embody, assimilate, *identify Ania merge, blend, fuse, coalesce (see MIX): *unite, combine, conjoin: consolidate, unify, *compact incorporeal *immaterial, spiritual Ant corporeal —Con *material, physical, sensible, objective

increase vb Increase, enlarge, augment, multiply mean to increase {the portion to something else <the darkness increased} or growth in intensity, especially by degrees or in proportion to the loss of face involved in admitting that he didn't incur —Armstrongy —Smithy (incur mental fatigue) In transitive use {increase may or may not imply serious disturbance or annoyance (as worry, deep concern, or great pains)}; in this sense and sometimes in the lighter sense, it is frequently reflexive {men troubled themselves about pain and death much as healthy bears did—Henry Adams} {an artist who does not trouble about the philosophy of things, but just obeys the dim promptings of instinct—Montague}.

Ania disturb, *discompose: interfere, intermeddle, *meddle incorporate vb embody, assimilate, *identify Ania merge, blend, fuse, coalesce (see MIX): *unite, combine, conjoin: consolidate, unify, *compact incorporeal *immaterial, spiritual Ant corporeal —Con *material, physical, sensible, objective

increase vb Increase, enlarge, augment, multiply mean to become or cause to become greater or more numerous. Increase distinctively carries the idea of progressive growth; sometimes it means nothing more than this {Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man—Lk 2:52} {Miss Anderson's reputation as an artist increased—Current Biog.} Sometimes it implies growth in numbers by natural propagation {Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)—Hunt} or growth in size, amount, or quantity (as by increments or accretions) {their salaries increase annually by one hundred dollars} {his strength will increase when his health improves} or growth in intensity, especially by degrees or in proportion to something else {the darkness increases the further we advance into the forest} {your misery increase with your age!—Shak.} {a series of several situations which progressively increase in humorous possibilities—Kilby} In transitive use increase may or may not imply progressive growth; often it so stresses the operation or the effectiveness of a cause that it loses the connotation of natural or regular progression {the trustees increased all salaries} {a rich diet increased her weight} {the depression increased his misgivings} {the girl's actions increased his suspicions} {good teaching increases one's desire for knowledge} {many facts unearthed by psychical research and abnormal psychology increase the credibility of some of the more miraculous parts of the gospel narratives—Flower} Enlarge stresses expansion or extension so that whatever is affected is greater in some or all of its dimensions or in its size or capacity {he enlarged his farm by the purchase of one hundred adjoining acres} {enlarge a hotel by building a new wing} In extended use enlarge is applicable primarily to what may be thought of as capable of being made larger or smaller in extent or size; thus, one does not enlarge one's interests or one's activities but the field of one's interests, or the scope of one's activities {enlarge the circle of one's acquaintances} {enlarge one's capacity for enjoyment} Nevertheless field, scope, or capacity may be merely implied {its [a constitutional clause's] terms purport to enlarge ... the powers vested in the government—John Marshall} {enlarging our personality by establishing new affinities and sympathies with our fellowmen, with nature, and with God—Ingo} {the abundant opportunities which the aesthetic realm provides to enlarge our experience—Hunter Mead} Augment, like increase, basically implies growth; it rarely, however, carries the implication of progressive growth or growth by degrees, which is often so strong in increase. It differs from increase chiefly in being used in reference to things already well grown or well developed; thus, when one says "the team's confidence increases with every victory" one implies that its confidence was originally not strong; on the other hand, when one says "the team's confidence augments with every victory" one implies that its confidence was never weak. Consequently the distinctive implication of augment is a growing greater, more numerous, larger, or more intense {even an increase of fame served only to augment the industry—Reynolds} {to fete over unavoidable evils, or augment them by anxiety—Austen} Multiply implies an increase in number especially by natural generation {every species of animals naturally multiplies in proportion to the means of their subsistence, and no species can ever multiply beyond it—Smith} Sometimes, however, the word implies increase in numbers by indefinite repetition of things of the same kind {if there were space, we might multiply illustrative citations} {philosophers who propose to solve certain intellectual problems by multiplying abstractions—Holmer} {commerce multiplied wealth and comfort—Barr} Ania *intensify, aggravate, heighten, enhance: *expand, swell, amplify, dilate, distend, inflate: *extend, lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract Ant decrease —Con diminish, lessen, reduce, abate, dwindle (see DECREASE): *shorten, abridge, abbreviate, curtail, retrench: *contract, condense, shrink, deflate incredulity disbelief, *unbelief Ant doubt, dubiety, dubiosity, skepticism, *uncertainty Ant credulity —Con certitude, *certainty, assurance, conviction: positiveness, coarseness, sureness (see corresponding adjectives at SURE)

increment accretion, *addition, accession incrimate impeach, indict, *accuse, charge, arraign Ania *involve, implicate Con *exculpate, exonerate, absolve, acquit, vindicate inculate *implant, instill Ania *infuse, inoculate, imbue, leaven: *teach, instruct, educate: impart, *communicate incur, contract, catch are comparable when they mean to bring upon oneself something unpleasant, onerous, or injurious. Incur may or may not imply foreknowledge of what is to happen {incur a debt} {incur criticism} but it usually implies responsibility for the acts which bring about what is incurred {he simply couldn't bring himself to incur the loss of face involved in admitting that he didn't know enough English—Durdin} {an environment containing all the classic elements for incurring mental fatigue—Armstrongy} Catch carries a stronger implication than incur of acquisition, but it is equally inexplicit in its lack of clear suggestion as to whether the acquisition derives from intention or accident {had contracted considerable debts in granting loans to the king—Cruckshanks} {contract a disease} {contract bad habits} But contract often distinctively implies a meeting between two things that permits either an interchange of qualities {each from each} {from each contract new strength and light—Pope} or a transmission of something from one to the other {they say that sherry ought to live for a while in an old brandy cask, so as to contract a certain convincing quality from the cask's genial timbers—Montague} Catch, the least

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
literary and most ordinary of these terms, usually implies infection or something analogous to it (catch a heavy cold) (religion, in point of fact, is seldom taught at all; it is caught, by contact with someone who has it—Inge)  

*Ana* get, obtain, acquire  

*Con* escape, elude, evade, avoid, shun, eschew: avert, ward, *prevent*  

**incorrupt** uninterested, disinterested  

*Ana* abstracted, preoccupied, absent, absentminded, distraught  

*Curious* inquisitive — *Con* prying, snoopy, nosy  

(see CURIOUS): intrusive, meddlesome, *impertinent*: observing or observant, remarking, noticing, noting (see corresponding verbs at **SEE**)  

**incursion** invasion, raid, inroad  

**indebtedness** debt, debit, obligation, liability, arrear  

**improper**, unseemly, indecent, unbecoming, indecorous  


*Ant* decent — *Con* chaste, pure, modest: virtuous, *moral*, ethical  

**indecorous**, improper, *unseemly*, indecent, unbecoming, **indecorous**, unbecoming  


*Ant* decent — *Con* chaste, pure, modest: virtuous, *moral*, ethical  

**indecorous**, improper, *unseemly*, indecent, unbecoming, **indecorous**, unbecoming  


*Ant* decent — *Con* chaste, pure, modest: virtuous, *moral*, ethical  

**indelicate** indecent, unseemly, improper, *indecorous*, unbecoming  

*Ana* *incurious*  

*Ant* analogous words  

**incurious**  

**Ant** antonyms  

**Con** contrasted words  

*See also explanatory notes facing page 1*
indemnify reimburse, recompense, compensate, remunerate, *pay, repay, satisfy
indemnity *reparation, redress, amends, restitution
indentured *article, *bound, bond
independence autonomy, freedom, sovereignty, autarchy, autarky (see under FREE adj)
Anna liberty, *freedom, license
Ant dependence —Con *subordination, subjectition (see corresponding adjectives at SUBORDINATE); *servitude, slavery, bondage
independent autonomous, *free, sovereign, autarchic, autarkic
Anna *alone, solitary: self-governed, self-ruled (see base words at GOVERN)
Ant dependent —Con *subjective, subject, tributary — *subservient, servile, slavish: relative (see DEPENDENT)
indescribable *unutterable, inexpressible, ineffable, un-speakable, indefinable
indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, argue, *prove can all mean to give evidence of or to serve as ground for a valid or reasonable inference. One thing indicates another when the former serves as a symptom or a sign pointing to the latter as a justifiable or necessary conclusion, treatment, or remedy (the facts revealed by the auditor's investigation indicate that the peculations were not confined to one person) (conflicting findings indicate further neurological research—Collier's Yr. Bk.) (such symptoms indicate an operation) (the results ... are believed to be the first to indicate a possible magnetic effect directly attributable to a solar eclipse—Harradon) One thing betokens another when the former serves as visible or sensible evidence or, more narrowly, as a presage or portent of the latter (his appearance betokened complete security—Meredith) (the black clouds betoken a storm) (like a red morn, that ever yet betokened wreck to the field—Shak'y) (towering business buildings, great warehouses, and numerous factories betoken its importance—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) One thing attests another when the former serves as indisputable evidence of the latter and has the force though not necessarily the character of legal testimony or documentary proof (the great seal ... attests ... the verity of the presidential signature—John Marshall) (their success is attested by the marvelous exactness with which eclipses are foretold—Darrow) One thing bespeaks another when the former leads to the inference that it is the outward manifestation of the latter (to Him whose works bespeak his nature—Cowper) (the large abstention from voting in our elections must certainly bespeak an indifference not without meaning—Frankfurter) (a glint of pride in her eyes that bespoke her new dignity—Lasswell) One thing argues another when the former gives good reason for belief in the existence, the reality, or the presence of the latter (his evasion, of course, was the height of insolence, but it argued unlimited resource and verve—Kipling) (to the grub under the bark the exquisite fitness of the woodpecker's organism to extract him would certainly argue a diabolical designer—James) (a becoming deference argues deficiency in self-respect—Whitehead) One thing proves another when the former serves to demonstrate or manifest the truth of the latter (your language proves you still the child—Tennyson) (to become a writer was, however, in Thoreau's mind; his verses prove it, his journal proves it—Canby)
Anna intimate, hint, *suggest: evince, evidence, demonstrate, manifest, *show: import, signify, denote, *mean
indict incriminate, impeach, charge, arraign, *accuse
Anna blame, denounced, condemn (see CRITICIZE)

Con *exculpate, absolve, exonerate, acquit, vindicate

Indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested mean not feeling or showing interest, especially natural or normal interest. Indifferent is often used in place of the other and more specific terms. It may imply neutrality of attitude arising either from a lack of bias, prejudice, or predilection when two or more persons or things are considered or from a lack of feeling for or against a particular person or thing (it is impossible to remain indifferent to political parties when great issues are at stake) (he was ... exceedingly difficult to please, not ... because he was hypercritical and exacting, but because he was indifferent—Bennett) (nature had no sympathy with our hopes and fears, and was completely indifferent to our fate—L. P. Smith) Unconcerned implies indifference such as arises from unconsciousness, insensitiveness, or selfishness which prevents one from being moved, worried, or made solicitous (convincing the unconcerned, the apathetic, and the downright hostile—Fine) (readers unconcerned with style and philosophical illumination—Cordell) Incurious implies indifference arising from a lack of intellectual interest or normal curiosity; it often suggests incapacity because of temperament or state of mind (why ... are we, as a race, so incurious, irresponsible and insensitive—Woolf) (the incurious ignorance of the poor about the diseases among which they live—Edmund Wilson) Aloof and especially its derivative aloofness stress indifference that is the natural result of feeling apart or at a distance from someone or something (as from temperamental reserve, a sense of superiority, or an aversion to the inferior) (young people ... tend to become arrogant and hard, ignorant of the problems of adult life, and quite aloof from their parents—Russell) (it nerved him to break through the awe-inspiring aloofness of his captain—Conrad) Detached often implies a commendable aloofness which is the result of freedom from prejudices or of selfish concern for one's personal interests (the ... frigid and detached spirit which leads to success in the study of astronomy or botany—Chesterton) Sometimes it distinctively suggests the lack of any kind of looking at persons or things as though they bear no relation to one's own life (Rome contemplated the spectacle with the detached, intelligent amusement of the ... theatergoer—Rose Macaulay) (he had been detached and impersonal about the great facts of life—Webb) Uninterested is the most neutral of these terms and in itself suggests nothing beyond the fact of a lack of interest (aware of nature as uninterested in him, yet able to feed or crush him—Kelmon) Disinterested though increasingly interchangeable with uninterested, in its more discriminative use suggests a freedom from thought of personal advantage or interest that permits one to detect the truth, to tell the truth, or to judge truly (a disinterested observer) (will teach that one disinterested deed of hope and faith may crown a brief and broken life with deathless fame—Elion) (although there are many things in which I am uninterested, I cannot be disinterested about the things in which I am interested—Lowrie) (a disinterested historian)
Anna impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, *fair: apathetic, *impassive, phlegmatic: *cool, nonchalant
Ant avid — Con *eager, keen, agog: sympathetic, responsive, compassionate (see TENDER): *apathetic, unsympathetic, averse
2 average, moderate, *medium, middling, fair, mediocre, second-rate
Anna ordinary, *common
Ant choice — Con exquisite, rare, recherché (see CHOICE): superlative, surpassing, peerless, *supreme

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>neutral, negative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>indignation</strong></td>
<td>penury, want, *poverty, destitution, privation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indigent</strong></td>
<td>*poor, needy, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indigenous</strong></td>
<td>*native, autochthonous, endemic, aboriginal</td>
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<td><strong>indirect</strong></td>
<td>naturalized: exotic — <strong>Con</strong> foreign, alien, extraneous (see EXTRINSIC)</td>
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<td><strong>indigent</strong></td>
<td>poor, needy, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indignant</strong></td>
<td>*angry, irate, wrathful, wroth, acrimonious, mad</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indignity</strong></td>
<td>*resentment, dudgeon, *offense: *passion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indifference</strong></td>
<td>*affront, insult</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indirect, circuitous, roundabout</strong></td>
<td>comparable when applied to ways, routes, or means with the meaning not leading by a straight path to a destination or goal. <strong>Indirect</strong> basically implies departure from the straight and short line between two points (by what bypaths and <strong>indirect</strong> crooked ways I met this crown—Shak.) In its extended uses <strong>indirect</strong> implies following a course that is not plain, obvious, explicit, or straightforward (Jane's mother was making <strong>indirect</strong> but perfectly legitimate inquiries into his prospects—Mary Austin) — <strong>Con</strong> taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indiscriminate, wholesale, sweeping</strong></td>
<td>comparable when indiscriminate labels—Roy) <strong>Sweeping</strong> implies a reaching out in or as if in a wide circle to draw in everyone or everything within range; it usually carries a stronger suggestion of indiscriminateness than <strong>wholesale</strong> and often specifically implies exceeding the bounds of right, justice, or jurisdiction or suggests generality rather than a concrete, specific character (sweeping reforms) (sweeping accusations) (a sweeping and consummate vengeance for the indignity alone should satisfy him—Meredith)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indiscernible, indistinguishable</strong></td>
<td>essential, necessary, requisite, *needful</td>
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<td><strong>indisposed</strong></td>
<td>*disinclined, loath, averse, hesitant, reluctant</td>
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<td><strong>indiscerning</strong></td>
<td>*capable of, able to perceive, notice, or understand</td>
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<td><strong>indifferent</strong></td>
<td>*different, uninterested, aloof</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indicate</strong></td>
<td>*afford, make possible, imply, denote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indifference</strong></td>
<td>tendentious, biased, slanted, partial, one-sided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>indicate</strong></td>
<td>*afford, make possible, imply, denote</td>
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<td><strong>indue</strong></td>
<td>induce</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>induce</strong></td>
<td>plate—O'Flaherty) <strong>Wholesale</strong> often implies indiscriminateness, but sometimes it carries almost no such suggestion; however, it regularly stresses extensiveness, usually suggesting that no person or thing within the range of choice, operation, or effectiveness has escaped (the <strong>wholesale</strong> vaccination of a community) (communism can spread only . . . as a development of existing economic civilization and not by a sudden <strong>wholesale</strong> overthrow of it—Shaw) (the continuous battle of this generation against <strong>wholesale</strong> character assassination through the application of indiscriminate labels—Roy) <strong>Sweeping</strong> implies a reaching out in or as if in a wide circle to draw in everyone or everything within range; it usually carries a stronger suggestion of indiscriminateness than <strong>wholesale</strong> and often specifically implies exceeding the bounds of right, justice, or jurisdiction or suggests generality rather than a concrete, specific character (sweeping reforms) (sweeping accusations) (a sweeping and consummate vengeance for the indignity alone should satisfy him—Meredith)</td>
</tr>
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* Analogous words

* Antonyms

* Contraspected words

* See also explanatory notes facing page 1
object is to induce the child to lend of his own free will; so long as authority is required, the end aimed at has not been achieved—Russell} (conditions which had induced many persons to emigrate from the old country—Dewey)

Persuade implies a winning over by an appeal, entreaty, or expostulation addressed as much to feelings as to reason; it usually implies that the one persuaded is more or less won over by the one that persuades. It is not very difficult to persuade people to do what they are all longing to do—Huxley} (deputed by the firm of lawyers . . . to persuade her to resume her married life—Powell)

Prevar, usually with on or upon, may be employed in place of either induce or persuade, but it usually carries a stronger implication of opposition to be faced or of good arguments to be overcome (he had never before supposed that, could Wickham be prevailed upon to marry his daughter, it would be done with so little inconvenience to himself as by the present arrangement—Austen) (I will go now and try to prevail on my mother to let me stay with you—Shaw) (prevailed upon the men in the sloop to sail up the river again, to rescue any survivors—M. S. Douglas)

Get in this relation (see also Get 1) is a much more neutral term than the others discriminated and it may replace any of them when the method by which a favorable decision is brought about is irrelevant or, sometimes, is deliberately not stressed (finally got the boy to do his homework) (tried to get the union to accept arbitration) (succeeded in getting the Russians to relinquish certain claims for war damages—Americana Annual)

Ana *incite, instigate, abet: move, actuate, drive, impel: motivate, *activate, actuate
Con *command, order, enjoin, direct, bid, charge: prescribe, assign, define

inducement incentive, spur, *motive, goal, spring, impulse
Ana temptation, enticement, seduction, luring or lure (see corresponding verbs at lure): *stimulus, incitement, impetus, stimulant, excitant

induct inaugurate, install, *initiate, invest
induction *deduction
Ana *inference, ratiocination
inductive deductive (see under deduction)
Ana roticative, inferential (see under inference)

indulge, pamper, humor, spoil, baby, mollycoddle mean to show undue favor or attention to a person or his desires. Indulge implies weakness or compliance in granting another's wishes or desires, especially those which have no claim to fulfillment or which ought to be kept under control (I would indulge her every whim—Hardy) (pasty-faced languid creatures . . . indulged in food and disciplined in play—Russell) (when schoolboys were less indulged with pocket money—Archibald Marshall)

Pamper carries an implication of inordinate gratification of an appetite or taste especially for what is luxurious or dainty and, therefore, softening in its physical, mental, or moral effects (rich though they were, they refused to pamper their children) (he preserved without an effort the supremacy of character and mind over the flesh he neither starved nor pampered—Dickinson) (no country can afford to pamper snobbery—Shaw)

Humor stresses either attention to or an easy yielding to whim, caprice, or changing desires; it therefore often suggests accommodation to the moods of another (humoring a pet fawn which had a predilection for soap and cigarette butts—Corsini) (the tone of your voice . . . is too gentle, as if you were humoring the vagaries of a blind man's mind—Hecht)

Spoil stresses the injurious effect on the character or disposition of one who is indulged, pampered, humored, or otherwise made the recipient of special attention; however the word is often used to imply attentions that are likely to have this effect (She talks a great deal, sir, Elizabeth apologized. "She's our only little girl, and I'm afraid we spoil her"—Deland)

Baby implies excessive attentions, especially of the kind given to those who are unable to care for themselves and need the constant assistance of a mother or nurse; it also carries a strong implication of humoring or pampering (babying Americans, telling them what they should read and should not read—Sokolsky) (Lydia had two methods of taking men down: babying them and harping on their faults—Edmund Wilson)

Mollycoddle usually implies babying; it distinctively suggests inordinate attention to another's health or physical comfort or undue efforts to relieve another of strain or hardship. It often also connotes, as the effect or danger of such treatment, effeminateness or infantilism (schools where grown boys and girls are mollycoddled) (look here, mother dear: I'm as well as ever I was, and I'm not going to be molly-coddled any more—Braddon)


Ant discipline (others): abstain (with reference to oneself, one's appetite)

indulgence forbearance, tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency (see under FORBEARING)

Ana *mercy, charity, lenity, grace: kindness, benignity or benignity, benignness, kindliness (see corresponding adjectives at kind): mildness, gentleness (see corresponding adjectives at soft)

Ant strictness—Con severity, sternness (see corresponding adjectives at severe): rigorousness, rigidity (see corresponding adjectives at rigid): harshness (see corresponding adjective at rough)

indulgent lenient, *forbearing, tolerant, clement, merciful
Ana humoring, pampering (see indulge): forgiving, pardoning, condoning, excusing (see excuse vb): benignant, benign, *kind, kindly: mild, gentle (see soft)

Ant strict—Con stern, *severe: rigorous, stringent (see rigid): harsh (see rough)

indulgently forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently (see under FORBEARING)

indurate vb *harden, solidify, petrify, cake
Ana season (see harden): fix, establish, *set

indurated *hardened, callous
Ana rigid, *stiff, inflexible: obdurate, adamant, adamantine, inexorable, *flexible
Ana pliable—Con *elastic, pliant, ductile, malleable: flexible, *elastic, supple, resilient

industrious diligent, *busy, assiduous, sedulous
Ana *active, operative, live, dynamic: persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at persevere): indefatigable, tireless, untiring, unflagging, unwearied

Ant slothful, indolent—Con idle, *inactive, inert, supine: *lazy, faineant: *lethargic, sluggish, torpid

industry *business, trade, commerce, traffic

inebriate n *drunkard, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tootspot, tippler

Ant teetotaler

inebriated adj *drunk, drunken, intoxicated, tipsy, tight

ineffable *unutterable, inexpressible, unspeakable, indecipherable, indefinable

Ana *celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal: ethereal (see airy): spiritual, divine, *holy, sacred: transcendent, transcendental, ideal, *abstract

Con expressible, utterable (see corresponding verbs at express)

ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, ineffectuous mean not producing or incapable of producing results. Except for
this denial of production or capacity for production, these adjectives correspond in their applications and implications to the affirmative adjectives as discriminated at effective.

**Ana** *futile, vain, fruitless, bootless, abortive: *vain, nugatory, otiose, idle, empty, hollow: *sterile, barren, unfruitful, infertile

**Ant** effective — **Con** effectual, efficacious, efficient (see **Effective**): fruitful, *fertile, fecund: forceful, forcible, *powerful, potent

**ineffocal** *ineffective, inefficacious, inefficient

**Ana** see those at **ineffective**

**Ant** effectual — **Con** *effective, efficacious, efficient:* useful, profitable (see corresponding nouns at use)

**ineffacous** *ineffective, inefficacious, inefficient

**Ana** *inactive, inert, idle: *futile, vain, fruitless, bootless, abortive: *powerless, impotent

**Ant** efficacious — **Con** *powerful, potent, forcible, forceful: cogent, telling, compelling (see **valid**: *effective, effectual, efficient

**inefficient** *ineffective, inefficacious, inefficient


**Ant** efficient — **Con** *competent, *able, capable, qualified: skillful, skilled, *proficient, expert, adept, masterly

**ineffable** *inevitable, inescapable, unescapable, unavoidable

**Ana** *certain, inevitable, necessary

**Con** escapable, avoidable, evadable or evasive, elucidable (see corresponding verbs at escape): doubtful, dubious, questionable: possible, *probable

**inept** *awkward, clumsy, maladroity, gauche

**Ana** inapt, *unfit, unsuitable, inappropriate: *impertinent, intrusive, obtrusive: *vain, nugatory, idle, empty, hollow, otiose: fatuous, asinine, foolish, silly (see **simple**)

**Ant** apt: adept: *able (as a result of nature, training)

**ineffable** *infallible, inerrant, unerring

**ineffable** *ineffable, inerrant, unerring

**Ana** *impeccable, flawless, faultless: accurate, exact, *correct, precise: *reliable, dependable, trustworthy: *evitable, *certain

**inert** *inactive, passive, idle, supine


**Ant** dynamic: animated — **Con** *active, operative, live: alert, vigilant, *watchful

**ineffable** *inevitable, inescapable, unescapable, unavoidable

**Ana** *certain, necessary: inexorable, *inflexible

**Ant** escapable

**ineffable** 1 *Inevitable, inescapable, unavoidable

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Infectious, contagious, communicable, catching

Infectious, contagious, communicable, catching all have extended use in their basic use as applied to diseases are distinguishable though closely similar in meaning. Infectious designates a disease resulting from the invasion of and multiplication in the body by germs (as bacteria, protozoans, or viruses) that produce toxins or destroy or injure tissues. Contagious more precisely designates an infectious disease caused by receiving living germs directly from a person afflicted with it or by contact with a secretion of his or some object he has touched. Communicable in this relation is nearly equivalent to infectious, but it emphasizes the transmissibility of the disease rather than the method by which it is acquired. Catching, a less formal term, is close in meaning to contagious, but it implies even more the danger of contact. Infectious, contagious, and catching all have extended use but in such use the fine distinctions exhibited in their technical senses are not carried over with the result that they are nearly exact synonyms meaning rapidly imparted to others; thus, one may speak of contagious, or infectious, enthusiasm or of enthusiasm that is catching (see CONTAGIOUS, INFECTIOUS). The adjectives contagious and catching may be distinctively applied to matter and means potentially infectious (see CONTAGIOUS, INFECTIOUS).
inferior

subordinate mean one, usu-

ratiocinative (see under INFERENCE 2)

inferential

1 deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under JUDGMENT)

Ant inferior — Con chief, head, master, leader

infernal, chthonian, hellish, Hadean, Tartarean, stygian

mean of or characteristic of the abode of the dead. Infer-

fearl basically denotes of or characteristic of the under-

world regions once held to be inhabited by the earth gods

and spirits of the dead. Through confusion of pagan con-

ceptions of the underworld with Jewish and Christian

conceptions of hell as the abode of devils and a place of

torture for the souls of the damned infernal has acquired

connotations of horror, torturing fiends, and unendurable

suffering through fire, which nearly always blur and some-

times blot out its original subterranean implications.

(from the infernal Gods, 'mid shades forlorn—Words-

worth) (the most abhorred fiend in the infernal regions

is sent to torment me—Scott) When the classical con-

ception of the underworld must be suggested without an

admixture of alien connotations, chthonian is sometimes

used (but the worship of the dead . . . and of the chthonian

gods, was marked off by broad lines from that of the Olym-

pian gods—Hasting) Hellish comes close to the current

meaning of infernal but carriies so strong an implication

of devilishness that it more nearly approaches fiendish in

its meaning (heavenly love shall outdo hellish hate—

Milton) (burned them both with hellish mockery—

Shelley) Hadean, Tartarean, and stygian are used in

poetry in place of infernal, sometimes without any ref-

erence to the conception of Hades, Tartarus, and the Styx

in classic mythology. Very frequently Hadean is a loose

equivalent for chthonian, Tartarean suggests darkness

and remoteness, stygian connotes bounds with no outlet

for escape, but all three are without fixed content.

Ana *fiendish, devilish, diabolical, demoniac: damnable,

accursed, cursed, *execrable: nefarious, flagitious,

iniquitous, villainous, *vicious

Ant supernatural

infertile *sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful

Ana *dry, arid: impoverished, exhausted, drained, de-

pleted (see DEPLETE)

Ant fertile — Con fecund, fruitful, prolific (see FERT-

ILE): producing or productive, bearing, yielding (see

corresponding verbs at BEAR): reproducing, propagating,

breeding, generating (see GENERATE)

infest, overrun, beset are comparable when they refer to

disagreeable or noxious things and mean to make trouble

because of their presence in swarms. Although infest

carries only by suggestion the idea of annoyance or re-
pugnance, since idiom does not require reference to the

person so affected, the term is always derogatory (wild

pigs invade the airfields. Crocodiles infest the rivers—

Michener) (to poison vermin that infest his plants—

Cowper) (the idle rich who at present infest the older

universities—Russell) (police agents and provocateurs

who infested the revolutionary movement—Rolo) Over-

run is often interchangeable with infest, especially in

the passive, but because it usually retains the implications

of its basic sense it is the precise word when the idea of
running or spreading is to be conveyed (the cellar is overrun with mice) (the garden is overrun with weeds) (heavily wooded and overrun with flowers—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (conformity of belief has . . . overrun whole populations like a plague—MacLeish) (he found the East already overrun with refugee conductors—Green Peyton) Beset has usually the meaning to trouble through frequency and persistence, and often connotes assailing or attacking (he was beset by enemies on every side) (she hurried at his words, beset with fears—Keats) (the road is beset with dragons and evil magicians—Costain) (subject to none of the pressures that beset American and English papers—Mott) *teem, swarm, abound: harass, harry, pester, plague, worry, annoy Ant disinfest — Con *exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, wipe: *abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate indefiel unbeliever, *atheist, freethinker, agnostic, deist infinite, eternal, sempiternal, boundless, illimitable, uncircumscribed mean having neither beginning nor end or being without known limits. Infinite especially as applied to God or his attributes implies immeasurability or an incapacity for being estimated in any conceivable respect (as duration or extent) (great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite—Ps 147:5) (great are thy works, Jehovah! infinite thy power! what thought can measure thee, or tongue relate thee—Milton) In mathematical and scientific use the term usually stresses indeterminableness; often it implies that no limits can be set to which a thing does or may extend, or that no point at which it ends can be discerned; thus, the number of positive integers is infinite since no one can set a limit to the number that can be indicated; an infinite decimal is one (as a repeating decimal) that cannot be brought to a termination (the total number of stars is supposed, even by those who reject the idea of infinite extension, to run into thousands of millions—Inge) (in more general use, infinite usually implies not only exceeding greatness or vastness but indefiniteness or seeming endlessness of extent (Chinese landscape [painting] is certainly pre-eminent . . . in suggesting infinite horizons, the look of mountains . . . melting away into remote sky—Binyon) (the Truth . . . is of necessity infinite and so is not for any poor finite creature like man—Babbitt) (the infinite ingenuity of man—Webb) Eternal, in its earliest and still prevailing sense, implies having neither beginning nor end in time; it is therefore applied chiefly to God, in the sense of being uncaused or uncreated and unending (the eternal God is thy refuge—Deut 33:27) But it may be applied with essentially the same meaning to things and especially to abstractions and concepts for which no beginning is known or under present conditions is discoverable, and for which no end can be foreseen or predicted (argue that matter is eternal) (the idea that the world is eternal is now seldom advanced) (the consideration of the general flux of events leads to this analysis into an underlying eternal energy—Whitehead) (the tradition that nature is ruled by hard, eternal, immutable laws—Cohen) In more general use eternal may be indistinguishable in meaning from endless and is then applied to things with a known or evident beginning but no ending or an ending infinitely remote or completely indefinable (the Christian's hope of eternal life) (no eternal historical trend toward economic equality can be discovered—Sorokin) This sense is frequent in hyperbolic use in which it may imply either endless duration or constant recurrence often to the point of weariness or disgust (the eternal effort to discover cheap and agreeable substitutes for hard work—Justice Holmes) (the staircase door opened with its eternal creak—Bennett) but it also applies to something which, though it changes in appearance, form, or method, never dies out (Macaulay, who has a special affinity for the eternal schoolboy—Inge) (princes were mortal, but the commonwealth eternal—Graves) Sempiternal, a bookish word, is an intensive of eternal with somewhat greater emphasis upon the continuity of the thing so described (all truth is from the sempiternal source of Light Divine—Cowper) (he did not really believe that infinity was infinite or that the eternal was also sempiternal—Shaw) but it is chiefly a hyperbolic term (full dinners . . . with the sempiternal saddle of mutton—Jekyll) (the oldest, deepest (and seemingly sempiternal) controversy involves the definition of itself—Hentoff) Boundless implies little more than an apparent lack of restrictions or bounds, or a capacity for extending, expanding, or increasing indefinitely; it often applies to something which so far exceeds in range, measure, or amount what is usual for a thing of its kind that it staggered the mind (boundless wealth) (boundless impudence) (my bounty is as boundless as the sea—Shak) (a boundless command of the rhetoric in which the vulgar express hatred and contempt—Macaulay) (this long and sure-set liking, this boundless will to please—Housman) In mathematical and scientific usage, boundless applies specifically to a surface or a space (as a closed curved line or a spherical surface) which has the property of permitting an object starting from any point in the space and proceeding by one mathematical law to return to the same point without being interrupted (the surface of a sphere is boundless but not infinite) Illimitable also stresses a lack of bounds or limits, and may be used in place of boundless (an illimitable appetite—Stephen) but it is often applied specifically to something (as a distance) that can theoretically be measured in extent but in actuality exceeds the capacity of human ingenuity or of human instruments for measurement or determination of extent (the heavens' illimitable height—Spenser) (the illimitable distances between the earth and the stars) Uncircumscribed implies the lack of a determinable limit in any conceivable direction; it applies to something that extends or expands or seems to extend or expand in all directions in the manner of radii from the center of a circle (uncircumscribed freedom) (so arbitrary and uncircumscribed a Power—Charles I) (the lighthouse symbol penetrates the novel with uncircumscribed power—Robert Humphrey) Ant finite — Con circumscribed, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb): *dependent, conditional, contingent, relative infirm feeble, decrepit, *weak, frail, fragile Ana debilitated, disabled, crippled (see WEAKEN) Ant hale — Con *strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout: *healthy, robust, sound inflammable *combustible, flammable, incendiary, inflammatory Ana igniting, kindling, firing, lighting (see LIGHT vb): flaring, blazing (see BLAZE vb): infuriating, enraging, incensing (see ANGER vb) Ant extinguishable inflammatory *combustible, inflammable, flammable, incendiary Ana inciting, instigating (see INCITE): stimulating, exciting (see PROVOKE): sensitive, susceptible (see LIABLE) inflate distend, swell, *expand, amplify, dilate Ana enlarge, *increase, augment: magnify, aggrandize, *exalt Ant deflate — Con *contract, compress, shrink, condense, constrict inflated, flatulent, tumid, turgid mean filled with some-
thing insubstantial (as air or vapor). Inflated implies ex-
pansion by the introduction of something (as a gas) lack-
ing in substance to the point where the walls are stretched
taut or tension is evident (an inflated tire) (an inflated
balloon) In its extended use inflated implies a stretching
or expanding, often by artificial or questionable means,
to a point not justified by reality or truth; thus, currency
is said to be inflated when the amount in circulation far
exceeds the amount normally necessary to meet the de-
mands of trade and commerce; one's ego is said to be
inflated when one is puffed up with self-confidence and
pride not warranted by one's ability or achievements;
a style may be described as inflated when it is far more
pretentious or imposing than its subject matter warrants
(a pretentious and inflated tract on feminism—Men-
ninger) (caricaturing the inflated elegance of Eastern
culture as represented in its refined fiction—J. D. Hart)
Flatulent applies basically to persons or their organs when
gases generating in the alimentary canal cause distention
of stomach or bowels. In its extended use flatulent usu-
ally implies emtness with the appearance of fullness or
a lack of pith or substance (flatulent with fumes of self-
appreciation) (to score or two or three, each more
fumble and more flatulent than the last—Swinburne)
(entiasts who read into him all sorts of flatulent bombast—Mencen)
Tumid implies noticeable enlarge-
ment by swelling or bloating, especially as a result of an
abnormal condition (my thighs grow very tumid—John-
son) (his face looked damp, pale under the tan, and
slightly tumid—Cozzens) In its extended use tumid im-
plies an abnormal or conspicuous increase in volume with-
out a proportionate increase in substance and often sug-
gests pretentiousness or bombast (to compare, in thy
mell—Shelley) (an enthusiastic) (using great words on the lowlier subject, contrives to make
them appropriate, with Burke, writing on the loftier sub-
ject, the same or similar words have become tumid—
Quiller-Couch) Turgid is not always distinguishable from
tumid; however, it is more often used when normal
distention as distinct from morbid bloating is implied
(healthy living cells are turgid) (woody tissue turgid
with sap) Consequently, in extended use, especially as
applied to literary expression or style, turgid often adds
to tumid the connotation of unstrained vitality or of
undisciplined emotion, especially as manifest in bom-
bast, rant, or rhapsody (see BOMBAST) (the effects . . .
would have been obscured by a rapid and conversational
delivery—Dickinson) Accent denotes such manner or
quality of utterance or tone as may distinguish a particular
variety of speech (as one peculiar to a person, race,
district, or class) (a Southern accent) (a Parisian accent)
(speak with a refined accent) Like the other terms in
this group, it often suggests, and sometimes indicates,
the speaker's feelings (a different accent was notable in
Joseph's voice when he spoke of Azariah—George
Eliot)

inflection

inflection, intonation, accent are comparable when they
designate a particular manner of employing the tones of
the voice in speech. Inflection implies change in pitch or
tone; it often suggests a variation expressive of emotion
or sentiment, and, usually, a momentary mood (it was not
her words, but her inflection, that hurt) (a slight inflection
made one feel that one had received a great compliment—
Cather) Intonation is often individual but it is seldom
thought of as the result of a mood; it is applied to the rise
and fall in pitch that constitutes what is called "speech
melody" and that distinguishes the utterance of one
individual or group from another (a ministerial intonation)
(we still write . . . for the actors, reckon upon their in-
tonations, their gestures—Quiller-Couch) (that peculiar
and pleasant intonation that marks the speech of the
Hebridean—Black) In some languages (as Chinese),
called "tone languages," fixed pitch, or intonation, dis-
tinguishes the various meanings of single words. In a
more specific sense, intonation often (as intone always)
implies reciting or speaking religious matter (as a psalm
or a prayer) in a singing voice, usually in monotone (in-
tonation of that majestic iambic verse whose measure
would have been obscured by a rapid and conversational
delivery—Dickinson) Accent denotes such manner or
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variety of speech (as one peculiar to a person, race,
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inflexible

inflexible 1 rigid, *stiff, tense, stark, wooden
Ana hard, solid, *firm: *rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent:
tough, tenacious, stout, *strong: immobile, *immovable
Ant flexible —Con *elastic, resilient, supple, springy:
pliable, plant, *plastic, malleable, ductile: fluid, *liquid

2 Inflexible, inexorable, obdurate, adamant, adamantine
mean not to be moved from or changed in a predetermined
course or purpose. All are applicable to persons, decisions,
laws, and principles; otherwise, they vary in their appli-
cations. Inflexible usually implies firmly established prin-
ciples rigidly adhered to; sometimes it connotes resolute
steadfastness, sometimes slavish conformity, sometimes
mire pigheadedness (society's attitude toward drink and
dishonesty was still inflexible—Wharton) (a morality
that is rigid and inflexible and dead—Ellis) (arbitrary and
inflexible rulings of bureaucracy—Shils) Inexorable,
when applied to persons, stresses deafness to entreaty
(more fierce and more inexorable far than empty tigers
or the roaring sea—Shak) (our guide was inexorable,
saying he never spared the life of a rattlesnake, and
killed him—Mark Van Doren) When applied to decisions,
rules, laws, and their enforcement, it often connotes re-
 lentlessness, ruthlessness, and finality beyond question
(nature inexorably ordains that the human race shall
perish of famine if it stops working—Shaw) It is also
often applied to what exists or happens of necessity or
cannot be avoided or evaded (inexorable limitations of
human nature) (inexorable destiny) (you and I must
see the cold inexorable necessity of saying to these in-
human, unrestrained seekers of world conquest . . . "You
shall go no further"—Roosevelt) Obdurate is applicable
chiefly to persons and almost invariably implies hardness
of heart or insensitiveness to such external influences as
divine grace or to appeals for mercy, forgiveness, or
assistance (if when you make your prayers, God should
be so obdurate as yourselves, how would it fare with your
departed souls?—Shak) (the obdurate philistine material-
ism of bourgeois society—Connolly) Adamant and ada-
mantine usually imply extraordinary strength of will or
impenetrability to temptation or entropy (Cromwell's
Adamantine courage was shown on many a field of battle—
Goldwin Smith) (when Eve upon the first of men the
apple pressed with specious cant, O, what a thousand

Ana analogical words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
influence

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

pities then that Adam was not Adam-ant—Thomas Moore


Ant flexible —Con *elastic, resilient, expansive, volatile, buoyant: amenable, tractable, docile, biddable (see OBEDIENT)

influence n Influence, authority, prestige, weight, credit are comparable when they mean power exerted over the minds or acts of others either without apparent effort or as the result of the qualities, the position, or the reputation of the person or thing that exerts this power. Influence suggests a flowing from one thing into another of something imperceptible or impalpable; this connotation is retained when the word implies the effect or effects which one person or thing insensibly has on another or the ascendency which one person or thing similarly acquires over another (he was not strong enough to resist the influence of bad companions) (we find primitive men thinking that almost everything...can exert influence of some sort—James) (as provost of the Swedish clergymen he exercised a quickening influence over all the Swedish congregations—Genzmer) However influence often loses this implication of insensible or unconscious operation and suggests instead the conscious use of personal power or, sometimes, of underhanded means to determine the acts of another; in this sense it often follows the verb use or one of its synonyms (use undue influence over a person making a will) (used his influence in getting a bill through a legislature) Authority originally was applied to one (as a preacher, teacher, or writer) or to writings or utterances having the power to compel belief or to win acceptance. In such cases the word usually imputed great learning, great wisdom, or divine inspiration to the person or his work (by turning o'er authorities, I have...made familiar to me...the blest infusions that dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones—Shak.) This sense persists and authority is still applicable to a person or publication that is able or qualified to gain credence or to inspire belief in its authoritative ness (do not cite this historian; he is not an authority) (an economist should form an independent judgment on currency questions but an ordinary mortal had better follow authority—Russell) (scholars who held that Cicero was an unchallengeable "authority"—highet) From this use mainly, but also from its other sense (see POWER 3), authority has come to be applied also to the power resident in a person or thing that is able because of its or its inherent qualities to win the devotion or allegiance of men and to gain rather than exact their obedience and belief (a book of manifest authority) (that personal authority, which, far more than any legal or constitutional device, was the true secret of his later power—Buchan) (a doctrine that has acquired authority in our own time—Alexander) (some of the new philosophies undermine the authority of science, as some of the older systems undermined the authority of religion—Inge) (to face a good orchestra with inward and outward authority and assurance—Burk) Prestige, in contrast with authority, implies the power to gain ascendency over the minds of men and to command their admiration for distinguished and superior performance, or for conspicuous excellence in its kind (nothing more affects the prestige of a power than its dramatic and rapid defeat in the field—Belloc) (the almost magical prestige that had belonged to the original humanists—Huxley) (such lustre—or prestige or mana—as individual writers possess—Times Lit. Sup.) Weight denotes measurable influence, especially in deter-

mining the acts of others (Mrs. Hawthorne's authoritative air was beginning to have some weight with him—Archibald Marshall) (men who take the lead, and whose opinions and wishes have great weight with the others—Frazer) Credit (see also BELIEF 1) denotes influence that arises from one's reputation for inspiring confidence or admiration (Buckingham...resolved to employ all his credit in order to prevent the marriage—Hume) (as it [the ballet] declined as an art, so also it declined in credit and in popularity; it became scarcely respectable even to admire dancing—Ellis) Ana driving or drive, impelling or impulsion, actuation (see corresponding verbs at move): *power, control, dominion, sway, authority: ascendancy, *supremacy: dominance (see corresponding adjective at dominant)

influence vb *affect, sway, impress, touch, strike Ana *move, actuate, drive, impel: stimulate, *provoke, excite: *stir, arouse, rouse: *incline, dispose, predispone, bias

inform vb 1 Inform, animate, inspire, fire are comparable when they mean to infuse (a person or thing) with something (as a spirit, a principle, an idea, or a passion) that gives him or it effective power or an urge to action or activity. Sometimes, especially in the last three words, the idea of driving or actuating is so strong that it becomes their common denotation and the idea of infusion is merely a common connotation. To inform is to give character or essence to or to so permeate as to become the characteristic, peculiar, essential, and often abiding, quality of (the inspiration of religion passed on to inform and subtly to perfume an art nominally concerned with the aspects of earth and sky, wild creatures and wild flowers—Binyon) (everything that is made from without and by dead rules, and does not spring from within through some spirit informing it—Wilde) (sentimental, Protestant ethos that has always informed his writing—Fiedler) To animate is to endow with life, a vital principle, or an impulse to action. Although animate is often used where inform is also possible, it suggests, far more than inform, vitality and living energy (religion...which is animated...by faith and hope—Johnson) When what is affected is a person or when motivation of action or transiency of impulse is to be implied, animate is the more precise word (he was animated with love for all men) (when the community is animated with anger against some heinous offence—Alexander) (his hatred of restraint animated his resistance to authority) To inspire is to communicate to a person, as if by breathing into him, power or energy in excess of what he believes to be his own. The word usually implies both the operation of a supernatural power or of some inexplicable agency and such an effect as a spiritual illumination, or a quickening of intellectual or imaginative activity, or an exaltation of feeling (great artists know or believe that they are inspired from something outside themselves—Alexander) (that sublimated language used by the finest minds in their inspired moments—Hudson) (we climb the mountains for their views and the sense of grandeur they inspire—Jefferies) Inspire may also imply indirect rather than inexplicable influence, methods, or source (as in imparting knowledge or arousing a feeling (teachers should inspire their pupils to work hard) (today's editorial on the mayor's policy was certainly inspired; it does not represent the editor's views but those of someone in power) To fire is to animate or inspire so powerfully that one is inflamed with passion, ardor, or enthusiasm (one step beyond the boundary of the laws fires him at once in Freedom's glorious cause—Copper) (O how they fire the heart devout—Burns) Ana *infuse, inoculate, imbue, leaven: instill, *implant,
inordinate: enlighten, *illuminate: fire, kindle (see light vb); endure, endow (see dowery)

2 Inform, acquaint, apprise, advise, notify are comparable when meaning to make (one) aware or cognizant of something. One informs a person of something when one imparts knowledge, particularly of occurrences or of facts necessary to the understanding of a situation (inform a person of his success in a competition) (the radio announcer informed his audience of the accident) (kept the staff informed of Chinese public opinion concerning the American military action there—Current Biog.) Also, one informs oneself when by study or investigation one gathers the pertinent facts (his obligation as a citizen is to inform himself ... regarding the controversial issues—Houston) Inform in one specific use also carries the implication of talebearing or accusation (I shall not inform upon you. It is not my business—Wilde) One acquaints a person with something when by introducing him to the experience of it or by imparting information concerning it one makes him familiar with it (in the first meeting of the class, the teacher acquainted his pupils with the program of study) (to acquaint people with information instead of just telling it to them—Gowers) Familiarity is even more strongly implied in the participial adjective acquainted (the examination) is clear enough to anyone acquainted with the history of Puritan thought—Parrington) (a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief—Isa 53:3) One apprises a person of something when by a message or sign one communicates it to him (he has apprised his employer of his intention to resign) (I made up my mind to send the waiter to . . . apprise him that I was there—Mary Austin) One advises a person of something when one gives him information about it, especially of a kind that is important to him (as in making a decision, determining a policy, or arranging plans) (the president asked to be kept advised of changes in public sentiment) (consulted the wine card and advised me that the wine I had chosen had no special merit—Lovett) Often there is a suggestion of forewarning or counsel (see also advise under advice) 1) (the passengers were advised of the risk before the vessel left New York) (against which a solemn trespass board advised us—Mary Austin) One notifies a person of something when one sends a notice or formal communication concerning it, usually as a matter requiring his attention (notify students of a change in the date of opening) (the court clerk promised to notify the witnesses when he appeared) In commercial use, advise is used in preference to notify when information is given by letter, telegram, or cable (please advise us when the shipment is made)

**Analogous Words**

**Anomalies**

**Contrasts**

**Infuse**

**Infuse** encroach, entrench, *trespass, invade

**Infraction** breach, violation, transgression, infringement, trespass, contravention

**Infrequent, uncommon, scarce, rare, occasional, sporadic** are comparable when they mean appearing, happening, or met with so seldom as to attract attention. Something is infrequent which does not occur often, especially within a given period of time, or which does not recur except at very wide intervals of time or of space (tornadoes are infrequent in New England) (far from being infrequent, the crystalline state is almost universal among solids—Darrow) (infrequent pines dot the forest) (though it was only a few hundred miles north of Santa Fe, communication with that region was so infrequent that news traveled to Santa Fe from Europe more quickly than from Pikes Peak—Cather) Something is uncommon which does not occur or is not found ordinarily and which therefore is singular, exceptional, or extraordinary (smallpox is now uncommon in most parts of the United States) (in certain country districts in Europe families of fifteen are not uncommon enough to be regarded as extraordinary—Shaw) (such muscular strength is uncommon among girls) (a writer possessing uncommon inventive ability—A. C. Ward) (Mr. Coates’s life has not been especially eventful, but he has enjoyed it with uncommon relish—Richard Findlater) Something is scarce which at the moment in mind is not easily found or which does not exist or is not produced in sufficient quantities (a bad harvest makes wheat scarce) (highly skilled mechanics are now scarce) (the Boones wanted land where deer and buffalo were numerous and men and cabins scarce—J. M. Brown) Something is rare (see also choice, thin) of which but few examples, specimens, or instances are found; also, the term often carries such implications of uncommon as being exceptional or of extraordinary character (rare postage stamps) (rare books and first editions) (a perfect union of wit and judgment is one of the rares things in the world—Burke) (great men are scarce . . . but great biographers are positively rare—Seacome) (I may say again, if only rare, how this butterfly would be prized!—Jeffreys) (reported to give very indifferent wines to the rare guests he received in his grim old house—Wharton) Something is occasional which happens or is met with merely now and then. Occasional more than any of the preceding terms implies irregularity or nonconformity to a rule or law that might govern occurrences or appearances (this was not an occasional outburst of activity; it was Wesley’s routine—Crothers) (Artemus Ward was all fun and sweet reasonableness . . . , with an occasional bart that by its unexpectedness did the more damage—Lucas) Something is sporadic which has no continuous existence or continuity in its manifestations and which comes into existence or occurs only in rare and, usually, isolated instances (sporadic cases of an infectious disease) (sporadic outbursts of opposition to high taxes) (humanism and religion are thus, as historical facts, by no means parallel; humanism has been sporadic, but Christianity continuous—T. S. Eliot)

**Analogous Words**

**Antonyms**

**Contrasts**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
**engeminate**

444 inhabitant

didst smile, infused with a fortitude from heaven, when I . . . under my burden groaned—Shak. <i>he infused his own intrepid spirit into the troops—Gibbon</i> <i>whose work is for the most part infused with the spirit of scientific materialism—L. A. White</i>

* Suffuse implies an over-spreading of a surface by or a spreading through an extent of something that gives the thing affected a distinctive or unusual color, aspect, texture, or quality <i>a blush suffused her cheek</i> <i>eyes suffused with tears</i> <i>when purple light shall next suffuse the skies—Pope</i> <i>she . . . pulled the chain of the incandescent mantle . . . . the room was suffused with the sickly illumination—Mackenzie</i> <i>the poetic faculty will, in fact, have to deal—not with an abstract idea—but with an idea suffused and molded by emotion—Day Lewis</i>

* Imbue implies the introduction of something that enters so deeply and so extensively into the thing's substance or nature that no part is left untouched or unaffected; unlike infuse, which it otherwise closely resembles, imbue takes as its object the person or thing affected, not the thing that is introduced <i>infuse courage into his soldiers</i> <i>imbue his soldiers with courage</i> <i>infuse grace into the soul</i> <i>imbue the soul with grace</i> 

* Thy words, with grace divine imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety—Milton  
<i>Virgil] has imbued every object that he touches, with the light and warmth and color absorbed from its contact with life—Lowe</i> <i>individuals or societies whose life is imbued with a cheerful certitude, whose aims are clear—Krutch</i>

* Ingrain is found in the past participial or passive forms only; <i>like imbue, it implies an incorporation of something comparable to a pervading dye with the body, substance, or nature of whatever is affected, but unlike imbue, it takes for its object or, when the verb is passive, as its subject the thing introduced rather than the person or thing affected</i> <i>crueity and jealousy seemed to be ingrained in a man who has these vices at all—Helps</i> 
<i>the idea of absolute financial proibity as the first law of a gentleman's code was . . . deeply ingrained in him—Wharton</i>  
<i>the feeling . . . is so deeply ingrained in human nature—F. M. Miller</i>

* Inoculate implies imbibing a person with something that alters him in a manner suggestive of a disease germ or an antigen. Often, the term implies an introduction of an idea, a doctrine, an emotion, or a taste by highly surreptitious or artificial means, in order to achieve a desired end; less often, it additionally implies an evil and destructive quality in what is introduced <i>students inoculated with dangerous ideas</i> <i>the theory . . . that if the great masses of the plain people could be inoculated with it [a taste for music] they would cease to herd into the moving-picture theaters—Mencken</i>

* Leaven implies a transforming or tempering of a body or mass by the introduction of something which enlivens, elevates, exalts, or, occasionally, causes disturbance, agitation, or corruption <i>knowledge . . . must be leavened with maganimity before it becomes wisdom—A. E. Stevenson</i> <i>there was need of idealism to leaven the materialistic realism of the times—Parrington</i>

* Ana impregnate, saturate, impenetrable, *permeate, pervade: *inform, inspire, animate, fire: instill, inoculate, *implant

**ingeminate**

*repeat, iterate, reiterate

**ingenious**

* cunning, *clever, adroit

* Ana inventing or inventive, creating or creative, discovering (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): *dexterous, handy, deft: skillful, adept, skilled, expert, *proficient, masterly

* Ana open, frank, candid, plain: transparent, *clear

*childlike, childish: *straightforward, aboveboard: *sincere, uneigned

* Ana disingenuous: cunning—Con stealthy, covert, furtive, surreptitious, underhand (see secret): wily, guileful, artful, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, *sly

* Ana *eat, swallow, devour, consume

* Ana introduce, insert: *receive, take, accept

* Ana *infuse, suffuse, imbue, inoculate, leaven

* Ana impregnate, saturate, *permeate, pervade, impene-

* Ana interpenetrate: instill, inoculate, *implant: incorpora-

* Ana *entrance, entry, entrée, access

* Ana *compound, composite, amalgam, *mixture, admixture, blend

**ingress**

*entrance, entry, entrée, access

* Ana egress

**inhabitant**, denizen, resident, citizen are comparable when meaning one whose home or dwelling place is in a definite location. **Inhabitant**, the least specific word, implies nothing more than an abode in a given place <i>in 1940 the city had 243,718 inhabitants</i> <i>certain disagreeable inhabitants of open impounded water supplies, known as algae—Morrison</i>

* Denizen denotes one that belongs by birth or naturalization to a given locality <i>denizens of the deep</i> 
<i>cwinged denizens of the crag—Scott</i> <i>as if the old denizens of the forest had been felled with an axe—Maury</i> When substituted in literary use for inhabitant, denizen retains something of its own flavor of belonging to the locality by birth or naturalization <i>jaded and oversophisticated denizens of towns—Loves</i>

* Resident is not always clearly distinguished from inhabitant, especially when a town or city, as distinguished from a state or country, is in question. Often the term implies nothing more than tenancy of a room, an apartment, a house, or a locality for a considerable length of time <i>the summer residents of Bar Harbor</i> Often, in the case of a person who has several residences or who lives mainly in a place other than the one regarded as his home, the term suggests not permanent inhabitancy but legal recognition of one of these places as his domicile, and as the seat of his fundamental legal rights (as of voting) and responsibilities (as of paying income tax) <i>proof that the multimillionaire was a resident of Massachusetts brought several million dollars in inheritance taxes to that state</i>

* Are the students at this college considered residents of the town and entitled to vote in town matters? In reference to a country, resident is more usual than inhabitant as a designation of an alien living in that country for a time and regarded as subject to certain taxes <i>an alien actually present in the United States who is not a mere transient or sojourner is a resident of the United States for purposes of the income tax—Income Tax Regulations, U. S.</i>

* Citizen when denoting a person that is an inhabitant is rarely wholly free from its political sense (see citizen 2); hence, it usually carries some suggestion of membership in, as distinct from mere presence in, a community and of possession of the privileges and obligations inherent in such membership. It is particularly applicable to an adult and substantial resident of a city or town (no mere pedant, but a leading citizen of the town, serving as justice of the peace and as its first postmaster—Starr)

* The body of citizens or those who were members of the
**city and entitled to take part in its political life—Sabine**

**inherent, ingrained, intrinsic, essential, constitutional mean being a part, element, or quality of a thing's internal character or inmost being. Something is inherent which is so deeply infixed in a thing that it is apparently part of its very nature or essence (certain inherent and indestructible qualities of the human mind—Wardsworth) is the inferiority of the modern to the ancient languages, as a means of mental discipline, inherent in these tongues, or does it arise from causes that can be overcome?—Grandgent) Something is ingrained which seems to be wrought into the fiber or texture of a person's being (ingrained prejudice) attributable rather to the ingrained law-abidingness of the people than to the perfection of the Paris police system—Brownell) her deeply ingrained habit of never letting herself go—H. G. Wells) Something is intrinsic which belongs to or is a property of a thing itself, as considered apart from all the external relations, connections, or conditions that affect its usefulness, value, or significance (when the subject has no intrinsic dignity, it must necessarily owe its attractions to artificial embellishments—Johnson) the knowledge of geographical facts is useful, but without intrinsic intellectual value—Russell) Something is essential (see also ESSENTIAL 2, NEEDED) which is an element of a thing's essence and therefore indissolubly involved in its very nature or being (certain essential differences between verse and prose—Quiller-Couch) (that essential sweetness of the moor, born of the heather roots and the southwest wind—Gaskell) has not shown that the merits of puritan thought are essential and the defects accidental—M. G. White)

Something is constitutional which is inherent in the fundamental makeup of the body or mind (a constitutional infirmity) (his vigor is constitutional) (the thoughtful ones will assure you that happiness and unhappiness are constitutional, and have nothing to do with money—Shaw) (a constitutional optimist, emotionally addicted to the view that any adventure into the unknown is worth the risk—Garvin)

*Ana* innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: *inner, inward, internal: natural, typical, normal, *regular: integrated or integral (see corresponding verb at INTEGRATE)

*Ant* adventitious — Con *accidental, fortuitous, incidental: extraneous, foreign, alien, *extrinsic

**inheritance** *heritage, patrimony, birthright

**hereditary**, inborn, inbred, *innate, congenital

*Ana* transmitted, conveyed (see CARRY): generated, engendered, bred (see GENERATE)

*Con* acquired, gained, obtained, gotten (see GET)

**inhibit** 1 *forbid, prohibit, interdict, ban, enjoin

*Ana* prevent, preclude, obviate, avert, ward: debar, check 2 *restrain, curb, check, bridle

*Ant* suppress, repress: prevent, forestall: *arrest, check

*Ant* animate (sense 2): activate (sense 2)

**inhuman** savage, barbarous, *fierce, cruel, ferocious, fell

*Ana* pitiless, ruthless (see corresponding nouns at SYMPATHY): malign, malignant. *malicious: merciless, relentless, unrelenting, implacable, *grim: fiendish, diabolical, devilish

*Ant* humane — Con benevolent, humanitarian, *charitable, altruistic, philanthropic, eleemosynary: compassionate, *tender

**iniquitous** nefarious, flagitious, *vicious, villainous, infamous, corrupt, degenerate


*Ant* righteous — *Con virtuous, *moral, ethical, noble: just, *upright, honorable, honest

**initial adj** Initial, original, primordial can all mean existing at or constituting the beginning or start of a thing, especially of a thing that gradually assumes shape or form or that manifests itself in many ways. Nevertheless, in spite of this agreement in meaning, the words are rarely interchangeable, usually because of additional and differing implications, but often also because of the determination of their use by idiom. Initial, in general, is used in reference to things seen as a whole, often in fact but sometimes in thought; the term, therefore, usually implies an end or completion <the initial letter of a word> (the initial stage of a disease) (an aggressor nation would always have the initial advantage—Dean) (the great incentive to effort, all through life, is experience of success after initial difficulties—Russell) Original (see also NEW) is used especially with reference to what is the very first in order or constitutes the ultimate beginning or source; in this sense it usually connotes the idea of being underived or uninmitted and implies that there is nothing from which the original thing has sprung. A court that has original jurisdiction has the right to try a cause to determine both the facts and the application of the law to them, as distinguished from a court with appellate jurisdiction. "Original sin" was committed by Adam and Eve as the first human beings but, in theological use, the phrase also means that sin as it leaves its traces upon every human being <great books are original communications. But authors are communicating what they themselves have discovered—Adler) Sometimes, however, original means something more specific; thus, the original owner of a piece of land would strictly be the one who first held it by a natural or legal right, but in legal interpretation the phrase may be used of an earlier owner when successive owners are mentioned; an author's original work may be the work first produced by him, but more often it means (without regard to order of writing) a work independently conceived and executed by him <an original print is not, of course, original in the same sense as a painting. With a painting there is only one true original, whereas there may be as many as 50 or 75 originals of a given print—Cain) Primordial (see also PRIMARY) is comparable with initial and original through its implied reference to what forms the actual beginning or starting point or the earliest form taken by something that follows a course, an evolution, a progression, or an unfolding <speculate on the nature of the primordial universe> (the primordial mind) (the new discoveries . . . strongly support the theory that the universe has been expanding ever since a primordial explosion in which it was born—Walter Sullivan)

*Ana* starting, beginning, commencing (see BEGIN): *primary, primal, primeval, pristine: *elementary

*Ant* final — *Con* last, latest, terminal, concluding

**initiate** vb 1 *begin, commence, start, inaugurate

*Ana* *found, establish, organize, institute

*Ant* consummate — *Con* effect, fulfill, execute, accomplish, achieve, *perform: enforce, implement

2 Initiate, induct, inaugurate, install, invest are comparable when meaning to put one through the processes, ceremonies, or other formalities regarded as essential to one's being admitted to one's duties as a member or an official. Initiate (see also BEGIN) usually implies admission to some organization, cult, or craft and especially to one requiring indoctrination in its mysteries or mysterious rites or ceremonies in the introduction of new members (initiate the newly elected members of a college fraternity) (initiate young people in the elements of physical science

**initiate**
- T. H. Huxley (initiate a new reporter into the secrets of successful news gathering) Induct may often be used in place of initiate, especially when introduction under guidance is also implied (induct a person into the duties of a new position) Induct a draftee into the army But induct, as well as inaugurate, install, and invest, may imply a formal or ceremonious endowing of a person with the powers and prerogatives of an office or post Induct the new governor of a colony Induct is used technically of clergymen who are put in possession of a benefice or living, or of officials who are established in their office with appropriate rites or ceremonies Induct the new rector of a parish The new superintendent of schools was inducted into office at last night's meeting of the board of education Inaugurate (see also BEGIN) usually implies more formal and dignified ceremonies and much more publicity than induct inaugurate the president of the United States Inaugurate the new president of the university Install implies induction into an office associated with a seat Install the officers of a society Install a bishop as the archbishop of his new diocese The term also may be used in reference to persons who are formally or comfortably seated Install the guest of honor in the most comfortable chair Install the tottering old lady in a chair by the fireside It is also the only one of these terms which may be used in reference to things as well as to persons Install new machinery in a factory Install electric light fixtures Invest usually suggests a clothing with the robes or other insignia of an office and, by extension, with the powers of that office. It often also implies a ceremony but it may suggest only the addition of powers that come to one on one's induction into a position or office (by the constitution of the United States the president is invested with certain important political powers—John Marshall) Ana introduce, admit, *enter Con *eject, ousted, expel, dismiss: *exclude, eliminate, Con *eject, ousted, expel, dismiss: *exclude, eliminate, injure 1 Injury, hurt, damage, harm, mischief mean the infliction of pain, suffering, or loss The boy is so gentle that he would not harm a fly The circulation of the rumor greatly harmed his business for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth Shak But bitterness among the elders must not be permitted to harm or wound the innocent children of either race Beverly Smith For every time any one of us fails to make the fullest possible contribution to... justice, he harms himself spiritually—Atlantic Hurt usually implies the infliction of a wound whether to the body or feelings or to a thing capable of sustaining an injury; often, it is used where injure is also possible He was severely hurt by a falling brick Hurt a friend's feelings It's damned to have to hurt the people we love—Rose Macaulay A limitless desire to hurt and humiliate H. G. Wells Damage implies an injury that results in lowered value or involves loss in effectiveness, attractiveness, or efficiency His automobile was damaged in a collision The frost damaged the late crops What ever psychoanalysts may say, the parental instinct is essentially different from the sex instinct, and is damaged by the intrusion of emotions appropriate to sex Russell Like Hemingway, he was permanently damaged because repeatedly inspired by women—Morton Injury, though coming close to damage in its meaning and often interchangeable with it, more frequently suggests deterioration or diminution as in value, strength, or validity A weak piece of evidence often impairs the strength of a good argument His value as a candidate has been impaired by his hysterical attacks on his opponent A weakening as of a function or power of functioning His eye was injured and his vision impaired Kindness that left an impression on my heart not yet impaired—De Quincey His physical prowess of all sorts is in no way impaired by heavy drinking and smoking of course Christopher La Farge Mar implies the infliction of an injury that disfigures or maims or involves the loss of a thing's perfection or well-being Striving to better, oft we mar what's well—Shak A man who had spoiled his constitution with bad living—Shaw When a child persistently interferes with other children or spoils their pleasures, the obvious punishment is banishment Russell A great novel spoiled by hasty and lazy composition—Laski Ana *deface, disfigure: *deform, distort, contort: *afflict, torture, torment: *maim, cripple, mutilate, mangle, batter: *abuse, ill-treat, maltreat, outrage, mistreat, misuse Ant aid Con *help, assist: *benefit, profit, avail: preserve, conserve, *save injury 1 Injury, hurt, damage, harm, mischief mean the act or the result of inflicting on a person or thing something that causes loss or pain Injury is the comprehensive term referable to an act or to a result of that act which involves a violation of a right of or of health, freedom, and soundness of body or mind, or causes a partial or entire loss of something of value An injury to his eyes An injury to his reputation Forgive an injury The very essence of civil liberty... consists in the right of every individual to claim the protection of laws, whenever he receives an injury—John Marshall Mental or emotional
upset is just as truly an injury to the body as a bone fracture, a burn or a bacterial infection—G. W. Gray

A great injury could be done to our nation . . . if this political campaign were to descend to the level of competitive threats and veiled hints—A. E. Stevenson

Hurt applies basically to a physical injury (as a wound, lesion, or contusion) that results from a hit, a stab, or a blow. It can also refer to the emotional pain or distress a person feels when their reputation has been damaged by a false rumor or other form of damage. A hurt can be emotional as well as physical. In extended use, hurt applies to the person's reaction to a hurtful act, to the result of such an act, or the state of being hurt. A hurt can be physical, emotional, or both. It can be a terrible torture, or it can be a minor annoyance. Hurt applies not only to acts that involve pain, suffering, or loss; thus, a person whose rights as an heir have been violated may be said to suffer an injury but not a hurt; a person whose reputation has been damaged by a false rumor may have suffered both an injury to his business and a hurt to his feelings; a dentist in drilling a tooth may cause a hurt, but not commonly an injury (leaving forever to the aggressor the choice of time and place and means to cause the greatest hurt to us—Eisenhower)

Damage applies to an injury that involves loss (as in property, in value, or in usefulness). The fire caused great damage to the house.

Harm (usually without an article) is referable to an evil that injures or may injure: often it suggests a consequent suffering (as grief or shame). I meant no harm in saying what I said.

Injury is the general term applicable not only to an act which involves unfairness to a person or thing that works harm or is capable of inflicting injury; it applies either to the harm or injury that results from an agent or agency (one failure led to another, suspicion became general, and the mischief was done—Todd). That's the mischief of the Modernists . . . . They don't claim that the Divine revelation has been supplanted or even added to, but that it has been amplified—Mackenzie—occasionally to the aspect of a situation that causes harm or vexation (the mischief is that people—especially the young—don't confine themselves to one cocktail—Bennett) (and faith, 'tis pleasant till 'tis past: the mischief is that 'twill not last—Housman)

An article is required before the word for an injury to a person or thing for which the law allows an action to recover compensation or specific property, or both. Every person who suffers damage to his person, his property, or his reputation as a result of an infringement of the law suffers a legal injury—Rubinstein

Wrong is, in law, a more general term than injury for it applies not only to all injuries as just defined (private wrongs) but to all misdemeanors or crimes which affect the community (public wrongs) and which are punishable according to the criminal code. But in general use wrong differs little from injustice, except in carrying a stronger connotation of flagrancy or of seriousness (we are . . . steel to the very back, yet wrong with wrongs more than our backs can bear—Shak).

There were many of the wrongs that were to be righted, the grievances to be redressed—Muggeridge

Grievance applies to a circumstance or condition that, in the opinion of those affected, constitutes a wrong or that gives one just grounds for complaint (they sent to the king a statement of their grievances—Keightley). In an early state of society any kind of taxation is apt to be looked on as a grievance—Freeman

In justice, equity, innate, inborn, inbred, congenital, hereditary, inherited are comparable but not wholly synonymous terms that refer to qualities which either are or seem to be derived from one's inheritance or from conditions attending one's birth or origin. Inmate and inborn are often used without distinction. But innate (opposed to acquired) is frequently synonymous with inherent, essential, or constitutional, and then tends to apply to qualities, characters, or elements that are not inherited but belong as part of the nature or essence to something imbedded with life. Innate ideas exist in the mind as a result of its constitution and are therefore found wherever a mind exists. I do not believe that a sense of justice is innate, but I have been astonished to see how quickly it can be created—Russell

This stubbornness has been explained as being innate in the Germans, as a natural racial cussedness. But some of the stubbornness is not innate but acquired—Woolf

Innate also may apply to elements or qualities (as virtues or defects) which arise out of the very nature or character of a thing that has no life and therefore literally no birth (the innate defect of this plan) (the innate magnetism of the prophet—Davis) (the innate tendency of a dictatorship to overreach itself). On the other hand, inborn, which is frequently synonymous with natural or native, retains more specific reference to what is actually born in one or is so deep-seated as to seem to have been born in one; the term is therefore usually applied to qualities or characters that are peculiar or distinctive, sometimes to the type, often to the individual (inborn aptitudes) (the tendency towards schizophrenia was inborn—N. Y. Times) (his inborn ability to sing) (an inborn love of country life)

Inbred implies reference to breeding, or to the processes concerned with the generation, nourishment, and rearing of offspring; the term therefore is more readily applied to what is deeply rooted or ingrained as a result of one's immediate parentage or the circumstances attending one's earliest education or training than to what is constitutional or merely natural (an inbred love of freedom) (an inbred feeling of superiority) (those inbred sentiments which are . . . the true supporters of all liberal and manly morals—Burke) (a methodical man, an inbred Yankee—White)

Congenital applies chiefly to something which dates from the birth or inception of the individual concerned (congenital hip disease) (congenital blindness) (the theory that what was acquired habit in the ancestor may become congenital tendency in the offspring—James) (yet art for art's sake suffers from a congenital disease: it professes to create subsance out of form, which is physically impossible—Santayana). Both hereditary and inherited apply to a result of natural heredity (an inherited bearing defect) (unless he had the hereditary dispositions which he has, he would not behave the way he does—Pop) or some-

Analogous words: *distress, suffering, agony, misery: *pain, pang: violation, transgression, trespass, infringement (see breach): detriment (see corresponding adjective at pernicious): *evil, ill

Antonyms: 2 wrong, *injustice, grievance

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times of social heredity (the reciter who might graft on to an inherited body of literature a few embellishments of his own—Lerner & Mims) (several hereditary enemies of the Olivares brothers—Cather) In technical biological use congenital and hereditary are clearly distinguishable, for congenital implies presence at birth (as of a disease or an organic defect) from whatever cause and hereditary implies transmission (as of a tendency, a weakness, or a quality) from an ancestor through the chromosomal mechanism and DNA (a birthmark is a congenital blemish of the skin) (the color of the eyes is hereditary) Ana constitutional, *inherent, intrinsic, essential, inherent: instinctive, intuitive: natural, typical, *regular, normal: native, indigenous Ant acquired — Con *accidental, adventitious, accidental, fortuitous: assumed, affected, feigned, simulated (see assume): cultivated, fostered, nurtured (see nurse) inner, inward, inside, interior, internal, intestine are comparable when they mean being or placed within something. Although in many cases interchangeable, they are more or less restricted in their applications and therefore clearly distinguished in their implications. Inner typically applies to something far within or near the center (thrust them into the inner prison—Acts 16:24) (an inner room) (the inner bark of a tree) while inward typically applies to something directed within or toward the center (the inward curve of a scroll) Both words apply also to the mental or spiritual, frequently with the added implication of something intimate, secret, or inaccessible (the sense by which thy inner nature was apprised of outward shows—Shelley) (outer events only interest me here insofar as they affected my inner life—Elits) (with an inward smile she remembered Spandrell's summary—Huxley) (the inward struggle of the heroes to find their own truth—Rees) Inside is used chiefly of spatial relations (an inside seat) (the inside track) but it may be used with reference to persons who are so placed in their work or who have such contacts that they may be said to be figuratively inside a place or group; thus, inside work implies a contrast with field or road work; inside knowledge of a negotiation implies participation to some extent in that negotiation (have inside information of what is going on in a club) Interior and internal usually suggest more abstract or technical and less intimate relations than inner and inward. Interior frequently implies contrast with the outer limits of the thing itself; thus, the interior features of a country are by implication opposed to those of the coast or boundaries; interior decoration deals with the decoration and furnishing of the inside of a house or other building rather than with its outside; one's interior life is one's life as expressed in thoughts and aspirations rather than in outward activities. Internal implies contrast with something beyond or outside of the outer limits of a thing; thus, internal evidence of a poem's authorship is gained from a study of the poem itself rather than from outside sources; the internal affairs of a country is its domestic, as opposed to its foreign, affairs; internal medicine is that branch of medicine dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the internal organs (as the heart, lungs, stomach, and liver). Intestine is a close synonym of internal used specifically of what may other- wise be described as domestic or civil (as opposed to foreign) with, however, the connotation of an evil or mischievous origin or nature (enmity, contempt and foreign and intestine war occasioned the neglect . . . of these works—Lord) (a coalition . . . was paralyzed from the start by intestine quarrels—Current History) Ana central, middle, focal, nuclear (see corresponding nouns at center): intimate, close, *familiar: intrinsic, constitutional, essential, *inherent: instinctive, intuitive: deep-seated, deep-rooted (see inveterate) Ant outer — Con outward, outside, exterior, external (see outer) innocent *harmless, innocuous, inoffensive, unoffending Con harmful, hurtful, injurious, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at injury) innocuous *harmless, innocent, inoffensive, unoffending Ant pernicious — Con *poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic: injurious, hurtful, harmful (see corresponding nouns at injury) inmmendo *insinuation Ana hinting or hint, intimation, suggestion (see corresponding verbs at suggest): implication, inference: allusion (see corresponding verb at refer) inculcate *infuse, imbue, ingrain, leaven, suffuse Ana impregnate, saturate, impenetrate, interpenetrate, permeate, pervade: introduce, admit, enter: instill, inculcate, implant inoffensive *harmless, innocuous, innocent, unoffending Ant offensive — Con loathsome, repulsive, revolting (see offensive): distasteful, obnoxious, repellent, *repugnant inordinate *excessive, immoderate, exorbitant, extreme, extravagant Ana *irrational, unreasonable: supererogatory, wanton, uncalled-for, gratuitous: superfluous, surplus, extra, superfluous (rare): moderate: restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see restrain): due, rightful, condign: fair, just, equitable inquest investigation, probe, *inquiry, inquisition, research Ana examination, inspection, scrutiny, audit (see under scrutinize): questioning, interrogation, catechizing, examining (see corresponding verbs at ask) inquire query, question, *ask, interrogate, catechize, quiz, examine Con reply, *answer, respond, rejoin, retort inquiry, investigation, inquest, inquiry, probe, research all mean a search for truth, knowledge, or information. Inquiry is the most general of these terms, applicable to such search regardless of the means (as questioning, observation, or experimentation) used or of the end in view (make inquiries about a sick friend) (the passion for pure knowledge is to be gratified only through the scientific method of inquiry—Elits) (witnesses convicted of contempt of Congressional inquiries—Current Biog.) (legislative inquiry into the acts of a man or group of men—Thomas) (a primitive but effective police inquiry—T. S. Eliot) Inquisition ordinarily carries heightened implications of searchiness and of penetration far below the surface to uncover what is concealed or withheld (strenuously protested against being subjected to an inquisition into his motives) The term, however, is chiefly applied to a judicial inquiry aiming to unearth facts or conditions to support suspicions or charges; probably from its historical application to the ruthless ferreting out of heretics or heresy especially in the late Middle Ages and in the Reformation period, the term generally connotes relentless pursuit of a clue or of a suspect, and sometimes merciless and rigorous persecution (when, as becomes a man who would prepare for such an arduous work, I through myself make rigorous inquisition, the report is often cheering—Wordsworth) (the whole notion of loyalty inquisitions is a natural characteristic of the police state—New Republic) Investigation applies to an inquiry which has for its aim the uncovering of the facts and the establishment of the truth (by their bullying tactics, by their having turned the needed investigations into regrettable inquisitions—J. M. Brown) In distinctive use it implies a systematic tracking
down of something that one hopes to discover or needs to know (a strong movement to make American universities centers of scholarly work and scientific investigation—Conant) (an investigation of the causes of the prolonged depression) (the bank never employs a clerk or teller without an investigation of his habits and record) Inquest applies chiefly to a judicial or official inquiry or examination especially before a jury, and specifically to one conducted by a coroner and jury in order to determine the cause of a death (when the rumors of murder became rife, the body was exhumed and an inquest held) In more general use, the term usually applies to an investigation that has some of the characteristics of a coroner's inquest (as the exploration of the grounds for an accusation or suspicion in relation to some disastrous or troubling event) (an inquest on the fall of Singapore and the sinking of H. M. S. Repulse and H. M. S. Prince of Wales—New Yorker) Probe applies to an investigation that searches deeply and extensively with the intent to determine the presence or absence of wrongdoing; it suggests methods of exploration comparable to a surgeon's probing for a bullet (a legislative probe of banking activities) (another probe would result merely in a reshuffle in police and political circles—Newsweek) Research applies chiefly to an inquiry or investigation which requires prolonged and careful study, especially of actual conditions or of primary sources of information. It is especially applicable to scholarly and creative inquiries or investigations (as by scientists, historians, or linguists) especially for the sake of uncovering new knowledge, of getting at the facts when these are not known, or of discovering laws of nature (basic research in science is concerned with understanding the laws of nature—Grainger) (research is a creative activity engaged in by talented human beings—Leedy) but it may sometimes be used for a study leading to the writing of a résumé of facts or laws already known (research has shown and practice has established the futurity of the charge that it was a usurpation when this Court undertook to declare an Act of Congress unconstitutional—Justice Holmes) or even for quite casual or trivial investigations (I... managed to get involved in a highway accident. All in the interest of research, you understand—Joseph) Ana questioning, interrogation, catechizing (see corresponding verbs at ask): examination, inspection, scrutiny, audit (see under scrutinize) inquisition inquest, *inquiry, probe, investigation, research Ana see those at inquiry inquisitive *curious, prying, snoopy, nosy Ana *impertinent, intrusive, meddlesome: interfering, meddling, meddling (see meddling) Ant incurious —Con *indifferent, unconcerned, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested intrad *invasion, invasion, raid Ana intrusion, butting in (see corresponding verbs at intrude): encroachment, entrenchment, infringement, trespassing, or trespass (see corresponding verbs at trespass): *entrance, entry, ingress insane, mad, crazy, crazed, demented, deranged, lunatic, manic, non compos mentis are comparable in their general or nontechnical senses (for senses of corresponding nouns used technically see insanity) and as meaning afflicted by or manifesting unsoundness of mind or an inability to control one's rational processes. Insane as applied to persons usually implies such unsoundness of mind that one is unable to function safely and competently in ordinary human relations, usually does not recognize one's own condition, and is not responsible for one's actions (adjudged insane after a period of observation) (an extreme antisocial, perverted personality whose reactions differ widely from the normal, but are not necessarily to be classified as insane—Foulkes) In more general use insane implies utter folly or irrationality; the person or the act or utterance so described is, by implication, governed by blind passion or senselessness (the insane ambition and insatiable appetite which have caused this vast... war—Sir Winston Churchill) (dumbfounded by the insane assault—Al Newman) (now that wars... have become far more horrible and... insane—Inge) Mad usually implies more frenzy than insane and therefore carries a stronger suggestion of wildness, rabidity, ravage, or complete loss of self-control (O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven! Keep me in temper: I would not be mad!—Shak.) (he's mad. He always was. But he's worse than mad now. He's possessed—Graves) (he has fallen in love... with a stupid cocotte who has begun by driving him mad with jealousy—Edmund Wilson) Crazу often suggests such mental breakdown as may result from illness or old age (he has gone crazy) (we will bestow you in some better place, fitter for sickness and for... crazy age—Shak.) ("Stuff!") exploded the Doctor. "You're not crazy and you never were and you're not going to be, unless you keep on making such a commotion about nothing"—Nancy Hale or it may suggest a distraught or wild state of mind induced by some intense emotion (as rage, grief, joy, desire, etc.) Lunacy (a work of art) but goes crazy if she hears Murdoch's voice—just swells and trembles all over—Gerald Beaumont (she was crazy with desire for sleep—Ruth Park) (somebody had shot a squirrel and he took on about it as though he had lost a child. I said then he was crazy—Anderson) As applied to such things as schemes, projects, or notions crazy usually suggests that they are the product of a disordered or ill-balanced mind (no educated Socialist believes such crazy nonsense—Shaw) (who would pay such a crazy price for a book) Crazed is often used in place of crazy when a temporary disorder, usually with a specific cause, is implied (crazed with grief) (they were crazed by the famine and pestilence of that last bitter winter—Amer. Guide Series: Wash.) Demented and deranged are more formal than the preceding words and less rich in connotations; both terms, moreover, imply a change from mental soundness to unsoundness, demented usually suggesting clear signs (as profound apathy or incoherence in thought, speech, or action) which indicate deterioration of the mental powers (there was now no doubt that the sick man was demented) (the great part of the German army in the early stage of the war was really an army of demented civilians—H. G. Wells) (apparently not clearly demented until after 1818, he was for years dangerously near the border of insanity—Amer. Guide Series: Va.) and deranged (compare derangement under aberration 2) suggesting a loss of mental balance or a state of mental disorder resulting from a functional disturbance of the brain or nervous system (he was temporarily deranged by the shock) (in our culture a person who falls sick, hears voices, communicates with shadows, and acquires special abilities from them is inevitably classified as deranged—Kroener) Lunatic is approximately the equivalent of insane but is less frequently applied to persons and may imply no more than extreme folly (consuming with lunatic speed the assets of the earth—Agar) Mania comes closer to mad, for it commonly connotes violence, fury, or raving (the mania rage of the multitude) (the mania dreamer; cruel... is he with fear—Shelley) Non compos mentis (Latin for "not sound of mind") is a legal term which specifies a state, but does not
define the particular condition or kind, of mental unsoundness. It is often used, especially in its shortened form non compos, more generally with similar indefiniteness—<Barron's non compos>. Lean controls him completely—Keneth Roberts

Ana *irrational, unreasonable: distracted, bewildered (see PUZZLE vb)

Ant sane —Con sensible, judicious, *wise, sapient, prudent

**insanity, lunacy, psychosis, mania, dementia** are the leading general terms denoting serious mental disorder. Insanity as a technical term belongs to law rather than to medicine. It is used to cover a wide variety of mental disorders, all of which have in common one characteristic—an unfitness of the afflicted individual to manage his own affairs or perform his social duties. Mental deficiency and delirious conditions are usually excluded, the former as inborn and not acquired, the latter as temporary and not long-lasting. Since in law a person's sanity or insanity becomes an issue when he is charged with a crime or when his legal capacity to make a will or contract or to transfer property is questioned, proof of insanity is tantamount to proof of his inability to act rationally and to understand the nature of his act and its natural consequences in affecting his rights, obligations, and liabilities. In general use, insanity is commonly distinguished from mental deficiency and from neuroses and is applied to disorders involving unsoundness or derangement of mind. Lunacy in general use often applies to insanity manifested in spells of madness and fury or interrupted by intervals of lucidity <Cervantes's hero was led into amiable but disastrous lunacy by a belated obsession with the literature of chivalry—Muggeridge> (it's the tangle of good and badness; it's the lunacy linked with sanity makes up, and mocks, humanity!—Stringer) Lunacy sometimes is used interchangeably with insanity in law (a lunacy commission) <filed a lunacy petition against the attorney general so that a court could pass on his mental condition-Time>

Psychosis is the psychiatric term for a profound disorganization of mind, personality, or behavior resulting from an individual's inability to cope with his environment. Though in content often coextensive with insanity or lunacy it carries none of the special implications of these two terms.

Mania (for fuller treatment see MANIA 2) denotes a phase marked by sustained and exaggerated elation, excessive activity (as in emotional expression or physical action), or delusions of greatness that characterizes certain psychoses. Dementia implies a marked decline from a former level of intellectual capacity often accompanied by emotional apathy and is applicable to most psychoses. Dementia implies a marked decline from a former level of intellectual capacity often accompanied by emotional apathy and is applicable to most psychoses. Dementia implies a marked decline from a former level of intellectual capacity often accompanied by emotional apathy and is applicable to most psychoses. Dementia implies a marked decline from a former level of intellectual capacity often accompanied by emotional apathy and is applicable to most psychoses.

Ana alienation, derangement, *aberration: frenzy, delirium, *mania, hysteria

Ant sanity

**inscription, legend, caption** are comparable when they mean something written, printed, or engraved (as on a coin or a medal or under or over a picture) to indicate or describe the purpose or the nature of the thing. Inscriptions may apply to something written or printed, but it more often applies to something engraved, incised, or impressed on some hard surface (as stone, bronze, or silver); the word often carries an implication of durability or of permanence that is lacking, usually, in the others, and therefore often suggests a statement that has been framed or selected with care <the inscription on a monument> <the bronze tablet has the following inscription> <some god direct my judgment! Let me see; I will survey the inscriptions back again. What says this leaden casket? "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath"—Shak.> A legend (see also MYTH) is basically a very short inscription (as on a coin, a medal, or a heraldic shield) that is a motto or a statement of an aim, an ideal, or a guiding principle <the legend "In God we trust" is found on all coins of the United States of America> <the legend on the Victoria Cross is "For Valour"> The term is also used for the printed statement giving the title or a brief description or explanation of an illustration or diagram (as in a textbook or a work of reference) <according to the legend, this illustration is that of "A Roman legionary"> Caption basically applies to a heading or title (as of a document, an article, a chapter, or a section) <an editorial under the caption "Where are we headed?> <the stories have appeared in a running series under the caption of "The Adventures of Brigadier Gerard"—N. Y. Evening Post> But the implication of a catching or arresting quality in the title is often evident, and caption may refer to a title or name given a story, an article, or an illustration that is designed to seize the attention of the reader <delighting the readers of the Athenaeum with the treasures of his reading, under the caption, "A Budget of Paradoxes"—Grosart> The term caption is also used interchangeably with legend for the printed statement describing or explaining a picture or illustration <a diagram of a motor with all the working parts explained in the caption> <under each [picture] was an appropriate caption, such as Surprise, Grief—S. E. White> Caption is also used in motion pictures for any of the brief statements or bits of dialogue thrown on the screen to explain the scenes of a silent motion picture or of a sound motion picture in which the actors speak in a foreign language.

**inscrutable** *mysterious, arcane

Ana profound, abysmal, *deep: baffling, balking, thwarting, frustrating, foiling (see FRUSTRATE): hidden, concealed, secreted (see HIDE): enigmatic, cryptic, dark, *obscure, vague: mystifying, perplexing, puzzling (see PUZZLE vb)

Ant obvious, plain, clear, manifest, *evident, patent

**insensate** besotted, *fond, infatuated

Ana fatuous, asinine, foolish, silly (see SIMPLE): *stupid, slow, dense, crass, dull, dumb: *irrational, unreasonable

Ant sensible, sane, judicious, *wise, prudent, sapient, sage: *rational, reasonable: *intelligent, quick-witted, knowing, alert

**insensible** 1 Insensible, insensitive, impassive, aesthetic mean unresponsive to stimuli or to external influences. Insensible usually implies total unresponsiveness, and therefore unawareness or unconsciousness such as may result from blunted powers of sensation, obtuseness of mind, apathy, or complete absorption in something else <he also warned me against X, a local professor of history, as a man full of prejudice and quite insensible to evidence —Laski> <so engrossed in his work that he was insensible of the flight of time> <men have a keener relish for privileges and honors than for equality, and are not insensible to rewards—Sédillot> Insensitive implies sluggishness in response or less than normal susceptibility; more specifically, it suggests dullness rather than acuteness of sensation or perception, thickness rather than thinness of skin, callousness rather than sympathy or compassion <an ear insensitive to changes of pitch> <he was insensitive to all kinds of discourtesy—Joyce> Insensitive to the misery of others <many . . . Europeans still think Americans are soulless and insensitive machines, a raw society of mass-produced healthy extroverts—Vierck>

Impassible basically and historically implies absence of response because of incapacity for feeling or suffering,
insensitive

but is often used synonymously with impassive or in reference to persons who by discipline have conquered the normal human susceptibility to pain or suffering. The Hindu striving for Nirvana renders himself impassible or in reference to things in contrast with persons or creatures thought of as beings who through necessity of nature suffer pain or are susceptible to injury. The language of strategy and politics is designed...to make it appear as though wars were not fought by individuals...but either by impersonal and therefore wholly nonmoral and impassible forces, or else by personified abstractions—Huxley. Svenegali was sitting, quite impassible, gazing at Monsieur J...and smiling a ghastly, sardonic smile—du Maurier. Anesthetic implies a deadening of the mind or senses by or as if by such a drug as ether and therefore an induced rather than a natural insensitiveness. The intelligentsia...neither as anesthetic to ideas as the plutocracy on the other—Mencken.—All except the young girls are in a state of possession, blind, deaf and anesthetic—Cary.

An obtuse, dull, blunt: impassive, apathetic, phlegmatic, stolid, stoic: hardened, indurated, callous: engrossed, absorbed, intent, rapt.

Ant sensible (to or of something) — Con conscious, aware, cognizant, alive, awake: impressed, affected, influenced, touched (see affect)

2. Imperceptible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, imponderable

An anemous, rare, slight, slender (see thin adj): attenuated, extenuated, diluted, rarefied (see thin vb)

Ant sensible, palpable — Con perceptible, tangible, appreciable, ponderable

insensitive — Insensible, impassible, anesthetic

An hardened, indurated, callous: indifferent, unconcerned, aloof, incurious: impassive, stoic, apathetic, phlegmatic, stolid

Ant sensitive — Con susceptible, subject, prone, open, exposed, liable: responsive, tender, compassionate

Insert vb — introduce, interpolate, intercalate, insinuate, interpose, interject

An intrude, obtrude, interlope: instill, inculcate, imitate, assimilate, substitute

Ant abstract: extract — Con disengage, detach

Inside adj — interior, internal, intestine, inner, inward

Ant outside — Con exterior, external, outer, outward

Insidious — sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, wily, guileful, artful

An treacherous, perfidious (see faithless): dangerous, perilous: furtive, stealthy, covert, underhand, underhanded (see secret)

Insight penetration, acumen, discernment, discrimination, perception

An intuition, understanding, reason: comprehension, apprehension (see under apprehend): appreciation, understanding (see corresponding verbs at understand): perspicaciousness, sagacity, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at shrewd)

Ant obtuseness

Insinuate 1. Introduce, insert, interject, interpose, intercalate, interpose, incorporate

An infuse, inoculate, imbue, leaven: install, inculcate, implant

Ant eliminate, extract, abstract, repress

2. Intimate, hint, suggest, imply, allude, advert, refer: impute, ascribe

Con voice, utter, express, say, announce, declare, assert, affirm, aver, avouch, avow, profess

Insinuation, innuendo mean covert suggestion or a covert allusion to something. Insinuation applies chiefly to a remark, comment, or question which conveys or seems to convey a hint or implication, often one that is discreditable to the person at whom it is aimed. By tacit agreement they ignored the remarks and insinuations of their acquaintances—D. H. Lawrence. We reject any insinuation that one race or another, one people or another is in any sense inferior or expendable—Eisenhower. Innuendo more often applies to the method of covert suggestion than does insinuation, and when it applies to a definite instance, it is referable to meaningful smiles, glances, inflections, as well as to remarks; in both cases the term definitely implies a suggestion of something that is injurious to the reputation of the person concerned. I prefer the most disagreeable certainties to hints and innuendos—Byron. In this play Middleton shows his interest...in innuendo and double meanings—T. S. Eliot. "He—eventually—married her." There were volumes of innuendo in the way the eventually was spaced, and each syllable given its due stress—Wharton. He learned by chance remarks overheard, from innuendo, a dropped word here and there, a sly, meaningful snicker—Harold Sinclair.

An hinting or hint, implying or implication, suggestion, intuition (see corresponding verbs at suggest): anidromous, aspersion, reflection: imputation, ascription (see corresponding verbs as ascribe): allusion (see corresponding verb at refer)

Insipid, vapid, flat, jeune, banal, wishy-washy, inane mean devoid of qualities which give spirit, character, or substance to a thing. Something insipid is without taste, or savory, or pungency; the term is applied not only to food and drink which are so tasteless as to give no pleasure or stimulation to the palate (insipid substitutes for coffee), but also to persons and their utterances and ideas which strike one as thin, weak, and characterless and leave one completely indifferent (the tepid quality of the expatriate American novel, which has escaped vulgarity to become insipid instead—Connolly). Happiness is a wine of the rarest vintage, and seems insipid to a vulgar taste—L. P. Smith. The insipid veracity with which Crabbe used Smith) with reference to physical hunger and is usually employed in the mechanical way—Newsweek. Something banal is so vapid that it seems banal—Mott. Something flat is so vapid that it seems dead or lifeless. The word is applied chiefly to what has lost all savor, sparkle, zest, or capacity for stimulating interest or pleasure (how weary, stale, flat and unprofitable, seem to me all the uses of this world—Shak.) The sonnet became, in the hands of innumerable practitioners, a thing...of artificial sentiment, flat as the lees and dregs of wine—Lowes. The action follows the standard interpretation of Russian history in a flat and mechanical way—Newsweek. Something jeune is so devoid of substance or nutritive quality that it cannot satisfy the appetite; the word is only occasionally used with reference to physical hunger and is usually employed with reference to hunger of the mind or the emotions. It often connotes barrenness, aridity, or meagerness in addition to its basic implications (read through the sermon once more). It seemed more jeune than ever—MacKenzie. The literary history without evaluative criteria becomes jeune and sterile—Glicksberg. Something banal is so commonplace or so trite that it lacks all freshness or power to stimulate or appeal. The term often also
insistent

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instance

carries one or more of such various connotatons as tastelessness, pedestrianism, triviality, or platitudinousness—a simple person marvelously protected from vulnerability and the banal—T. E. Brown] the "poor working girl" of the banal songs of the period—Farrell] the average man, doomed to some banal and sordid drudgery all his life long—Mencken] Something wishy-washy has the essential or characteristic qualities so weak or diluted that it strikes one as extremely insipid or vapid she is too wishy-washy to attract interesting friends] his courage in expressing opinions that are always judicious but never wishy-washy—W. R. Crawford] they accepted the wishy-washy, almost meaningless, resolution—Spectator] Baudelaire's notion of beatitude certainly tended to the wishy-washy—T. S. Eliot] Something inane is devoid of sense, significance, or point] to us the book seems a very inane, tiresome, and purposeless affair—Manchester Examiner] in order to cover his embarrassment, he made some inane remark on the weather—Conrad


Ant] sapid: zestful—Con] *pungent, piquant, poignant, racy, spicy: *spirited, high-spirited, maddening, spunky, fiery, spirited, saucy, saucy; *tasty, *palatable, appetizing: stimulating, exciting, piquing, provoking or provocative (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE)

insistent] *pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, impertinent, exigent, instant

Ana] persistent, persevering (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE]: pertinacious, dogged (see OBSTINATE): obtrusive, *impertinent

insolent] arrogant, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful, haughty, lordly (see PROUD)

Ana] domineering, *masterful, imperious, peremptory, imperative: pretentious, ostentatious (see SHOWY): *haughty, lordly (see PROUD)

Ant] deferential—Con] submissive (see TAME]: courteous, polite, *civil

inspect] scrutinize, examine, scan, audit

Ana] survey, view, observe, notice (see SEE]: probe, penetrate (see ENTER]: inquire, interrogate, question, catechize (see ASK)

inspection] examination, scrutiny, scanning, auditing (see under SCRUTINIZE vb)

Ana] investigation, probe, inquest, *inquiry, inquisition, research: surveillance, *oversight, supervision

inspiration, afflatus, fury, frenzy, especially when qualified by divine or poetic, all designate the seemingly involuntary element in the arts of expression for which the artist often holds a power outside himself responsible. Inspiration may distinctively imply a preternatural enlightening and quickening of the mind and connotate, especially when used by religious persons, the intervention of or as if of such a supernatural influence as the Holy Spirit among such men there remains a . . . belief in what is vaguely called inspiration. They know by hard experience that there are days when their ideas flow freely and clearly, and days when they are dammed up dammably—Mencken] Often, from its use in connection with the authorship of the Scriptures, inspiration implies supernatural or supranatural communication of knowledge] has the highest aspect of Greek religion ever been better expressed than by Wordsworth himself, to whom . . . it came by inspiration and not from books?—Inge] Afflatus distinctively applies to the inspiring influence rather than to the process or its effects (the artists and poets who but once in their lives had known the divine afflatus, and touched the high level of the best—Henry James] we imagine that a great speech is caused by some mysterious afflatus that descends into a man from on high)—Eastman] but it also may name a quality rather than an influence or an operation] he never again achieved that delicate balance of cold, scientific investigation and imaginative afflatus—Scalia] Fury and frenzy emphasize the emotional excitement that attends artistic creation and the tendency of the artist to be carried out of himself. Fury found most often in the phrases "poetic fury" and "divine fury," does not in ordinary use imply extreme agitation; it characteristically connotes profound ecstasy induced by the poet's vision or conception] they are so beloved of the Gods, that whatsoever they write, proceeds of a divine fury—Sidney] in an age of formalism, poetic fury itself became a formal requirement—Babbitt] Frenzy usually implies agitation rather than rapture, and stresses the imaginative or inventive element in creation, sometimes to the exclusion of any extraneous influence] does he compose in a frenzy of mystical exaltation or does he work out his lines slowly and even laboriously?—Kiby] caught the first fire of the writer's frenzy in the classroom when a long dead poet was being discussed—Dock Leaves] Mencken and his Mercury were anything but cold. They were always in a state of frenzy—Angoff]

Ana] enlightenment, illumination (see corresponding verbs at ILLUMINATE]: *ecstasy, rapture, transport: *revelation, vision, apocalyptic, prophecy

inspire] animate, *inform, fire


inspirit] *encourage, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel

Ana] enliven, animate, *quicken, vivify: stimulate, excite, galvanize (see PROVOKE)

Ant] dissipate—Con] *discourage, dishearten, deject: *depress, weigh

in spite of] *notwithstanding, despite

install] induct, inaugurate, invest, *initiate

instance n] Instance, case, illustration, example, sample, specimen mean a concrete thing which has or manifests the qualities, characters, or nature of a type, a class, or a group. Instance applies to an individual person or thing brought forth in support or disproof of a general statement] the instance may be rejected, but the principle abides—Cardozo] Herodotus is a shining instance of the strong Greek bent to examine and prove or disprove—Edith Hamilton] or as a means of indicating the character of a class (this novel is a good instance of his best work] the patterns on the breasts are an instance of the formalism of the period—Saunders] Case applies to an act, situation, condition, or event demonstrating the occurrence or the existence of something which is being considered, studied, investigated, or dealt with or exhibiting it in actual operation] the patterns on the breasts are an instance of the formalism of the period—Saunders] Case applies to an act, situation, condition, or event demonstrating the occurrence or the existence of something which is being considered, studied, investigated, or dealt with or exhibiting it in actual operation} cite cases of bribes given as payments for services never performed} students of the effects of poverty now base their conclusions on cases actually investigated} there has been no case of malaria in this section for three years] Illustration applies to an instance adduced or cited as a means of throwing light upon what has been explained or discussed in general terms} give several illustrations of the use of a word in a particular sense} cites indiscriminately . . . materials of such different value that they provide illustration rather than documentation of his points—Dinker] Example} see also MODEL} applies to a typical, representative, or illustrative instance or case} if I were asked to define what this gentlemanliness is, I should say that

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
instance vb *mention, name, specify

analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
instrument 454

institute

*mean, instrumentality, agency, medium, agent, organ, vehicle, channel

*mean, agent, agency, instrument, medium, organ, vehicle, channel

*prescribe, assign, define

instruct 1

*t*each, train, educate, discipline, school

*impair, *communicate; *inform, acquaint, apprise: *lead, *guide, steer, pilot, engineer: *practice, drill, exercise

2 direct, enjoin, bid, *command, order, charge

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

embittered and irreconcilable factions. Only when it implies as a result the destruction of peace in the group as a whole does it suggest indifference to or defiance of constituted authority; very frequently it suggests the opposition of legislative groups or blocs to the government. *The quarrelsome, factious race* {The government's plan to entertain the proposals for peace aroused the factious spirit of the parliament} {Florence . . . sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind, wearing her soul out by factious struggles—Olpahnt} {The Opposition will be vigilant but not factious. We shall not oppose merely for the sake of opposition—Attlee} Contumacious is found chiefly in legal and ecclesiastical use. It implies persistent, willful, or open disobedience of the orders of a court or of one's superiors; often, it specifically suggests contempt of court by a bold refusal to obey a summons or subpoena, or open and stubborn defiance of laws or orders that are seldom disobeyed {con her refusal to appear in person or by her attorney, she was pronounced contumacious—Lingard} {magistrates and populace were incensed at a refusal of customary marks of courtesy and respect for the laws, which in their eyes was purely contumacious—Inge}

Ana recalctrant, refractory, *unruly, ungovernable, intractable

Con *obedient, amenable, docile, tractable, biddable: submissive, subdued, *tame

insular, provincial, parochial, local, small-town are comparable when they mean having or indicating the limited or restricted point of view considered characteristic of the geographically isolated. Insular is usually applied to people or the ideas of people who are in one way or another isolated, so that they become or are regarded as self-contained or self-sufficient and disinterested in matters remote from their own concerns. The term implies an aloofness that proceeds from this isolation, but it usually also connotes narrowness of attitude, circumscription of interests, or prejudices in favor of one's own people or one's own kind (as of customs, literature, and art) {much of the impetus for international thinking and planning has come from our schools and our colleges, and the pressures for insular chauvinism have come from self-seeking groups of adults—Brown} {Bradley was fighting for a European and ripened and wise philosophy, against an insular and immature and cranky one—T. S. Eliot} Provincial sometimes applies to what is characteristic of outlying districts as in opposition to what is characteristic of such metropolitan centers as London or New York {a provincial accent} {provincial theaters} {provincial fashions} but the word tends to connote narrowness of view or of interest as opposed to what is cosmopolitan or Catholic he replaced a philosophy which was crude and raw and provincial by one which was, in comparison, catholic, civilized, and universal—T. S. Eliot} {firm commitment to a given ideal is not equivalent to provincial intolerance towards other forms of excellence—Nagel} Stalin, a provincial, Victorian philistine, fancied himself as an infallible connoisseur—Willets Parochial, with its reference to a parish, a local unit of administration in the church or, in some regions, in the state, implies confinement to views and interests of a particular place and connotes extreme narrowness and, often, intolerance of all kinds of human energy. Art is surely the most free, the least parochial; and demands of us an essential tolerance of all its forms—Galsworthy} {even so great a historian as Kim}
...
intelect *mind, soul, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit

Ana *reason, understanding, intuition

intellectual *mental, psychic, cerebral, intelligent

Ant carnal — Con *bodily, physical, corporeal, corporeal, somatic: fleshly, animal, sensual (see CARNAL)

intelligence 1 brain, *mind, intellect, soul, psyche, wit

Ana *sense, judgment, wisdom, gumption; *discernment, penetration, insight, acumen: sagaciousness or sagacity, perspicaciousness or perspicacity, astuteness, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW)

2 *news, tidings, advice

intelligent 1 Intellectual, *mental, psychic, cerebral, intelligent

2 Intelligent, clever, alert, quick-witted, bright, smart, knowing, brilliant are comparable when they mean mentally quick or keen. Intelligent implies greater than average power to use one’s mind successfully when demands are made upon it (as in understanding the new or abstruse or in meeting and solving problems) (see Corresponding Adjectives at SHREW)

News, tidings, advice

smart

syllogism—

or duplicity <a aleck> <given to making smart retorts> <other bright ideas—some showing a superb need of practical feasibility; as well as of the welfare of any unfortunate who might happen to be in the experiment area—include the scattering of concentrated sulfuric acid—The Countryman> (I do not want . . . to be converted by a smart syllogism—Birrell) <the smart work is hidden in the wording of the Monroe doctrine—Emporia Gazette> Knowledge carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of the possession of information or knowledge that is necessary or useful under given circumstances (the knowing collectors of records—Sat. Review) <bipartisanship, as a knowing Republican politician once remarked, is a fine thing—between elections—Collins> Occasionally the term further suggests a less agreeable quality such as sophistication, secretive-ness, or the possession of knowledge of others’ secrets (a knowing wink) (a face so mean, so knowing—Thack-eray) <his work has a distasteful air of pretentious smartness, of being altogether too knowing—Read>

Brilliant adds to intelligent the implication of unusual and outstanding keenness of intellect that manifests itself so openly or effectively as to excite admiration; the term usually suggests an opposition to qualities that characterize one whose mind works more slowly or cautiously (a brilliant mathematician) (John Todhunter was esteemed a shrewd sensible man—only not brilliant—Mere-dith) (Einstein’s brilliant solution of the . . . puzzle—Zinser) <the brilliant anthropologist whom de Gaulle wished to place in charge of a combined intelligence service—Fank>

Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *shrewd, sagacious, perspicacious, astute: cunning, ingenious, adroit, *clever

Ant unintelligent — Con foolish, idiotic, imbecilic, moronic (see Corresponding Adjectives at CON)

2 *smart, slow, dull, dense, crass, dumb: *irrational, unreasonable

intend, mean, design, propose, purpose signify to have in mind as an aim, end, or function. Intend implies that the mind is directed to some definite accomplishment or to the achievement of a definite end (I if one earnestly intends a conspiracy, one does not commence with a series of public readings—Kristol) (intended twenty-four books, sketched fourteen, but left only four—Hight) or is bent upon some person or thing (as an invention or a writing) serving a certain purpose or use, or fulfilling a certain destiny (a play, intended for great Theseus’ nuptial day—Shak.) <a strong suspicion that the new instrument with which Einstein has presented the mathematicians is being put to uses for which it was never intended—Inge> (a man set aside and intended by nature to lead a blameless life—Anderson) Intend often implies an aim to express a definite idea by a given word or phrase (just what the framers of the constitution intended by the phrase “to be twice put in jeopardy” is still a matter of some doubt) <he caught the phrase as it dropped from his lips with a feeling that it said more than he intended—H. G. Wells> Mean often carries a denotation close to that of intend (those organ tones of his were meant to fill cathedrals or the most exalted of tribunals—Cardozo) but it does not convey so clear an implication of determination to effect one’s end as does intend and, sometimes, it implies little more than volition or decision (he always means to work harder) (a book that I mean to get when I reach Beverly—Justice Holmes) (I don’t mean to defend Charles’ errors, but before I form my judgment of either of them I intend to make a trial of their hearts—Sheridan) <he shouldn’t have done it, of course; but he was thoughtless. And he meant to pay the money back—Delaunay Design (see also under PLAN n) usually stresses forethought and deliberation in arriving at an intention (the American people—did not design to make their government dependent on the States—John Marshall) We wanted absolute surrender and we wanted it within a matter of hours, and the bomb of Nagasaki was designed to achieve just that, which it did—Cousins> Often, the term also implies scheming or contriving, especially by underhand means, in an attempt to effect what is designed (your father and sister, in their civilities and invitations, were

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
designing a match between the heir and the young lady—Austen> <ah! Friend! to dazzle let the vain design; to raise the thought, and touch the heart be thine!—Pope>  
Propose implies a declaration of one's intention or a setting it clearly before oneself or others. It therefore usually connotes clear definition or open avowal (<what do you propose to do when your funds run out?> <I propose to describe the circumstances under which Richelieu worked when he produced and realized the centralized nation of today—Bello> <to China, where she proposed to spend some time with her friends—Salisbury> <what is reached in the end may be better or worse than what was proposed—James>  
{1, for one, do not propose to adjust my ethics to the values of a bloodstained despotism—A. E. Stevenson>  
**Purpose** differs little from propose except in carrying a somewhat stronger implication of determination to effect or achieve one's intention (<I purpose to write the history of England from the accession of King James the Second—Macauley> <a promise to send her picture post-cards from the Cathedral cities which he purposed visiting—Hewlett> and in occasionally connoting clearer definition in one's own mind (thy brother Esau, as touching thee, both comfort himself, purposing to kill thee—Gen 27:42>)  
Ana *aim, aspire: *attempt, try, endeavor, strive, es-say: plan, design, scheme, plot (see under PLAN n)  
**intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent** are comparable when meaning extreme in degree, power, or effect. Although several of them often are used interchangeably without clear distinction, they can be employed in ways that reveal many differences in implications and applications. Intense is especially appropriate when the idea of great depth (as in quality, reach, or effect) is to be implied. In such use intense may apply to thoughts or thinking, to feeling or emotion, to such an outstanding quality or characteristic as cleanliness so perfect that it gives joy to the fastidious. In this sense it has been applied indifferently to things and objects, both imply a lift- ing above the ordinary, the trite, or the commonplace, and a consequent increase in sharpness and poignancy, and enhance a lifting above the norm or the average in desirability or attractiveness by the addition of something that increases the value, charm, or prestige of the thing enhanced (<a dramatist heightened the effect of his scenes by rapidity of the action and he enhances his dialogue by the addition of witty repartee> <had heightened his appreciation of the more austere pleasures of the afternoon—Archibald Marshall> <a painter discards many trivial points of exactness, in order to heighten the truthfulness of a few fundamentals—Montague> <Augustus sought ... in every way to enhance its [the Roman Senate's] prestige and dignity—Buchan>)  
Ana accentuate, emphasize, stress, accent (see corresponding nouns at EMPHASIS): magnify, aggravate, *exalt Ant temper: mitigate, ally: abate (sense 2) —Con *moderate, qualify: alleviate, lighten, *relieve: reduce, lessen, diminish, *decrease  
**intent n** *intention, purpose, design, aim, end, object, objective, goal  
Ana will, volition, conation  
Ant accident —Con *chance, hap, luck, fortune, hazard  
**intent adj** Intent, engrossed, absorbed, rapt mean having one's mind or attention deeply fixed on something. Intent implies that one's mind, one's desires, or one's energies are eagerly bent on something; it therefore suggests a directing of the entire attention toward a particular end or thing (<persons whose hearts are wholly bent toward pleasure, or intent upon gain—Spectator> <the wise author intent on getting at truth—Quiller-Couch> for all its hideous scars is no dead city, but one grimly intent on survival—Cassidy> Engrossed implies monopolization of one's
attention either by a driving purpose or emotion or an eager interest or by the force or urgency of circumstances beyond one's control (he appears to have been so engrossed by domestic issues as to have given little attention to foreign problems—W. L. Langer) (Sieveking was naturally engrossed in the musical problem, which was perplexing enough—Hilton) (these constitutional changes . . . were pushed through during and after the war by a group of busybodies who were not too much engaged by the agony of their country to conduct a raging agitation in all parts of England—Inge) Absorbed often differs little from engrossed in this sense (the point is that Broch is never engrossed in, and never permits the reader to become absorbed by, the story itself—Arendt) but it may carry a stronger suggestion of the power of the thing on which the attention is fixed to capture one's attention and to hold it firmly so that there is difficulty in distracting it (wholly absorbed in his preparations for saving souls in the gold camps—blind to everything else—Cather) (human beings are prone to become absorbed in themselves, unable to be interested in what they see and hear or in anything outside their own skins—Russell) (already they had had Farthest North. Imogen, at eight years old, had read it, absorbed, breathless, intent, tongue clenched between teeth—Rose Macaulay) Rapt implies both extreme intentness and complete absorption, as though one were taken out of oneself or were in an ecstatic trance (rapt in adoring contemplation—Farrar) (expounded the ultimate meaning of existence to the white, rapt faces of Humanity—L. P. Smithly (in openmouthed wonder the lama turned to this and that, and finally checked in rapt attention before a large alto-relief representing a coronation or apotheosis of the Lord Buddha—Kipling)

Ana attending or attentive, minding, watching (see corresponding verbs at TEND): *abstracted, preoccupied: concentrated (see COMPACT vb): riveted (see SECURE vb) Ant distracted

intention, intent, purpose, design, aim, end, object, objective, goal are comparable when meaning what one proposes to accomplish or to attain by doing or making something, in distinction from what prompts one (the motive), or from the activity itself (the means), or from the actual or envisioned outcome (the effect). The first four of these words stress the clearly defined will to do or make something. Intention, however, often denotes little more than what one has in mind to do or to bring about (she had not had an intention or a thought of going home—Dickens) (she had divined the intention behind her mother's tolerance—Joyce) (announced its intention to divide its Indian Empire into two dominions—Current Biog.) Intent suggests clearer formulation and greater deliberateness than intention (they become enamored of official declarations of intent, though not much is said about the machinery to translate intent into action—Cousins) (behind my look you saw such unmistakable intent—Millay) Purpose implies more settled determination or more resolution than intention (have a purpose in life (the missionary was here for a purpose, and he pressed his point—Cather) (there lie youth and irresolution: here manhood and purpose—Meredith) Design carries further the notion of deliberateness and purposiveness in formulating an intention; in this sense it is not always clearly distinguishable from design denoting plan (see under PLAN n), for it retains the implications of careful ordering of details, of calculation, and sometimes of scheming (a great man by accident rather than design—Lasky) (I had suspected him of harboring sinister designs—Hudson) (the United States has no ulterior designs against any of its neighbors—Vandenbergh) Aim implies a clear definition of something that one hopes to effect and a direction of one's efforts or energies to its attainment; thus, one who proposes to make the best of his powers and of his opportunities may be said to have a purpose in life: one who has clearly defined the mark he hopes to reach and determines his actions by it may be said to have an aim in life (her steadiness and courage in the pursuit of her aims—J. R. Green) (the aim of the Elizabethans was to attain complete realism—T. S. Eliot) The remaining words of this group, like aim, imply that what one does is affected by what one hopes to accomplish or attain. End in this relation retains some of the suggestion of remoteness and finality inherent in some of its other senses (see LIMIT, END 2) and therefore is appropriately applied to an aim or purpose which takes its nature from principle or logical necessity and of which the attainment requires a definite and planned course of action leading to the modification of existent reality (holding that the good of the end justified all the evil of the means) (the relation between means and ends is clearly bound up with a temporal view. Ends are in the future, means in the present. We do control means, we do not control ends. Hence the foolishness of conceiving ends apart from means. On the contrary, ends must be judged, and evaluated, in the light of the means available for their attainment—Visalberghi) (provide the safeguard we need against the abuse of mankind's scientific genius for destructive ends—Dean) (the end of law was to bring about the widest possible abstract individual liberty—Roscoe Pound) (it is commonly said and commonly believed that science is completely neutral and indifferent as to the ends and values which move men to act: that at most it only provides more efficient means for realization of ends that are and must be due to wants and desires completely independent of science—Dewey) Object and objective apply to an end as being that toward which effort or action or emotion (as hope) is directed (the object is to gather data that can be taken only during a total solar blackout—Cowen) (one of the important objectives of public education has been and will always be to inspire in youth a deep appreciation of the basic spiritual and religious values which give meaning to existence—Current Biog.) Distinctively, object may suggest an end based on more individually determined desires, needs, or intentions (Colonel Belgrave, who is bent on abducting Amanda . . . pursues his object with a pertinacity and ingenuity that does credit to his understanding—Brothers) (the object of a legislator, he declares, is to make not a great but a happy city—Dickinson) (we call a man cruel who takes pleasure in the suffering of others and inflicts it with that object—Bello) while objective may suggest one which is concrete and immediately attainable or at least one which involves no obviously insurmountable problems (the objectives of the Guild are to promote and advance the spiritual, social, educational and recreational welfare of the blind persons in the Diocese—Humrah) (Columbia included among its earliest stated objectives the instruction of youth in surveying, navigation, husbandry, commerce, government, and manufacture—Euriich) Goal often evokes the image of one running a race: usually it implies struggle and endurance of hardships and cessation of effort at attainment (the Goal, which is the goal of all moral endeavor—Inge) (in the average man's mind leisure is a goal to strive for—Furnas) (equality is, of course, a goal or ideal rather than an immediately attainable objective—Gallagher)

Ana *plan, design, scheme, project: desiring or desire, wishing or wish (see corresponding verbs at DESIRE) intentional *voluntary, deliberate, willful, willing
intercalate

Anaphouse", and the like."

intended, meant, purposed, proposed (see INTEND):
considered, premeditated, advised, studied, designed,
*deliberate

Ant

instinctive —Con *accidental, casual, fortuitous:
inaudient, thoughtless, *careless, heedless

intercalate

interpolate, insert, *introduce, interpose, interject, insinuate

intercede

mediate, intervene, *interpose, interfere

Ana

plead, petition, sue, pray (see under PRAYER)

interchange

vb *exchange, bandy

Ana

transpose, *reverse

intercourse, commerce, traffic, dealings, communication,
communion, conversation, converse, correspondence are
comparable when meaning the connection established
between persons or peoples through a medium that per-
mits interchange (as of information, of opinions, of ideas,
or of goods). *Intercourse usually means little more than
this and requires a qualifying adjective to indicate the
things interchanged or the medium permitting interchange
(business intercourse) (trade intercourse) (sexual inter-
course) (social intercourse) In ordinary use, when em-
ployed without qualification, intercourse means social
intercourse or the normal interchange of such things as
ideas, opinions, news, and civilizations between one person
or group and another with whom there are more or less
intimate relations (the truth was, he could not be happy
for long without human intercourse —Cather) (the keen
and animated intercourse with its exchange of disputable
convictions —Replplier) (he welcomes extra-class inter-
course with students and encourages them to think criti-
cally —G. H. White) (of nations to cooperate, the first
condition must be that they have social and political inter-
course —E. B. White) Commerce, which applies primarily
to the interchange of goods by buying and selling (for
this sense, see BUSINESS 3) also is used in the more gen-
eral sense of intercourse (commerce with the world has
made him wiser —Macaulay) (I was less and less dis-
posed to commerce with my kind, I who never was given
to social functioning —Weygand) The word tends to be
restricted in its application to intercourse, through the
spirit or mind, that involves an interchange of ideas or
influences without a necessary interchange of words (re-
establish intellectual commerce among them in such a way
as to enable them to get on with the attack against the com-
mon enemy —P. B. Rice) (how is poetry born in us? There
is, I think, some commerce between the outer and an inner
being —E) though it is occasionally used of sexual inter-
course. Traffic (see also BUSINESS 3) is used chiefly when
such connotations derived from its commercial senses are
to be suggested as the interchange of goods, especially of
tangible or material goods, or a rapid passing to and from
the persons or things concerned (years and the traffic of
the mind with men and books did not affect you in the
least —Woolf) (the State can have no traffic or relation-
ship with the Church considered as a purely spiritual soci-
ety —Times Lit. Sup.) Dealings usually implies a closer
connection and one with more familiarity or less formal-
ity or one having for its object mutual or personal gain
(they suspected that he was having dealings with the
enemy) (being a woman is a terribly difficult trade since it
consists principally of dealings with men —Conrad)
(if a kid gets her way, she has to take some advice. That
is part of the unwritten code which governs the dealings
between generations —Roberson Davies) Traditionally
communication is less general than any of the preceding
terms because it implies intercourse based on an exchange
of symbols and especially words (there had been no com-
munication with the island since the storm) (I can try
to get to know Negroes here to establish communication

—Collie) (communication is a process by which a person
refers to something, either by pointing to it or using a
symbol for it, in such a way as to lead another person
to have a more or less similar experience of it. Commu-
nication, in this sense, presupposes frames of reference
which are shared by the communicating persons, so that
similar meanings are shared by them—Newcomb)
but communication suggests, as the preceding terms do
not, mutuality and the shared background of experience
that has given rise to a comprehensible set of symbols;
if therefore is appropriately used of nonhuman interac-
tions (communication is a type of behavior between liv-
ing creatures characterized by mutuality, rooted in bi-
ological heredity, and constituting one of the general mani-
festations of life —Revez) or of the process or art of effec-
tively interchange symbols (in order to develop and
maintain that basic consensus of values, beliefs, and insti-
tutional behavior upon which its existence must rest . . .
a society must maintain effective communication among
its parts . . . Indeed, the effectiveness of the communica-
tion process is a measure of the social integration of a
society —Cottrell) (lily was not expert in communica-
tion, and did not try to draw Mr. Sprockett out although
it would have been easy —Ethel Wilson) or, in the plural,
of the means by which spatially or temporally separated
individuals or groups engage in such exchanges (commu-
nication) were disrupted by the storm) (there is . . . no
conclusive evidence that the organized life of any Roman-
ian-British town survived the severance of its communica-
tions in the troubles of the fifth century —Stenton) (the
poor communications that exist in many factories between
the front office and the men at the workbenches —Partell)
Communion usually implies intercourse between those
who are close in love or sympathy or in mutual under-
standing; it often suggests rather than implies spiritual
intercourse or the absence of words (the consummation
of communion with God coincides with the final resolu-
tion of the sense of estrangement from Him —Ingpe)
(Delia sat down beside her, and their clasped hands lay
upon the coverlet. They did not say much . . . their com-
mutation had no need of words —Wharton) (most of the
time my father was buried in his religious books, and my
mother recognized it as her function to keep this commu-
nuation undisturbed —Behman) Conversation has a use,
chiefly in the phrase criminal conversation, in which it is
equivalent to sexual intercourse, and converse has a poetic
sense in which it approaches communion (to hold fit con-
verse with the spiritual world —Wordsworth) (spend in
pure converse our eternal day —Rupert Brooke) In gen-
eral use, however, both terms usually imply free and often
lively oral interchange of opinions, comments, or news
between two or more persons; conversation often applies
specifically to the act of interchangeing opinions, ideas,
and information in talk, and converse, to the ideas, gossip,
and opinions involved in such conversation (an important
general . . . deep in converse with the wealthiest of all
the astrologers of those war years —Han Suyin) (give a
freedom to resolve difference by converse —Oppen-
heimer) (we had talk enough, but no conversation;
there was nothing discussed —Johnson) (genuine con-
versation —by which I mean something distinguishable
from disputation, lamentation, and joke telling —Krupch)
Correspondence implies intercourse through an inter-
change of letters (there has been no letup in their cor-
respondence for fifty years) (the business was conducted
by correspondence)

interdict

vb ban, inhibit, enjoin, *forbid, prohibit

Ana

proscribe (see SENTENCE): debar, rule out, *exclude:
*restrain, curb, check

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Interesting, engrossing, absorbing, intriguing mean having a quality or qualities that secure attention and hold it for a length of time. Interesting implies a power in a person or thing to awaken such a mental or emotional reaction involving attention as curiosity, sympathy, a desire to know or understand, or enthusiasm, but unless the adjective is qualified or there is a fuller explanation in the context, the degree or the cause of interest is not clear. After a month of visiting Mark decided that there was not one interesting human creature in the whole parish—Mackenzie. Jane seemed to me to be increasingly interesting—Benson. As applied to a book, a play, or a narrative the word usually means entertaining, diverting (compare verbs at AMUSE), exciting, stimulating, or provocative (compare verbs at PROVOKE), but if the context provides no real clue as to the precise implication, the word may fail to hit the mark. Engrossing (see also MONOPOLIZE) suggests the power to grip the attention so as to exclude everything else, but it may or may not imply a power to please, divert, or entertain, and it refers almost always to things rather than persons; thus, an engrossing book may seize the whole attention from such dissimilar causes as that it requires deep study or serious reflection or that it is challenging or provocative. The enengrossing nature of his task made the time pass quickly. The conditions were ideal—not too much money, engrossing work to be done, and a sense of purpose and progress in the world—Whitehead. Synonymy books in which differences are analyzed, engrossing as they may have been to the active party, the analyst, offer to the passive party, the reader, nothing but boredom—Fowler. Absorbing does not differ materially from engrossing, but its underlying notion is not the same, for it suggests in the thing that holds one's attention a power to draw one in, as if by suction; thus, a power or disposition a power to grip the attention so as to exclude everything else, but it may or may not imply a power to please, divert, or entertain, and it refers almost always to things rather than persons; thus, an engrossing book may seize the whole attention from such dissimilar causes as that it requires deep study or serious reflection or that it is challenging or provocative. The engrossing nature of his task made the time pass quickly. The conditions were ideal—not too much money, engrossing work to be done, and a sense of purpose and progress in the world—Whitehead. Synonymy books in which differences are analyzed, engrossing as they may have been to the active party, the analyst, offer to the passive party, the reader, nothing but boredom—Fowler. Absorbing does not differ materially from engrossing, but its underlying notion is not the same, for it suggests in the thing that holds one's attention a power to draw one in, as if by suction; thus, a power or disposition to make something appear in a way that is thought to be attractive or entertaining, and to lead the attention to it, as by an attraction to it, or by making it appear attractive.
interject, introduce, insert, insinuate, interpose, interpolate

interpenetrate

interdict, interpose, interject

interpose

interpose 1 interject, introduce, insert, insinuate, interpose, intercalate

interpose 2 interpose, interfere, intervene, mediate, intercede

interrupt

interrupt *interrupt, stay, interrupt, *defer, postpone: *intrude, obtrude, interpose, butt in: interfere, *interpose, intervene

interrogation

interrupted

interrupt with radio reception) wooden palings that did not interfere

Ana

external — Con exterior, *outer, outward, outside: extraneous, *extrinsic, foreign, alien

intemperance

nuncio, legate, *ambassador, minister, envoy, chargé d’affaires

interpenetrate

impenetrate, penetrate, *permeate, pervade, impregnate, saturate

Ana see those at IMPENETRATE

interpolate

interpolate insert, intercalate, introduce, insinuate, interpose

Ana *enter, introduce, admit: *intrude, interlope: *add, superadd, annex, append

Con delete, expunge, *erase, cancel

interpose 1 interject, introduce, insert, insinuate, interpose, intercalate

Ana *throw, toss, cast: *intrude, obstruct: *push, shove, thrust

2 Interpose, interfere, intervene, mediate, intercede all basically mean to come or to go between two persons, two things, or a person and thing. Interpose (see also INTRODUCE 2) may be used in place of any of the succeeding words largely because it carries no further implications, except as these are derived from the context (the tops of the trees behind him interposed between him and the sun—Forster) he should not interpose between other engineers and their clients when unsolicited—Wagner (our host . . . interposed and forbade the experiment, pleading at the same time for a change of subject—Shaw) Intereference (see also MEDDLE) implies a getting in the way of a person or thing whether by crossing his or its path or—more often, by creating a condition that hinders his movement, activity, or vision or its free operation or full effectiveness (parliament interfered to protect employers against their laborers—Froude) the atmospheric disturbance interfered with radio reception) (wooden palings that did not interfere with a wide view—Mackenzie) Intervene may be used with reference to something that interposes itself or is interposed between things in space or time a huge and at that time apparently barren waste . . . intervenes between the St. Lawrence basin and the fertile prairie—Sandwell (the events of the intervening years—Dewey) or between persons the interjection of a third party who has a valid interest, or who intervenes between the physician and the patient—W. T. & Barbara Fitts or between a person and his interests, work, or goal (the trained self-consciousness, which . . . intervenes between the poet’s moods and his poetry—Day Lewis) (fortunately, mercy and diplomacy intervened and the vengeful sentence was never carried out—Thruslen) Intervene often specifically implies intervention between those who are hostile, antagonistic, or otherwise opposed to each other, for the sake of reconciling them or settling their difficulties; mediate usually implies, as intervene need not imply, an interest in both sides or freedom from bias toward either side (Bacon attempted to mediate between his friend and the Queen—Macaulay) (I want to mediate between the two of you now, because if this breach continues it will be the ruin of us all—Graves) But mediate may also be used abstractly in reference to something that lies between extremes or contradictions and effects either their union or a transition between them (critics . . . who mediated between extreme points of view—Glicksberg) Intermine implies intervention on another’s and usually an offender’s behalf and the use of one’s good offices in imploiring mercy or forgiveness for him from the one who has been injured or offended (for each at utter need—true comrade and true foeman—Madonna, intercede! Kipling) (the Duchess of Aiguillon interceded for Marie de Médicis with Richelieu) (the conviction that the Western powers would not intercede in favor of the peoples of the satellites—Timashoff) Ana *intrude, butt in, interpose: meddle, intermeddle: interrupt (see ARREST)

interpret

elicit, construe, *explain, expound, explicate

Ana illustrate, exemplify: gloss, annotate: comment, commend, (see REMARK vb)

Con distort, contort, *deform: *misrepresent, garble: *mistake, confuse, confound

interrogation

question, catechize, quiz, examine, *ask, query, inquire

Con *answer, reply, respond, rejoin, retract

interrupt *arrest, check

Ana suspend, stay, intermit, *defer, postpone: *intrude, obtrude, interpose, butt in: interfere, *interpose, intervene

interrupt *interrupt, break, gap, interval, interim, hiatus, lacuna

Ana *pause, recess, respite, lull, intermission: *breach, rupture, rent, split, rift

interstice

* aperture, orifice

interval

*break, gap, interruption, interim, hiatus, lacuna

Ana *period, epoch, age, era: *pause, respite, lull, intermission: *breach, rupture, rent, split, rift

interstitial

* aperture, orifice

intermine

interpose, mediate, intercede, interfere

Ana *separate, part, divide, sever: *intrude, interpose, butt in, obtrude

intestine

internal, *inner, interior, inside

Ant foreign — Con external, *outer, exterior, outside, outward: extraneous, alien, *extrinsic

intimate vb

*stress, imply, hint, insinuate

Ana *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak: allude, advert, refer

Con *express, voice, utter, vent, air: declare, *assert, affirm, aver, avouch, profess: *suppress, repress: conceal, *hide

intimate adj

* familiar, close, confidential, chummy, thick

Ana *nearest, next: devoted, fond, affectionate, *loving: secret, privy: friendly, neighborly (see AMICABLE) companionable, convivial, *social, hospitable, cooperative

Con formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial: distant, remote

intimate n

friend, confidant, acquaintance

Ana comrade, companion, crony, *associate

Ant stranger, outsider

intimidate, cow, bulldoze, bully, browbeat are comparable when meaning to frighten or coerce by frightening means into submission or obedience. Intimidate primarily implies a making timid or fearful, but it often suggests a display or application (as of force or learning) so as to cause fear or a sense of inferiority and a consequent submission (a musket was, therefore, fired over them, but . . . they seemed rather to be provoked than intimidated—Cook) he wasn’t lazy, he wasn’t a fool, and he meant to be honest; but he was intimidated by that miserable sort of degrading mannerism—Woodward) Ana (the Democrats were attempting to impeach President Grant for alleged misuse of the military to intimidate voters—Woodward) Cow implies reduction to a state where the spirit is broken or all courage is lost (he flung them back, commanded them, cowed them with his hand, intelligent eyes, like a tamer among beasts—Arthur Morrison) (youthful hearers who might be disillusioned or cowed by recent history—J. M. Brown) Bulldoze implies an intimidating or an overcoming of resistance usually by forceful demanding or urging or

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
by implied threats (a mean, stingy, bulldozing poseur with woodchuck whiskers—Pegler) (through the sheer strength of his reputation and the force of his will bulldozing them into making loans—F. L. Allen) (some irate customer who had come in to bulldoze me... and had tried to bully me with mere words—White) Bully implies intimidation through overtbearing, swaggering threats or insults, and in schoolboy use it usually suggests bulldozing of small boys by those who are larger or more aggressive (suppose the cabman bullies you for double fare—Shaw) I know what you're going to call me... but I am not to be bullied by words—L. P. Smith Browbeat implies a cowering through arrogant, scornful, contemptuous, or insolent treatment (he browbeat the informers against us, and treated their evidence with... little favor—Fielding) (who saw my old kind parents... too much trustful... cheated, browbeaten, stripped and starved, cast out into the kennel—Browning) Ana terrorize, terrify, *frighten: hector, hound, ride, chivy, *bait, badger: coerce, *force, compel, constrain, oblige Con *coax, wheedle, cajole, blandish: persuade, prevail, *induce intolerant *illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, bigoted, *bigoted, intolerant *obedient, docile, biddable, amenable: forbearing, indulgent, lenient intonation *inflection, accent intone *sing, troll, carol, descent, warble, trill, hymn, chant intoxicated *drunk, drunken, inebriated, tipsy, tight Ana fuddled, befuddled, confused, muddled (see CONFUSE): maudlin, *sentimental Con *sober, temperate intractable *unruly, ungovernable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong Ana obstreperous, boisterous (see VOCIIFEROUS): contumacious, rebellious, factious, *insubordinate: froward, perverse, *contrary, wayward, balky Ant tractable —Con *obedient, docile, biddable, amenable: *tame, submissive, subdued: *compliant, acquiescent intrepid *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, valiant, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, bold, audacious Ana daring, venturesome, *adventurous, daredevil: mettlesome, high-spirited, *spirited, fiery: plucky, gritty (see corresponding nouns at FORTITUDE) Con *timid: *fearful, apprehensive, afraid intricate complicated, involved, *complex, knotty Ana perplexing, puzzling, mystifying, bewildering (see PUZZLE vb): tortuous (see WINDING): *hard, *arduous Con *easy, simple, light, smooth, facile: *effortless: obvious, plain, clear, patent, *evident, manifest intrigue n 1 conspiracy, machination, *plot, cabal Ana scheme, design, *plan: stratagem, maneuver, ruse, artifice, *trick, feint, gambit, ploy 2 liaison, affair, *amour intriguing *interesting, engrossing, absorbing Ana provoking or provocative, piquing, exciting (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): mystifying, puzzling (see PUZZLE): luring, tempting, enticing, inveigling (see LURE) intrinsic *inherent, ingrained, constitutional, essential Ana *inner, inward, internal, interior, inside, intestine: *innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: natural, normal, typical, *regular Ant extrinsic —Con *outer, outward, external, outside, exterior: adventitious, *accidental, incidental: added, annexed, appended, superadded (see ADD): extraneous, alien, foreign (see EXTRINSIC) introduce 1 *enter, admit Ana induct, install, inaugurate (see INITIATE): instill, inculcate, *implant: *infuse, inculcate, imbue 2 Introduce, insert, insinuate, interpolate, intercalate, interpose, interject mean to put something or someone in a place among or between other things or persons. Introduce (see also ENTER 2) implies a bringing forward of someone or something not already in company with the other persons or things, but it also suggests as the aim of such an act the placing of the person or thing in the midst of that group or collection so as to form a part of it (introduce a new subject into the conversation) (introduce several amendments into a bill before the legislature) (domestic science was introduced into the high school curriculum—Current Biol.) Insert implies a setting of a thing in a fixed place between or among other things; thus, to insert lace in a garment is to put it between two pieces of the material which forms the garment; to insert leaves in a book is to put leaves into their proper places (as by the use of glue) (insert additional words in a statement) (nowhere else, surely, can there be such a compulsion to make plays out of books, musicals out of plays... to insert scenes, delete characters—Kronenberger) Insinuate (see also SUGGEST) implies a slow, careful, often gentle or artful introduction (as into or through a narrow or winding passage) by pushing or worming its or one's way (the dog liked to insinuate his nose into his master's closed hand) (slang... has to insinuate itself into the language; it cannot pressure or push its way in—Sat. Review) (trees which insinuated their roots into the fissures of nearby rocks) (slowly but surely they insinuated themselves through the crowd to the edge of the pavement) (he couldn't quite insinuate the Huntingtonos into American society, but he did pretty well for them in England—Behrman) Interpolate implies the insertion of something that does not belong to and requires to be distinguished from the original, whether because it is extraneous to the subject under discussion or because it is spurious or simply because it is in fact not part of the original (although here and there, I omit some passages, and shorten others and disguise names, I have interpolated nothing—Le Fanu) (he has interpolated editorial and critical comments of his own—Redman) Intercalate primarily implies an insertion in the calendar (as of a day or month) (since the calendar year contained only 355 days, an extra month was occasionally intercalated—R. H. Baker) but in its extended sense it implies insertion into a sequence or series, then often also connoting intrusion (lava beds intercalated between sedimentary layers of rock) (some of these discrepancies... are obviously due to the fact that Chaucer is intercalating stories previously written—H. S. Bennett) Interpose (see also INTERPOSE 2) differs from interpolate mainly in its implication that what is inserted serves as an obstacle, obstruction, or cause of delay or postponement (she actually interposed her body between him and the street door then, as though physically to prevent him from going—Berger) (the early Church fought against the tendency to interpose objects of worship between God and man—Inge) (Professor Murray has simply interposed between Euripides and ourselves a barrier more impenetrable than the Greek language—T. S. Eliot) Of all of these words, interject carries the strongest implication of abrupt or forced introduction (he remained silent for the most part but occasionally interjected a question) (as they chewed on bones and roots, they paused to interject grunts of encouragement for the narrator—Mott) The word is often employed in place of said in introducing a remark, statement, or ques-
tation that comes more or less as an interruption or addition. When he was talking about philosophers, I interjected what I felt confident was a tactful remark—Henderson.

Ant withdraw: abstract — Con eject, oust, evict: eliminate, * exclude

Introduction, prologue, prelude, preface, foreword, exordium, preamble are comparable when denoting something that serves as a preliminary or as an antecedent to an extended treatment, development, discussion, or presentation (as in an exposition, a dramatic or musical work, or a poem). In their extended senses many of these terms are interchangeable, but in the special or technical senses in which they are here chiefly considered they tend to be mutually exclusive. Introduction, the ordinary term of this group, and the comprehensive one, specifically applies to that part of a work (as a discourse, treatise, play, or musical composition) which prepares the reader or auditor for the body of the work, especially by giving him material necessary for his understanding of what follows. He always writes the body of his treatise first and then adds the introduction and conclusion. Prologue applies specifically to the initial and distinct part of a poetic or dramatic work which may serve the purposes of an introduction (as by describing the characters or expounding the situations in which they find themselves). Chaucer’s Prologue to the Canterbury Tales or which may be a discourse preceding the opening of a play, by a character of the play or by an actor who serves as a mouthpiece for the author, and giving a hint of the author’s purposes or methods or attempting to attract the auditors’ attention to or interest in the play to come (the Prologue to Shakespeare’s Troilus and Cressida and to each act of his King Henry V). In his prologue, which contains some of the finest poetry-in-prose writing of the day, Dr. MacIver explores the meaning of time—Donald, H. H. Harrington. In its extended use, therefore, prologue often suggests an action or an event that sets the stage or paves the way for a series of exploits, achievements, or significant events (this as a prologue to her own later dazzling history—Hugh Walpole). Prelude applies in its general sense to something (as a series of events, actions, or natural phenomena) which constitute figuratively a short play or performance and serve as a sign or indication of or a preparation for what is to follow (functional changes in glands often serve as a prelude to structural changes). That was the prelude to a stormy afternoon—H. G. Wells. As a technical term in music prelude applies sometimes to an opening voluntary in a religious service but more often, and more specifically, to an introductory piece forming a section or a movement, especially of a fugue or a suite but sometimes of an oratorio or of an opera, and serving usually to introduce the theme or chief subject of the work. In this sense prelude applies sometimes to musical, or occasionally other, works which have something of the character of an introductory section or movement but are so constructed that they have intrinsic and independent value (Wordsworth’s poem “The Prelude”).

In ecclesiastical use preface applies to the prayer of exhortation to thanksgiving and of divine praise which opens the important part of a solemn Eucharistic service where the consecration of the bread and wine occurs. In its more common general sense preface applies specifically to a short discourse which is distinct from the literary work (as a treatise, a novel, a poem or collection of poems) which follows, is written usually by the author but sometimes by an editor or a friend, and has for its main purpose either to put the reader into the right frame of mind for the understanding or appreciation of the work he is about to read or to supply him with information that may be necessary to his proper understanding or use of it. When, however, a work is preceded by both a preface and an introduction, preface is usually applied to the introductory discourse written, and often also signed, by the author or editor, and introduction to the one which is definitely informative rather than personal in its character and usually carries no signature. In extended use preface may apply to something which serves as an introduction or prelude (as an introductory work on or a more or less tentative treatment of a subject) (Walter Lippmann’s book entitled A Preface to Morals) or to an act or speech, or series of acts or speeches, which has no other purpose than to prepare the way for what is to follow (they walked in the rose garden. “Do you read Utopias?” said Mr. Direck, cutting any preface, in the English manner—H. G. Wells). We fight for lost causes because we know that our defeat and dismay may be the preface to our successor’s victory—T. S. Eliot. Foreword when used in place of preface in reference to front matter of a book may suggest simplicity and brevity of treatment and more often than not applies to material prepared by someone other than the author. Exordium, a technical term of rhetoric, applies to a formal beginning, especially of an oration but sometimes of a written exposition or argument, in which the speaker or writer makes an approach to his subject by remarks intended to awaken the interest of his auditors or readers and to pave the way for their understanding of what he is to say or for their acceptance of his conclusions. Preamble applies to a formal introduction, often only an introductory paragraph (as in a statute, a constitution, a treaty, a deed, or a set of resolutions) which states the grounds, purposes, or guiding principles of what follows. It is sometimes used as a designation of a long monotonous preface.

Introductory adj * preliminary, preparatory, preface
Ant closing, concluding

Intrude, obtrude, interlope, butt in are comparable when meaning to thrust oneself or something in without invitation or authorization. Intrude both transitively and intransitively carries a strong implication of forcing someone or something in without leave, without right, or against the will of others; it often connotes rudeness, officiousness, or invasion of another’s property, time, or personal privacy (this court always had disavowed the right to intrude its judgment upon questions of policy or morals—Justice Holmes). Sergeant Lumley, unfairly intruding his official superiority into this theological discussion (Sayer). I stood there, feeling very abashed at intruding on all these busy people—Mannix. Obtrude in this relation retains much of its basic notion of pushing or extending something into view; it may imply nothing beyond this fact (I intended plain prose, but a rhyme obtruded itself and I became poetical—Cowper) or it may suggest the impropriety and objectionableness of the act or the disagreeableness of the offense (the first sin against style as against good manners is to obtrude or exploit personality—Quiller-Couch). Interloper implies an intersection of oneself in a place or position which has an injurious effect on one or both of the persons or things concerned (he regarded her new acquaintance as an interloping rival for her hand) (he dealt with the Communists as a Groton football coach with a bunch of interloping ruffians who don’t know the rules of the game—Time). Butt in implies an abrupt or offensive intrusion suggestive of the manner in which a horned animal attacks its enemy; in this sense the term usually suggests absence of ceremony, a sense of propriety, or decent restraint (it’s a thankless job to butt in and tell a man that in your important opinion his wife is a vampire bat—Sinclair Lewis).
intrusive 464  

<he left behind a big, white turkey gobbler. It would butt in when we fed the horses and was a nuisance generally—Siberts>

<i>Ant</i> stand off —<i>Con</i> withdraw, retire (see go); retreat, *recede

intrusive *impertinent, officious, meddlesome, obtrusive 
<i>Ant</i> intruding, butting in, interloping, intruding (see INTRUDE): inquisitive, prying, snoopy, nosy, *curious: interfering, meddling, intermeddling (see MEDDLE)

intuition 1 understanding, *reason

intuitive

intrude, obtrude, butt in, interlope: *enter, penetrate, probe: *permeate, pervade, impenetrable

invalidate *nullify, negate, annul, abrogate

invalidator *enforce, implement

invaluable *priceless, precious, valuable, dear, *costly, *expensive

invasion, incursion, raid, inroad are comparable when meaning an entrance effected by force or strategy. Invasion basically implies entrance upon another's territory with such hostile intentions as conquest, plunder, or use as a basis of operations (the Roman invasion of Britain) (in a well-planned Hitlerian invasion there is at first no shooting save by those who are taking their own lives—New Republic). In nonmilitary use it may imply encroachment, trespass, or an intrusion that involves an aggressive or hostile purpose <i>Ant</i> aggression, *attack, offense, offensive: trespass, violation, transgression, infringement, fraction, *breach: intruding or intrusion, interloping, butting in, obstructing or obstruction (see corresponding verbs at INTRUDE): encroachment, entrenchment (see corresponding verbs at TRESPASS)

invective *abuse, vituperation, obloquy, scurrility, bilingsgate

invent 1 *contrive, devise, frame, concoct

invent 2 *create, discover are comparable terms frequently confused in the sense of to bring into being something new. Invent (see also CONTRIVE) may stress fabrication of something new through the exercise of the imagination (a poet is a maker, as the word signifies: and he who cannot make, that is, invent, hath his name for nothing—Dryden) (this fund of knowledge seemed inexhaustible, for what he didn't know he invented—Alvin Redman) (the little stories she had invented for her two small daughters—Current Bio.) or it may stress the fabrication of something new and often useful as a result of study and thought; the word therefore often presupposes labor and ingenuity rather than inspiration (if the Semitic letters were not derived from Egypt they must have been invented by the Phoenicians—Cloud). However, invent often stresses the finding, as well as the bringing into being, of something new or hitherto unknown as the result of mental effort <physicists had to save the laws of conservation of energy and conservation of angular momentum . . . a new particle had to be invented—Marshall) (she was tired of inventing means for making the days and nights pleasant and capriciously variable for den invasion (as of cavalry or of air forces) may or may not suggest more preparation, more strategy, and more fury in attack than incursion, its close synonym (the raids in the Shenandoah Valley by Forrest's Confederate cavalry during 1863) (nightly bombing raids on London)

In international law, however, raid is applicable specifically to an incursion of armed forces that are unauthorized or unrecognized by any state into a country that is at peace; thus, an incursion of armed persons on one side of a border or boundary line into the adjoining country for a predatory or hostile purpose is technically a raid. In its extended use raid applies to a sudden descent or a flurry of activity intended usually to obtain the use, control, or possession of something; thus, officers of the law conduct a raid upon a gambling resort or a place where liquor is illicitly made or sold to obtain evidence and arrest offenders (the raids of government and industry on college personnel, especially in the fields of science —J. R. Butler) (before the last raid on the railroads by the various unions—Arden) Inroad may apply to a sudden hostile incursion or a forcible entering (aggressive war, as distinguished from mere plundering inroads —Freeman) (protecting their crops of barley from the inroads of sparrows—Frazer) but the term is also applied to an invasion that involves encroachment or advance especially at the expense of someone or something (foil and plastic are making inroads where glass once held undisputed sway—Ericson) (activities that make inroads upon his time and his health). 

<i>Ant</i> aggression, *attack, offense, offensive: trespass, violation, transgression, infringement, fraction, *breach: intruding or intrusion, interloping, butting in, obstructing or obstruction (see corresponding verbs at INTRUDE): encroachment, entrenchment (see corresponding verbs at TRESPASS)
inventory

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invincible

others—Van Vechten—Create stresses a causing of something to exist; it not only implies previous nonexistence but it often suggests an evoking of something into being out of, or as if out of, nothing (as by fiat, by an act of the will, or by inspiration) (God created the heaven and the earth—Gen 1:1) (the law creates rights) (the king created an earldom for his favorite) (to this strange force within him, to this power that created his works of art, there was nothing to do but submit—Huxley) (I do not believe that a sense of justice is innate, but I have been astonished to see how quickly it can be created—Russell) (modern science, which created this dilemma, is also capable of solving it—Bliven 1889) Discover (see also DISCOVER 2: REVEAL) presupposes both the existence of and a lack of knowledge about something; the term therefore implies the finding of such a thing, often as the result of mental or physical effort (as by exploration, investigation, or experiment) (remains of this Belgic culture have often been discovered—Jacquetta & Christopher Hawkes) (men who were fighting Communism long before McCarthy ever discovered it—Davis) (William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood)

Thus, in discriminative use one invents processes or ways of doing something, as well as instruments, tools, implements, or machines, but one discovers things which exist but have not yet been known (as lands, stars, or natural laws) (Newton invented the differential and the integral calculus . . . and discovered the laws of motion—Darrow)

Ana fabricate, fashion, form, shape, forge, *make: imagine, conceive, envision (see THINK): design, project, plan, plot, scheme (see under PLAN n): produce, turn out (see BEAR)

inventory n *list, register, schedule, catalog, table, roll, roster

invert vb transpose, *reverse

Ana upset, *overturn, capsize: interchange, *exchange: fabricate, fashion, form, shape, forge, *make:

inventory

inventory

invent vb transpose, *reverse

Ana upset, *overturn, capsize: interchange, *exchange: derange, disarrange (see DISORDER vb)

invest 1 induct, install, inaugurate, *initiate

Ana endow, endow (see DOWER): consecrate (see DEVOTE)

Ant divest, strip (of robes, insignia, power): unfrock 2 *besiege, beleaguer, blockade

investigation probe, inquest, inquisition, *inquiry, research

Ana inspection, examination, scrutiny, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE): surveying or survey, observing or observation (see corresponding verbs at SEE)

invertebrate, confirmed, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted are comparable when meaning so firmly established or settled that change is almost impossible. Invertebrate applies especially to something which has persisted so long and so obstinately that it has become a fixed habit or an almost inalterable custom or tradition (the growing infirmities of age manifest themselves in nothing more strongly than in an invertebrate dislike of interruption—Lamb) (supported by precedent so invertebrate that the chance of aban-

donment is small—Cardozo) When applied to a person, the term implies the formation of a seemingly ineradicable habit, attitude, or way of acting or behaving (an invertebrate smoker) (an invertebrate and formidable foe—Peacock) Confirmed applies chiefly to something which has grown stronger or firmer with time until it resists all attack or assault or attempts to uproot it (a confirmed belief in God) (a confirmed hatred of a person) not so easy to say that a confirmed anti-American mood has settled on the British people—Barbara Ward) Like invertebrate, it may also apply to a person who is such as he is described in the noun by the strengthening or crystallization of a taste, a vice or virtue, or an attitude (a confirmed bache-

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
inviolable

—H. O. Taylor— Something material (as a fortress) or intangible (as virtue) is impregnable when it is strong enough or sufficiently guarded to repel all attacks or assaults. [There is no such thing as impregnable defense against powerful aggressors who sneak up in the dark and strike without warning—Roosevelt] (Cato . . . was a fanatic, impregnable to argument, and not to be influenced by temptation—Froude) (there was always a traitor in the citadel; and after he (or generally she) had surrendered the keys, what was the use of pretending that it was impregnable?—Wharton) A thing is inexpugnable or unassailable either because it is impregnable or because it offers no point at which it can be attacked or no occasion or reason (as a weakness or a defect) for attacking or impugning (castles were often built at the tops of craggy mountains in the hope that they might be inexpugnable) (that we are conscious, sentient, evaluating and thinking creatures . . . is an inexpugnable fact of existence—Nagel) (nothing but an unassailable alibi would save them—Stong) (an argument so logical and convincing that it is unassailable) A person or thing is invulnerable that cannot be wounded or penetrated by a destructive weapon or piercing instrument (they had lived through the Nazi plague and, having survived, were henceforth invulnerable to its poison—Dean) (ironclad warships were once believed to be invulnerable) (how was one to pierce such hidebound complacency? It was invulnerable except to the Grace of God—Mackenzie)

Ana dauntless, undaunted, intrepid (see BRAVE)
Con conquerable, vanquishable, surmountable, subduable (see corresponding verbs at CONQUER)

inviolable

inviolable, *sacred, sacrosanct
Ana hallowed, consecrated, dedicated (see DEVOTE): *holy, sacred, blessed, divine, religious: pure, *chaste
inviolate sacrosanct, *sacred, inviolable
Ant violated —Con profaned, desecrated (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION): polluted, defiled (see CONTAMINATE)

invite, bid, solicit, court, woo are comparable when they mean to request or encourage a person or a thing to come to one or to fall in with one's plans or desires. Invite in its ordinary and usual sense implies a courteous request to go somewhere, do something, or give some assistance which it is assumed will be agreeable or at least not disagreeable to the person invited (invite a few friends to dinner) (invite an acquaintance to spend the night) (invite an audience to express their opinions) (he had invited all the girls, including Miss Tolman, to go out with him on various occasions, but . . . everyone declined his offer—Woodfin) In this sense the word usually implies providing an opening for those who otherwise might hesitate to go, or do, or give without such a request. Consequently, in its extended sense invite implies providing an opening by such means as a seductive manner or a challenging statement or policy that serves as an encouragement or temptation to another (dress so conspicuously as to invite unwelcome attentions) (fairly imminent collisions invited by the Captain's inept conning—Heggen) (the writer who brings a new revelation is not necessarily called upon to invite the execution of the herd—Ellis) Bid (see also COMMAND vb) is increasingly uncommon in the sense of to request the presence of (as at a feast or great occasion) (as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage—Mt 22:9) but bid (usually with for), from its sense to offer a price for something up for sale, has developed an extended use in which it means to make an effort to win or attract or an appeal (as for sympathy) and in this use sometimes comes close to invite in conveying the notion of offering a tempting opening for something (in his difficult position he could not bid for their affection; he wanted only their obedience—Douglas) (stood for Congress in this virgin district, bidding for the support of labor—Green Peyton) Solicit (see also ASK 2) differs from invite in stressing urgency or need rather than courtesy in requesting or encouraging (we may come to feel a little impatient at having our pity so continually solicited—Edmund Wilson) (moral utterances which solicit the obedience of children—Melden) Court basically implies an endeavor to win the favor of a person (as by flattery, attentions, or making love). Only in its extended sense does it imply a providing of a favorable opportunity by tempting or encouraging something to come to one or to happen to one (he kept himself somewhat aloof, seeming to avoid notice rather than to court it—Arnold) (so long as a scientific textbook is obsolete in a decade or less, to poetize science is to court mortality—Lower) Woo basically implies amorous courting; consequently, in its extended sense it frequently stresses a drawing to or upon one by allurements, blandishments, and extravagant promises (Herodotus in search of a public . . . found a favorable "pitch," as we should say, and wooed an audience to him—Quiller-Couch) (the young author trying to woo his reader, via heavy humor—Keene) Occasionally the word is very close to court and scarcely distinguishable from it (you . . . woo your own destruction—Shak)

Ana *ask, request, solicit: *lure, tempt, entice, inveigle: excite, *provoke, stimulate

involve 1 *entangle, enmesh
Ana complicate (see complicated under COMPLEX): confuse, confound, *mistake: perplex, mystify, nonplus, *puzzle
2 comprehend, embrace, *include, imply, subsume
Ana import, *mean, signify, denote: bespeak, attest, betoken, *indicate, argue, prove
Con eliminate, *exclude, rule out, debar
3 Involve, implicate mean to bring a person or thing into circumstances or a situation from which he or it is not easily freed. Involve (see also INCLUDE) need not impute disgrace to the circumstances or situation but it usually implies complication or entangling and often suggests extreme embarrassment (the war may not end until every nation in Europe is involved in it) (the case of a judge involved by the exigencies of his office in a strong conflict between public duty and private interest or affection—Colvin) (had been involved in some affair that made it uncomfortable for him to return to live in that city—Anderson) (the controversies . . . moved on in all their ugliness to involve others—J. M. Brown) Implicate usually implies a disgraceful connection or one that casts a reflection on a person's reputation; it may even imply definite proof of association with a crime (the detectives discovered that an uncle of the child was implicated in its kidnapping) (they were unable to implicate any of the suspected political leaders in the conspiracy to defraud the city) (all men, even the most virtuous and wise, are implicated in historic evil—Niebuhr)

Ana ensnare, entrap, snare, trap (see CATCH): connect, link, associate, relate (see JOIN): *embarrass: fetter, shackles, *hamper
Con *extricate, disentangle, untangle, disembarrass: disengage, *detach: *free, liberate, release

involved intricate, complicated, knotty, *complex
Ana confused, muddled (see CONFUSE): perplexing, puzzling, bewildering, mystifying (see PUZZLE): difficult, *hard, arduous
Con simple, *easy, facile
invincible, unconquerable, indomitable
Ant vulnerable

inward *inner, interior, internal, inside, intestine

inbred, innate, inborn: ingrained, inherent, intrinsic, constitutional: intimate; familiar: objective; sensible, material: heartfelt, unfeigned, sincere: impalpable, imperceptible
Ant outward —Con *outer, exterior, external, outside: extraneous, extrinsic, foreign, alien: spiritual (see corresponding noun at soul)

irate *angry, wrathful, wroth, mad, indignant, acrimonious
Ant pacify

iridescent opalescent, opaline, prismatic
Ant acrimonious

irksome, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, boring mean burdened because tiring or boring or both. A person or thing is irksome that inspires distaste, reluctance, or impatience because of its demand for effort not made easy by interest (the difficulty of grasping abstract statements made learning very irksome to me—Symonds) (I did not feel any longer . . . the restless and irksome desire to contrive whimsy redundant—Edmund Wilson) (he laid down his irksome editorial duties and spent the next fifteen years in farming—F. H. Chase) A person or thing is tiresome that is dull and unenlivening and therefore is either intensely boring or soon productive of fatigue (it is tiresome to be funny for a whole evening—Scott) (the second curate was Chator, who was so good as sometimes to be nearly tiresome—Mackenzie) (we think of rain as tiresome and uncomfortable—Binyon) (the importunity of the little boys was tiresome when one wanted to be alone—Huxley) A person or, especially, a thing is wearisome that exhausts one's strength or patience through long-continued or constant call for effort, exertion, or attention, or through tiresome uniformity of character (these high wild hills and rough uneven ways draws out our miles, and makes them wearisome—Shak) (the same wearisome round of stereotyped habits—Wilde) (the acquisition of exact knowledge is apt to be wearisome, but it is essential to every kind of excellence—Russell) A person or thing is tedious that is tiresomely monotonous, slow, or prolix (life is as tedious as a twice-told tale vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man—Shak) (they had no longer any surprises for me . . . I knew pretty well what they would say; even their love affairs had a tedious banality—Maugham) A person or thing is boring that causes boredom; the term is perhaps the most positive of the group since it implies an active depressing, wearying, or annoying (the story is badly cluttered by unnecessary and boring wordiness—New Yorker) (he's so boring . . . I hate boring people. I'm out for a good time—Lowry)

irritable choleric, splenetic, testy, touchy, cranky, cross mean easily angered or enraged. Irritable implies the possession of a fiery or inflammable temperament or a tendency to flare up at the slightest provocation (the irritable but kindhearted deity who indulges in copious curses to ease his feelings—Cohen) (a peppery and irritable old gentleman—Choleric implies excitability of temper, unreasonable anger, and usually an impatient and uniformly irritable frame of mind (that in the captain's but a choleric word, which in the soldier is flat blasphemy—Shak) (a testy and choleric gentleman easily wrought into passion—Cooper) Splenetic implies a similar temperament, but one especially given to moroseness and fits of bad temper which exhibit themselves in angry, sullen, or intensely peevish moods, words, or acts (that splenetic temper, which seems to grudge brightness to the flames of hell—Landor) (he was not splenetic: nay, he proved in the offending volume he could be civil, courteous, chivalrous—Meredith) Testy implies irascibility occasioned by small annoyances (the testy major was in fume to find no hunter standing waiting—Masefield) (he raged . . . he was ever more autocratic, more testy—Sinclair Lewis) Touchy suggests readiness to take offense; it often connotes undue irritability or oversensitiveness (I am not touchy under criticism—Stevenson) (touchy about their own sacred symbols and alert to interpret any slight as an insult—Blanshard) Cranky and cross often mean little more than irritable and difficult to please. But cranky may carry an implication of the possession of set notions, fixed ideas, or unvarying standards which predispose one to anger or a show of temper when others (as in their speech, conduct, requests, or work) do not conform to these standards (a cranky critic) (a cranky employer) (a cranky teacher) (old age seemed to settle on me; I quarreled with the trader—Rosenfeld) Cross, on the other hand, may imply a being out of sorts that results in irascibility or irritability but only for the duration of one's mood (sometimes, when I am cross and cannot sleep, I engage in angry contests with the opinions I object to—L. P. Smith) (the attempts to persuade the Intelligent Woman that she is having a glorious treat when she is in fact being . . . bored and tired out and sent home cross and miserable—Shaw) (I am irritable, fractious, snappish, waspishly, hungrily, querulous, petulant, peevish: *impatient, restive, jumpy, jittery, nervous: crabbish, surly (see Sullen) Con good-natured, amiable, complaisant, obliging; *calm, placid, serene, tranquil

irate *angry, wrathful, wroth, mad, indignant, acrimonious
Ant provoked, exasperated, nettled, irritated (see irri-
rate); incensed, infuriated, enraged (see anger vb) Con *forbearing, tolerant, element, lenient, indulgent, merciful

irreducible *angry, fury, *anger, indignation, wrath

irrelevant pacific, peaceful, peaceful, pacifist, pacificist
Ant conciliating or conciliatory, placating or placatory, propitiating or propitiatory (see corresponding verbs at
irregular, anomalous, unnatural mean outside the sphere that is regarded as normal, proper, or fitting under the circumstances; an unnatural sentence does not conform to what is regarded as normal or proper; an unnatural law or custom is one that does not conform to what is regarded as normal or proper.

irritable, fractious, peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant imply extreme excitability of temperament, often asso- ciated with or arising from fatigue or physical or mental strain; an irritable child is one that is easily disturbed or distracted.

irrational — Con reasonable (see rational): *wise, judicious, sage, sapient, prudent, sane, sensible: *logical

irregular, anomalous, unnatural mean outside the sphere of what conforms to or is explainable by law, rule, custom, or principle. Irregular implies failure to conform to a rule, a law, or a pattern, especially to one imposed for the sake of uniformity in method, practice, or conduct; thus, an irregular marriage is one that does not conform to the regulations of church or state; an irregular verse does not accord with the practice of civilized nations or conventional military theory; irregular conduct may or may not be morally reprehensible, but it defines the code or standard of the community or class (there are always irregular fluctuations of the seasonal weather—Ellis) — made a strong appeal for the highest standards of medical education in an effort to combat irregular practitioners—Vieits (the chicanery was gross, the forgery patent, the procedure irregular and illegal—Woodward) Anomalous stresses lack of conformity to what might be expected of a thing because of the class or type to which it belongs, the laws which govern its existence, or the environment in which it is found (all seven of us . . . appeared on the show under pseudonyms. Which may sound highly anomalous, considering that we’re the children of vaudevil- lians, a sect not usually antipathetic to publicity—Salinger) Sometimes it specifically implies inconsistency or a conflict of principles (acts so anomalous, in such startling contradiction to all our usual ways and accepted notions of life and its value—L. P. Smith) and sometimes it specifically means unclassifiable or indefinable (anamal- lous literary works such as Holmes’s Autocrat of the Breakfast Table) (anomalous emotions) Again, it sug- gests the absence of the character or of the character- istics essential to a thing of its kind (a few judges find in her last book new support for the anomalous opinion that its author was a great artist, but insignificant—Beck) or it suggests a contradiction between the professed aims or intentions of a person or institution and the conditions in which that person or institution exists or finds himself or itself at a given time (the anomalous position of the free Negro in the slave states—E. T. Price) — President Wilson found himself in an anomalous position when Congress rejected his proposal that the United States enter the League of Nations) Unnatural is the strongest of these words in its implication of censure, especially when it implies a violation of natural law or of principles accepted by all civilized men as based on reason and essential to the well-being of society. In such cases it often specifically connotes moral perversion (an unnatural practice) (she had been vicious and unnatural; she had thriven on hatred—S. S. Van Dine) or abnormal indifference or cruelty (an unnatural parent) Sometimes the word merely means contrary to what is received as natural, either because it is not in accordance with the normal course of nature (snow in May is unnatural in this region) or because it is not in keeping with what one regards as normal, balanced, proper, or fitting under the circum- stances (an unnatural appetite for acid foods) (a poetic language which appears natural to one age will appear unnatural or artificial to another—Day Lewis) (thy deed, inhuman and unnatural provokes this deluge most un- natural—Shak.) (a daughter who left her father was an unnatural daughter; her womanhood was suspect—Woolf) Ana aberrant, *abnormal, atypical: *exceptional: sin- gular, unique, *strange, peculiar, odd, queer

irreligious, unreligious, nonreligious, godless mean not religious or not devoted to the ends of religion. Irreligious is not only the most common of the negative forms of religious but the most clearly defined in meaning, for it implies not merely lack of religion but hostility to religion or courses in opposition to it or in violation of its precepts (that non-churchgoers are not necessarily irreligious—Streit) It may even suggest impiety, immorality, or blasphemy (it is unworthy a religious man to view an irreligious one either with alarm or aversion—Carlyle) (they are so irreligious that they exploit popular religion for professional purposes without delicacy or scruple—Shaw) Unreligious, a somewhat uncommon term, implies nothing more than lack of religion; it therefore applies aptly to men, their utterances, or their works and suggests merely the absence of religion or of religious training or religious ideas (the popular poetry . . . became . . . unreligious . . . in some parts irreligious—Milman) Nonreligious applies not so much to persons as to institu- tions, activities, projects, and themes for art that are out- side the sphere or province of religion or not under the control of a religious body; it therefore comes close in meaning to secular (see under profane 1) (nonre- ligious education) (nonreligious charitable societies) (made it hard for them to trust a nonreligious institu- tion, such as the State University—Amer. Guide Series: Ind.) Ungodly often comes close to irreligious, but it carries a stronger suggestion of disobedience to or defiance of divine law (blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly—Ps 1:1) (they de- cided to leave so ungodly a land—Usher) Godless commonly implies atheism or agnosticism and often definitely implies rejection of religion (godless philoso- phers) (godless teachings) (here were devout god- less people: their only monument the asphalt road—T. S. Eliot) (fiercely predicting the end of Lorenzo and all his godless court—Moorehead) Ana *impius, profane, blasphemous, sacrilegious; *im- moral, amoral, unmoral

Ant religious —Con pious, *devout

irritable, fractious, peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, pettyish, fretful, querulous apply to persons or to their moods or dispositions in the sense of showing impa- tience or anger without due or sufficient cause. Irritable implies extreme excitability of temperament, often asso- ciated with or arising from fatigue or physical or mental

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
irritate, exasperate, nettle, provoke, aggravate, rile, peeve are comparable when meaning to excite a feeling of angry annoyance in a person. Something which irritates greatly from momentary impatience to an outburst of rage <the chattering crowd, with their rude jokes ... irritated him sharply—Anderson> <her intensity, which would leave no emotion on a normal plane, irritated the youth into a frenzy—D. H. Lawrence> Something which exasperates arouses bitter or intense irritation. The word, however, sometimes expresses nothing more than keen vexation or annoyance <an opportunity to ... aggravate his poor patient wife, and exasperate his children, and make himself generally obnoxious—Simeon Ford> <though she could exasperate she could never offend—H. G. Wells> Something which nettles irritates sharply but momentarily and stings or pierces more than angers <a touch of light scorn in her voice netted me—W. J. Locke> Something which provokes awaken strong annoyance or vexation and often incites to action <a Tory resident who provoked local animosities and was charged with high treason—Amer. Guide Series: Conn.> <they were definitely provoked to extremity before they did this deed—Ingamells> <he is provoked with me for not talking more—Burney> Something which aggravates (see also intensify) arouses displeasure, irritation, or anger often through prolonged or repeated action <nothing so aggravates an earnest person as a passive resistance—Melville> <it is aggravating to have you talking about so small a business—Shaw> Something which riles disturbs one's serenity or peace and agitates as well as angers <with raucous taunting and ribald remarks to rile up the proprietor—White> Something which peeves excites often petty or querulous fretfulness or a tendency to be easily irritated <he is easily peeved after a restless night> <when she ventured to criticize it, even mildly, he was peeved—Auchincloss> Ana *annoy, vex, irk, bother: incense, *anger, madden, exasperate, nettlesome <angry, exasperate, nettlesome>, *peeved—Auchincloss> Con appease, mollify, conciliate, propitiate, placate, pacify: gratify, *please, gladden, delight isolate, segregate, seclude, insulate, sequester are comparable when they mean to separate from the usual or natural environment, but they are rarely interchangeable because their other and differentiating implications are often stressed. Isolate implies a detachment of someone or something from his or its usual environment so that he or it will not affect or be affected by others. The word is sufficiently general that it may be employed in reference either to an actual separation or to a separation that is merely virtual, arbitrary, or speculative <several villages were isolated by the storm> <find an isolated spot in which to live> <isolate scarlet fever patients> <under present conditions no country can remain isolated> <he was singularly isolated, untouched by the interest or the gossip or the knowledge of the life about him—Deland> <we must remember that religion, like some chemical substance, is never found pure, and it is not at all easy to isolate it in order to learn its properties—Inge>Segregate also applies to both persons and things and usually refers to them as a group separated from the mass or main body; its secondary implication is often, therefore, a collection in one place, one class, or one mass and it may in addition imply a holding incommunicado <segregating lepers, the rest of the population> <segregate hardened criminals from first offenders in prisons> <that innate instinct which ever aimed at uniting, not segregating groups of Christians—D. P. Hughes> Seclude implies a removal or withdrawal from external influences; it is therefore often used reflexively or at least in such a way as to imply acceptance of the protection afforded by such removal or withdrawal <secluded in their childhood from all evil influences> <so she sat hard and close at her writing...
isolation

* solitude, alienation, seclusion

detail, particular are comparable when meaning one issue

vb

n

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Brook invents fresh and interesting groupings—Knight> <Winchester rather than London was regarded as the official capital of the peripatetic monarchy—Trevelyan> <our peripatetic Scot has apparently ended his fictional travels and is now shorebound—Barkham> Ambulatory and ambulant both basically imply a relation to walking and may be close synonyms of pedestrian (ambulatory exercise) <an ambulant traveler> but more often they stress, as pedestrian does not, ability to walk or capa-

J

| jabber | chatter, *chat, gab, patter, prate, prattle, babble, gabble, gibber |
| jack n | *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon |
| jade vb | exhaust, fatigue, *tire, weary, fag, tucker |
| Ana oppress, *depress, weigh: enervate, *unnerv, unman,emasculate: sate; *satiate, surfeit, pall, cloy |
| Ant refresh — Con *renew, restore, rejuvenate |
| jail vb | incarcerate, *imprison, immune, intern |
| Ana confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit: shackles, manacle, fetter (see HAMPER) |
| Con release, liberate, *free |
| jam vb | crowd, squeeze, *press, bear, bear down |
| Ana *crush, squash: *pack, cram, stuff, ram, tamp |
| jam n | *predicament, plight, fix, dilemma, quandary, scrape, pickle |
| Ana *difficulty, vicissitude: pinch, strait, exigency (see JUNCTURE) |
| jape n | joke, jest, quip, Witticism, wisecrack, crack, gag |
| jar n | jolt, *impact, impingement, collision, clash, shock, concussion, percussion |
| Ana shaking or shake, quaking or quake (see SHAKE vb): vibration, fluctuation, swaying or sway (see corresponding verbs at SWING): agitation, disturbance, upsetting or upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE) |
| jargon *dialect, vernacular, patois, linguo, cant, argot, slang |
| Ana idiom, speech (see LANGUAGE): abracadabra, *gibberish |
| jaunt n | excursion, *journey, trip, tour, voyage, cruise, expedition, pilgrimage |
| jaw vb | upbraid, *scold, rate, berate, tongue-lash, bawl, chew out, wig, rail, revile, vituperate |
| Ana censure, denounce, repprobate, reprehend, *critici-

jerk 471

| Ana | suspicious, mistrustful (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY): *doubtful, dubious: vigilant, *watchful, alert: disturbing, mistrusting (see DISTRUST) |
| jeer vb | scoff, gib, fleer, gird, sneer, flout |
| Ana | deride, *ridicule, mock, taunt, twist, rally |
| Con | *fawn, truckle, toady, cringe, cower |
| jejun e | *insipid, vapid, flat, wishy-washy, inane, banal |
| Ana | thin, slight, slim, tenuous: arid, *dry: attenuated, extenuated, diluted, thinned (see THIN vb): meager, skimpy, exquisite |
| Con | lavish, *profuse, lush, luxuriant, prodigal, exuberant: nutritious, nourishing, sustaining (see corresponding nouns at FOOD) |
| jell, jelly vb | *coagulate, congeal, set, curdle, clot |
| Ana | solidify, *harden: cohere, *stick: *compact, consolidate |
| jeopardize | *venture, hazard, risk, chance, endanger, imperil |
| Ana | brave, dare (see FACE): meet, encounter, confront, face |
| jeopardy | peril, hazard, risk, *danger |
| Ana | threatening or threat, menacing or menace (see THREATEN): exposure (see EXPOSITION): liability, susceptibility, sensibility, openness (see corresponding adjectives at LIABLE): *chance, accident, hap |
| Con | security, safety (see corresponding adjectives at SAFE): immunity, *exemption |
| jeremiad | *rirade, diatribe, philippic |
| jerk, snap, twitch, yank mean to make a sudden sharp quick movement. Jerk implies especially such a movement that is graceless, forceful, and abrupt <thought the train would never start, but at last the whistle blew and the carriages jerked forward—Carter> <jerked her head back if she'd been struck in the face—Dorothy Baker> Snap may imply a quite quick action abruptly terminated (as a biting or trying to bite sharply or a seizing, clutching, |
snatching, locking, or breaking suddenly) (the hounds were fine beasts... lank and swift as they bent over the food to snap it into their jaws and swallow it quickly—Roberts) or a taking of possession with avidity (the syndicate snapping up land as soon as it is for sale) or sometimes specifically an uttering with the brisk sharpness of a bite (snapped at her because Theophilus did not eat enough—Deland) Twitch may imply quick, sometimes spasmodic, and often light action combining tugging and jerking (shrunken body continued to jerk and quiver, fingers twitching at his gray beard—Gerald Beaumont) (one Pan ready to twitch the nymph’s last garment off—Browning) (put out his hand to twitch off a twig as he passed—Cather) Yank implies a quick and heavy tugging and pulling (watches her two-year-old stand passive while another child yanks his toy out of his hand—Mead) (she yanked the corset strings viciously—Chidsey) (by means of long blocks and tackle they set to yanking out logs—S. E. White)

Ana *pull, drag: toss, sling, fling: *throw: *wrench, wrench, wring

jest n 1 *joke, jape, quip, witticism, wisecrack, crack, gag

Ana *badinage, persiflage, raillery: bantering or banter, chaffing or chaff, jollying or jolly (see BANTER vb): twitting or twit, ridiculing or ridicule, deriding or derision (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

2 *fun, sport, game, play

Ana diversion, entertainment, amusement (see under AMUSE): joviality, merriment (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY)

Con seriousness, earnestness, soberness, gravity (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)

jette *wharf, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, levee

jib vb balk, shy, boggle, stickle, stick, strain, *demur, scruple

jibe *agree, harmonize, accord, conform, square, tally, *wharf, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, levee

jittery *instant, moment, minute, second, flash, twinkling, split second

jittery nervous, *impatient, unquiet, restless, restive, uneasy, fidgety

Ana unnerved, unmanned (see UNNERVE): perturbed, agitated, disrupted, upset, decomposed (see DISCOMPOSE)

Con collected, composed, *cool, imperturbable, non-chalant: serene, placid, *calm, tranquil

job *task, duty, assignment, stint, chore

Ana office, *function, duty, province: business, concern, *affair, matter, thing

jocose jocular, facetious, humorous, *witty

Ana waggish, sportive, *playful, roguish: comic, comical, *laughable, ludicrous, droll, funny: *merry, jolly, jovial, jocund, blithe

Con *serious, earnest, grave, sober, solemn, sedate, staid

jocular jocose, humorous, facetious, *witty

Ana jovial, jolly, *merry: *playful, sportive: funny, droll, comical, *laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous

Con grave, earnest, solemn, somber, *serious

jocund blithe, *merry, jolly, jovial

Ana joyful, joyous, cheerful, lighthearted, happy, *glad: mirthful, hilarious, gleeful (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH): sportive, *playful, mischievous

Con gloomy, morose, glum, *sullen, saturnine, dour: sedate, grave, solemn, somber, staid, *serious

job vb *poke, prod, nudge

Ana *shake, agitate: *push, shove

jog n poke, prod, nudge (see under POKE vb)

join, conjoin, combine, unite, connect, link, associate, relate are comparable when meaning to attach or fasten one thing to another or several things to each other or to become so attached or fastened. Join stresses the bringing or coming together into contact or conjunction of two or more clearly discrete things (join two pieces of wood by dovetailing them) (join skirt lengths by seams) (join hands) (join a man and woman in matrimony) (where the Mohawk river joins the Hudson) (the opponents of the proposal decided to join forces) Join is the specific term when one becomes a member of a group or enters into the company of others as an equal (join a society) (join a church) (join a group at a reception) (join the army) Conjoin usually emphasizes both the separateness and distinctness of the items to be joined and the unity that results from their being joined (from inborn indolence, conjoined with avarice, pride, and lust of power, has sprung slavery in all its protean forms—Henry Wilson) (Death Valley probably received the discharge of both the Amargosa and Mohave rivers, whose conjoined waters entered from the south—Jour. of Geology) Combine in this relation (see also UNITE 2) adds to join the implications of a mingling or blending and may stress more heavily the idea of a common purpose or end; it is therefore used of two or more, often immaterial, things that may lose or seem to lose their identities and become merged in each other (combine the ingredients for a cake) (a gift for combining, for fusing into a single phrase, two or more diverse impressions—T. S. Eliot) (with this quality of temperance was combined in Socrates a rare measure of independence and moral courage—Dickinson) (combined literary distinction with a high degree of historical objectivity—Van Alstyne) Unite, like combine, implies a blending that effects the loss of individual identity of the elements, but, like conjoin, unite stresses the singleness of the result (unite two pieces of metal by welding) (our peace will, like a broken limb united, grow stronger for the breaking—Shak) (particles which can unite to form a new compound—T. S. Eliot) (in France the whole people saw at once what was upon them; the single word patrie was enough to unite them in a common enthusiasm and stern determination—Inge) Connect implies a loose or, at least, an obvious attachment of things to each other and the preservation not only of each thing’s identity but also of the evidence of its physical or logical separateness; in this way it is distinguishable from join when physical attachment is implied; thus, a wall is built up of bricks joined, rather than connected, together by cement but a chain is made by connecting a succession of steel links; often connect implies an intervening element or medium which permits joint movement and intercommunication (connect two railway coaches by means of a coupler) (connect two islands with a bridge) (ligaments serve to connect bones at a joint) (a minor road which connects highways) When the idea of logical attachment is uppermost, connect usually implies that the ideas, events, or things whether material or immaterial have a bearing on each other (as of cause and effect, generic likeness, or reference to the same person or thing) (the two incidents were connected) (the police have now sufficient evidence to connect the suspect with the bombing) (she could not connect her mother’s meanness with the magnitude of what had happened—Auchincloss) (anything connected with Napoleon is of interest to them) Connect, especially in the passive, is preferable to join when used in reference to organizations or groups and looseness of attachment, impermanence, or subordination is implied (nobody connected with the paper ever makes a public appearance without being challenged—Bliven b. 1889) Link, with its underlying reference to one of the parts of a chain, is usually more emphatic than connect in implying firmness.
of attachment; it is therefore the more precise word when one wishes to preserve the basic implications of connect and yet to avoid its common connotations of a weak or severable attachment; thus, to link a person with a crime is, by implication, to have ample evidence of his involve-
ment with it (Augustus set himself to revive the state religion . . . as part of his policy of linking up past and present, and as an instrument in securing the restoration of the old morality—Buchan) (none of the subjects that linked us together could be talked about in a bar—Nevil Shute) (mobilize civilian science and link it effectively with the war effort—Baxter) Associate primarily implies a joining with another usually in an amiable relationship and on terms of equality (a group of men associated in business) (when bad men combine, good men must associate—Burke) (my father's conviction that they were too lowly to associate with me, when it was so clear that I was too poor to associate with them, may have had some sort of imaginary validity for him; but for me it was snobbish nonsense—Shaw) In its extended use as referred to things, the implication of companionship on equal terms gives way to the implication of a connection in logic or in thought which comes naturally or involun-
tarily to the mind of the observer either because the things traditionally go together, or naturally or rightfully belong together, or for some reason have come to be linked together in one's thoughts (for the artist life is always a discipline, and no discipline can be without pain. That is so even of dancing, which of all the arts is most associated in the popular mind with pleasure—Ellis) (surréalism has been associated with psychological and intellectual atmosphere common to periods of war—Bernard Smith) (a fir tree is not a flower, and yet it is associated in my mind with primroses—Jeffries) Relate implies a connection, or an attempt to show a connection, between two or more persons or things. In reference to persons it implies a connection through a common ancestor or through marriage (John and James are remotely related to each other) In reference to things or to persons objectively regarded, it implies that each has some bearing on the other and often indicates the existence of a real or presumed logical connection (related his misfortunes to events which preceded them) (the two circumstances are not related) (their ability to relate what they observe to what they know or have previously observed—Hilbreth)


**Ant** disjoint: part —Con *separate, sever, Sunder: *detach, disengage: disentangle, untangle, disembarrass (see EXTRICATE)

**Joint, articulation, suture** denote a place where two things are united or the mechanism by which they are united. Joint is the most inclusive of these terms and is freely usable in reference both to anatomical and mechanical structures. In anatomical reference it applies to a junction whether rigidly fixed or capable of more or less complex movements of two skeletal parts (as vertebrate bones or cartilages or molluscan shell valves) and is the one of these terms that is equally applicable to the bodily region or part at which there is such a junction (the knee joint) (the joint at the elbow is flexible) (he aches in every joint) Similarly, in mechanical reference, joint applies to a junction between two parts that serves as a coupling and may be rigid (a dovetail joint at the corner of a drawer) (a joint in a gas pipe) (mortar joints between bricks carefully finished to shed water) or may form a flexible union (a swivel joint) (the ball joints . . . have a lateral as well as up-and-down action, thus cushioning against bumps—Ford Times) or even (as in a universal joint) one through which motion is transmitted from one part to the other. Articulation is chiefly an anatomical term, though it has some extended use (see under INTE-
GRATE). Anatomically articulation is applicable to the same parts of the skeleton as joint but distinctively it implies, as joint does not, the fitting together or adjustment of two parts or bones with relation not only to each other but to the entire structure and its function and is therefore not applicable, as joint is, to the bodily region or part where a joint occurs. It is especially appropriate when the mechanism of a joint or the elements entering into its formation are under consideration (ball-and-socket structure of a movable articulation) (various articulations are supported by ligaments) (the synovial membrane reduces friction at an articulation) The word may also denote the process of joining or the adjustment in joining (in the flat bones the articulations usually take place at the edges—Henry Gray) Suture is used of a joint or articulation that suggests a seam or that has been brought about by sewing (the joints of the two parts of a pea pod are called respectively the ventral and dorsal sutures) (the form of articulation observable in the skull where two flat bones meet in a line is called a suture) Suture is used in surgery of a seam, especially of one whereby two edges of an incision are brought together so that they may ultimately unite.

**Joke. jest, jape, quip, witticism, wisecrack, crack, gag** are comparable when they mean a remark, story, or action intended to evoke laughter. Joke, when applied to a story or remark, suggests something designed to promote good humor and especially an anecdote with a humorous twist at the end; when applied to an action, it often signifies a practical joke, usually suggesting a fooling or deceiving of someone at his expense, generally though not necessarily good humor in intent (everyone knows the old joke, that "black horses eat more than white horses," a puzzling condition which is finally cleared up by the statement that "there are more black horses"—Reilly) (issues had become a hopeless muddle and national politics a biennial joke—Wecter) (a child hiding mother's pocketbook as a joke) (the whole tale turns out to be a monstrous joke, a deception of matchless cruelty—Redman) Jest may connote raillery or ridicule but more generally suggests humor that is light and sportive (continu-
ally . . . making a jest of his ignorance—J. D. Beresford) (won fame by jests at the foibles of his time, but . . . his pen was more playful than caustic—Williams & Pollard) Jape is identical with jest or joke (the merry japes of fundamentally irresponsible young men—Edmund Fuller) (the japes about sex still strike me as being prurient rather than funny—McCarten) Quip suggests a quick, neatly turned, witty remark (full of wise saws and homely illustrations, the epigram, the quip, the jest—Cardozo) (many quips at the expense of individuals and their villages—Med) (enlivened their reviews with quips—Dunham) Witticism, wisecrack, and crack all apply to a clever or witty, especially a biting or sarcastic, remark, generally serving as a retort (all the charming witticisms of English lecturers—Sevareid) (a vicious witticism at the expense of a political opponent) (merely strolls by, makes a goofy wisecrack or screwball suggestion—Hugh Humphreys) (though the gravity of the situation forbade their utterance, I was thinking of at least three priceless cracks I could make—Wodehouse) Gag, which in this relation basically signifies an interpolated joke or laugh-provoking piece of business, more generally applies to a remark, story, or piece of business considered.

**Ana** analogous words  
**Ant** antonyms  
**Con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
funny, especially one written into a theatrical, movie, radio, or television script. Sometimes the word has extended its meaning to signify a trick whether funny or not but usually one considered foolish <gags grown venerable in the service of the music halls—Times Lit. Sup.> <the gag was not meant to be entirely funny—Newsweek> <gave a party the other night and pulled a really constructive gag . . . had every guest in the place vaccinated against smallpox—Hollywood Reporter> <a frivolous person, given to gags and foolishness>

Jollity hilarity, glee, *mirth

Jolly adj jovial, jocund, *merry, blithe

Jot n jar, shock, *impact, impingement, collision, clash, concussion, percussion

Journal, periodical, newspaper, magazine, review, organ are comparable when denoting a publication which appears regularly at stated times. Basically, a journal is a publication which is issued daily and gives an account of matters of interest occurring during the preceding twenty-four hours. Continued use, however, has made it an acceptable designation both of a publication that appears less often (as a weekly, a monthly, or a quarterly) (<the Hibbert Journal> appeared every three months and called itself a journal—Mackenzie) and of one that is the official publication of some special group (<the Journal of the American Medical Association> Periodical applies to a publication appearing at regular intervals and especially to weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies (<the periodicals are assembled in a special room of the library> Newspaper is the usual term for a sheet or group of sheets of which the main function is to provide the news of the day and which is usually issued daily; such a publication is called a journal only in formal speech or writing, although those whose profession is writing for newspapers are often termed journalists and although the language and style believed to be typical of the newspaper is commonly called jounalese. Magazine applies chiefly to a periodical, often illustrated, that offers a miscellaneous collection of articles, fiction, poetry, descriptive sketches, and commentary. Review applies to a periodical that emphasizes critical writings or articles commenting on important events and significant questions of the day. Organ usually applies to a publication by an organization (as a political party, church, business, or institution) that gives news of interest to its members or adherents or presents its particular principles and views authoritatively (<Science is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science>)

Journey, voyage, tour, trip, jaunt, excursion, cruise, expedition, pilgrimage mean travel or a passage from one place to another. Journey, the most comprehensive term in general use, carries no particular implications of the distance, duration, destination, purpose, or mode of transportation involved (<plans a journey to California> <wished him a happy journey home> <the journey to Italy will not take more than two months> <a journey of twenty-five miles in Britain will often afford . . . much variety of scenery—Stamp> <the sound film took four years to make the journey from Hollywood to Rome—Jarratt> Voyage normally implies a journey of some length over water, especially a sea or ocean (<with a fair sea voyage, and a fair land journey, you will be soon at his dear side—Dickens> <Gordon made the voyage from San Francisco around the Horn on a big fully-rigged Glasgow sailing ship—Current Biog.> but sometimes it may indicate a journey through air or space (<through the long 109-day, 180,000,000 mile voyage, Mariner was precisely controlled—Christian Science Monitor> Tour applies to a somewhat circular journey from place to place that ends when one reaches one’s starting point (<set out on a walking tour> <tour of Western Europe> <penologists made a tour of all the prisons in the state> <my next design was to make a tour round the island—Defoe> <left in September for a seven-week goodwill tour of northern and western Europe—Current Biog.> Trip is the preferable word when referring to a relatively short journey, especially one for business or pleasure (<his new position requires frequent trips to New York> <the English came over in droves on the day trips—A. V. Davis> <surveys revealed that 59 percent of city-driver trips . . . were made for purposes of making a living—American Annual> The term is also used in place of journey to refer to more extensive travels (<conclusions I had reached on my trip around the world—Willkie> <a trip through western Pennsylvania, then down the Ohio—L. M. Sears> Jaunt carries a stronger implication of casualness and informality than any of the others and is especially applicable to a short trip away from one’s home or one’s business, usually for pleasure or recreation (<they are off for a day’s jaunt> <a jaunt to the shore or the hills—F. L. Allen> <lip service is paid . . . to the idea of Congressional travel but the general tone throughout runs: They’re off again on their jaunts at public expense—H. A. Williams> Excursion applies to a brief pleasure trip, usually no more than a day in length (<the rural neighborhood of Sneyd, where they had been making an afternoon excursion—Bennett> Excursion is the preferred term, especially in railroad and steamship use, for a round trip at reduced rates to a point of interest (as a political party, church, business, or institution) that presents its particular principles and views authoritatively (<the Minneapolis, North-Southern Ry. runs excursions to Bush Lake on tournament days—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.> When the excursion involves a voyage of some days or weeks and, often, a sight-seeing tour with frequent stops during which the participants use the ship as their living quarters, cruise is the usual term (<a Mediterranean cruise> <the steamship lines are featuring winter cruises through the Caribbean Sea> <their yacht is off with a partner on an expedition> Expedition applies to a journey intended to further a definite purpose (<he called this trip frankly a begging
Judge, adjudge, adjudicate, arbitrate mean to decide something in dispute or controversy upon its merits and upon evidence. All these words imply the existence of a competent legal tribunal or of its equivalent. Judge and arbiter, arbitrator, referee, umpire are technical terms applied to the official or officials charged with the regulation and supervision of a contest (as by enforcement of rules of a game, making decisions on plays, and determining penalties for faults). In most sports either one term or the other is used; thus, these officials in baseball, cricket, and tennis are designated umpires, while in boxing, basketball, football, and ice hockey they are designated referees. In nontechnical use referee usually is applied to one to whom disputants have recourse when agreement seems impossible, umpire to one who enters in and arbitrarily ends the contest (as by enforcement of rules of a game, making decisions on plays, and determining penalties for faults). In most sports either one term or the other is used; thus, these officials in baseball, cricket, and tennis are designated umpires, while in boxing, basketball, football, and ice hockey they are designated referees. In nontechnical use referee usually is applied to one to whom disputants have recourse when agreement seems impossible, umpire to one who enters in and arbitrarily ends the contest (as by enforcement of rules of a game, making decisions on plays, and determining penalties for faults).
judges who form such a court <a judicial decision> (a judicial duty) (a judicial proceeding) (I am told at times by friends that a judicial opinion has no business to be literature—Cardozo) The term is also used in distinction from executive, legislative when applied to that one of the powers, departments, or functions of the government which is associated with a court (as the United States Supreme Court), which gives definitive decisions on questions of law or interprets the constitution or basic law (the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government) (government analyzes into three main functions . . . legislative, executive, and judicial activities —Ogg & Ray) In extended use judicial is applied especially to a type of mind, mental activity, or manner suggestive of that of a judge (as in detachment or fair-mindedness) or appropriate to a judge or court of justice (as in ordeliness and seriousness of procedure) (to a strictly *judicial mind . . . the quality of age or of novelty would carry no necessary implication of value—Grandsen) <The review made an evident effort to be judicial . . . and so exhibiting both the good and bad points of the novel it alternated favorable and unfavorable judgments—McCluskey) *Judiciary is occasionally used in place of judicial, especially when it suggests reference to the courts in and to the administration of justice as a whole (the appointment of more women to higher judiciary positions —Current Biog) In current usage, however, judiciary occurs predominantly as a substantive, with judicial its corresponding adjective. The two words *judicial and *juridical imply a connection with the law, especially as it is administered in the courts, rather than with the judges or those who settle questions of law. Often these terms come close to legal in meaning (ordered . . . to grant *judicial recognition to the Assemblies of God churches in Italy— Time) but in learned use they are more restricted in significance. Both terms, but especially *judicial, imply a reference to the law as it appears to learned lawyers and judges—that is, as a highly complex and involved body of principles, statutes, decisions, and precedents requiring vast knowledge, skill in interpretation, and a keen logical mind in those who put it to use; therefore, the term often means characteristic of, determinable by, or useful to a person with such knowledge and skill (Eden is clearly working for the *juridical separation of Formosa and the Pescadores from the mainland—Healey) *(high time that we act on the *juridical principle that aggressive war-making is illegal and criminal—R. H. Jackson) *Jurisprudence implies rather a reference to the science of law (set forth with all the circumstance of philosophical and *juridical scholarship—Veblen) *(laws and *jurisprudence compilations of the Norman period—Stenton) *(Juris) Holmes had struck in 1905 in his dissent in Lochner v. N. Y. the high pitch of American *jurisprudence thought—New Republic>

*Judicial *judicial, juridical, juristic *judicious *wise, sagacious, prudent, sensible, sane *Ana *rational, reasonable: just, *fair, equitable, dispassionate, objective: sagacious, perspicacious, astute, *shrewd, discreet, prudent (see under PRUDESCENCE) *Ant injudicious: asinine —Con *foolish, silly, absurd, preposterous: *stupid, slow, dull, dumb, crass, dense: rash, reckless, foolhardy (see ADVENTUROUS)

jumble n *confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, clutter, snarl, muddle

jump vb *Jump, leap, spring, bound, vault are comparable as verbs meaning to move suddenly through space by or as if by muscular action and as nouns designating an instance of such movement through space. All of these terms apply primarily to the movements of men or lower animals, but they also may be used of similar movements of inanimate things. *Jump, the most general term, basically implies a projection of the body that results in reaching a spot which is to some extent distant, whether below, above, or on the same plane *(she jumped from a second-story window) *(jump over a fence) *(jump from the ground to the top of a low wall) *(a jump across a ditch) Since *jump usually implies a rise and descent in a curve and a landing away from the point of origin, it is often applicable to things as well that follow a similar curve or seem to have a similar objective *(the fire) then jumped Essex Street and burned the house of Samuel Prince—J. D. Phillips) *Jump may be extended to various sudden or sharp movements whether physical or not *(his heart jumped with fright) *(prices jumped when war was declared) *(the children jumped with joy) *Leap usually implies greater muscular effort than *jump, though it otherwise often agrees with it in implications; it may or may not suggest suddenness, swiftness, a forward or a backward motion, or an upward or a downward motion, but it usually includes one or more of these connotations in its meaning *(the chamois leaps from crag to crag) *(a leap from a window) *(leapt over a wall) In extended use *leap goes further than *jump in suggesting suddenness or intensity (as of change, response, surprise, or exaltation of thoughts) *(my heart would have leaped at sight of him—Kenneth Roberts) *(ashes am I of all that once I seemed. In me all's sunk that leapt, and all that dreamed is wakeful for alarm—Millay) *Spring implies a jumping or leaping, but both as verb and as noun it additionally suggests ideas not involved in *jump and only occasionally involved in *leap, such as resiliency, elasticity, grace of movement, and emergence by issuing or flowing. The emphasis is often upon the action itself rather than upon the fact of movement to or over *(spring from the bed) *(the spring of a cat on a bird) *(I sprang to my feet, for anger had overtaken me—Edith Morris) *(sprang across the stream, inviting those who shared his views to follow him—Amer. Guide Series: Vt. Bound) *(see also skip) comes very close to *spring in its emphasis upon the action itself, but it carries an implication of vigor and strength not apparent in *spring, so that it often connotes a plunging or a lunging forward *(he bounded forward in order to catch the ball) *(with a bound, he was at her side) *(there were great kangaroos that . . . would descend the hillslopes in large, slow, gracious bounds—Ellis) Although *vault is often used specifically in respect to leaping as a physical exercise with the aid of a long pole as a fulcrum, it may also apply to a leap or a leaping upward with the aid of a support or a leap over an object often with a hand laid on the object *(unperturbed by the tumble he vaulted back into the saddle) *(an acrobat . . . was vaulting over chair backs—Deland) *(put his hand on the counter and vaulted over, landing heavily on the other side—J. W. Johnson) *jump n *leap, spring, bound, vault (see under jump vb) *jumpy jittery, nervous, restless, uneasy, fidgety, *impatient, uneasy, restless

*Ant steady

jigation, confluence, concourse are comparable when meaning the act, state, or place of meeting or uniting. *Junction, the most general of these words, applies to the meeting or uniting usually of material things (as roads, rivers, lines, or railroad tracks) *(at the street junctions along the coronation procession route traffic is slowed—Panter-Downes) *(Brattleboro spreads along the Connecticut from its junction with the West river—Amer. Guide Series: Vt. *(electricity produced by the junction of two dissimilar metals—S. F. Mason) or less often of immaterial things *(the junction of the Senecan influence with the native tradition—T. S. Eliot) *(a fairly close
juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, pinch, analogous words

juncture of interest between Brady and the so-called Standard Oil group—H. P. Willis—and only occasionally of persons or groups of persons—a smaller force of Frenchmen, reinforced by Ethiopian natives, moved westward, seeking junction with [Major] Marchand—Lengyle—there he proposed to effect his junction with the man who should make all the difference to this new civil war—Belloe—Confluence suggests a flowing movement that brings things together. It is applicable to two or more things or persons viewed as things which flow or seem to flow toward a point where they merge and mingle

the confluence of cowboys, cattle traders, and railroad men gave Dodge City a lively homicidal character—Life It specifically applies to the place at which streams unite, often to form a larger stream or body of water (the Ohio river is formed by the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers) (this river, which is formed by the confluence of the historic Tigris and Euphrates rivers—Boschen). Concourse places the emphasis on a running or flocking together of great numbers of persons or things (the . . . frame of the universe was not the product of chance, or fortuitous concourse of particles of matter—Hale) It is commonly used of a place, sometimes out of doors but sometimes in such a great building as a railroad terminal, in which there is an endless flow of persons or things passing through (just off the waiting room is the passenger concourse, a 24 x 1200-foot “bon voyage deck” where passengers of the Lurline arrive and depart and their friends greet them or wave them on their way—Ships and the Sea)

juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, pinch, analogous words
justify

or to a quality in a thing which never departs from the truth in the slightest degree <he painted a psychological portrait of himself which for its serenely impartial justice, its subtle gradations . . . has all the qualities of the finest Velázquez—Ellis> or to the treatment accorded one who has transgressed a law, whether a divine law, a natural law, or the law of a state, or who seeks relief when wronged or protection when his rights are threatened <at the present time . . . there is more danger that criminals will escape justice than that they will be subjected to tyranny—Justice Holmes> or to the system of courts of law whereby the rights of an individual or his innocence or guilt are determined in accordance with the laws of the state <in the modern state . . . . Justice and administration are directly connected with whatever governs—Bello>. Equity differs from justice chiefly in being more restricted in its denotation, for it usually implies a justice that transcends the strict letter of the law and is in keeping with what is reasonable rather than with what is merely legal. It is in this sense that a court of equity is, theoretically at least, distinguished from a court of law. To the former go for adjudication and settlement the unusual cases where abstract justice might not be dealt out according to the limitations of the written law while to the latter go the vast majority of cases where the determination of facts is of first importance and where the law, once the facts are established, provides the treatment to be accorded the person or parties involved <in informal terms, a law case is one where the courts have only to decide who is right; an equity case is one where the courts have to decide not only who is right, but go on to say what must be done—Science> But equity in nonlegal use implies a justice based upon a strictly impartial meting out of what is due (as rewards and punishments or praise and blame) <that noble word liberal, which in America has become dissociated from its essential humanism and sense of equity—Ustinov> <the union claimed that the lower wages paid to aliens were not in keeping with any principle of equity> justify

1 vindicate, defend, *maintain, assert

Ana *prove, demonstrate: *support, uphold, back

Con *disprove, refute, confute

2 account, rationalize, *explain

Ana *excuse, condone: *exculpate, exonerate, absolve, acquit, vindicate: extenuate, glaze, gloss, whitewash, *palliate

Con incriminate, indict, arraign, *accuse: condemn, denounce, blame (see criticize)

3 Justify, warrant are comparable when meaning to be the thing (as evidence, a circumstance, a situation, or a state of affairs) that constitutes sufficient grounds for doing, saying, using, or believing something. Justify may be preferred when the stress is on providing grounds that satisfy conscience as well as reason, and usually refers to an action that, unjustified, would be looked upon with disapproval <no consideration on earth justifies a parent in telling lies to his child—Russell> <I remember a very tenderhearted judge being of opinion that closing a hatch to stop a fire and the destruction of a cargo was justified even if it was known that doing so would stifle a man below—Justice Holmes> <Locke justified the right of revolution—W. S. Myers> <Batista justified his seizure of power on the grounds of an alleged conspiracy by the government to control the elections—Americana Annual> Warrant is especially appropriate (see also Assert 1) when the emphasis is on something that requires an explanation or reason rather than an excuse and suggests support by authority, precedent, experience, or logic <the deposits contain too high a percentage of sulfur to warrant development—Wythe> <the history and appearance clearly warrant such assumption—Armstrong> <a shorter course is designed for students whose graduate study and experience warrant it—Smith College: The President's Report 1952-1953>

Ana allow, permit (see let): sanction (see approve): *authorize

jut *bulge, stick out, protrude, protrude, project, overhang, beetle

Ana *extend, lengthen, elongate: swell, distend, dilate, *expand

juvenile *youthful, puerile, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden

Ana *innocent, unharmed: callow, green, crude (see rude)

Ant adult: senile —Con *mature, matured, grown-up

juxtaposed *adjacent, adjoining, contiguous, abutting, tangent, conterminous

Ana *close, near, nigh

K

keen

adj 1 *sharp, acute

Ana piercing, penetrating, probing (see enter): *pungent, poigniant, piqiant, cutting, biting, *incisive, trenchant

Ant blunt —Con *dull, obtuse

2 *eager, avid, agog, athirst, anxious

Ana ardent, fervent, fervid, perfervid (see impassioned): *intense, vehement, fierce: fired (see light vb)


keen vb wait, weep, *cry, whimper, blubber

Ana lament, bewail, bewoan (see deplore): mourn, sorrow, *grieve

keep vb 1 Keep, observe, celebrate, solemnize, commemorate are comparable when they mean to pay proper attention or honor to something prescribed, obligatory, or demanded (as by one's nationality, religion, or rank), but they vary widely in their range of reference or applica-

tion. Keep and observe are closely synonymous terms, especially when they imply heed of what is prescribed or obligatory, but they differ fundamentally in their connotation. Keep implies opposition to break, and emphasizes the idea of not neglecting or violating; thus, one keeps, rather than observes, a promise <keep the peace> <keep the commandments> Observe carries such positive implications as punctiliousness in performance of required acts and rites and a spirit of respect or reverence for what one holds or honors; when these more appropriate ideas are definitely to be suggested observe is the more appropriate term, even though keep would otherwise be possible; thus, few persons observe, rather than keep, the Sabbath in the manner of the early Puritans (observed Passover with the utmost strictness) <he observes the letter of the law> Celebrate and solemnize are also close synonyms because they may take as their objects not only a day, a season, or an occasion which for religious, political, or

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
other significant reasons is observed with pomp and ceremony but also a ceremony or rite, usually a religious ceremony or rite, that is marked with unusual dignity and splendor. Celebrate, however, except in certain idiomatic phrases (as celebrate the Eucharist, celebrate a marriage, celebrate Mass) in which the gravity and forms of religion are implicit, suggests demonstrations of joy or festivity (as by singing, shouting, speechmaking, and feasting) (celebrate Independence Day) (celebrated their golden wedding) (the family decided to celebrate the occasion by a large dinner party) Solemnize as applied to occasions of joy and festivity stresses their grave, ceremonious, or solemn aspects and usually suggests greater formality in observance and greater dignity and splendor of ceremony than does celebrate (Harvard each June solemnizer the award of degrees to students . . . of the University—Official Register of Harvard Univ.) (solemnize this sorrowing natal day to prove our loyal truth—Burns) The term is often specifically used of the celebrating of marriage especially with the fullest applicable religious ceremonial; thus, in the Roman Catholic Church a marriage is solemnized only when administration of the sacrament of matrimony is followed by a nuptial Mass and a special blessing (Catholics may marry but their marriages may not be solemnized during Lent) Commemorate implies remembrance and suggests observances that tend to call to mind what the occasion (as the day, the season, or the ceremony) stands for; thus, one celebrates Christmas by religious ceremonies that commemorate the birth of Christ; the people of the United States commemorate the birth of their independence on the 4th of July; the French people commemorate the fall of the Bastille on the 14th of July.

Ana regard, respect (see under REGARD n) Ant break —Con *neglect, ignore, forget, disregard, overlook, omit, slight: violate, transgress, contravene, infringe (see corresponding nouns at BREACH) 2 Keep, keep back, keep out, retain, detain, withhold, reserve, hold, hold back are comparable in meaning not to let go from one's possession, custody, or control. Keep is the most general of these terms, often carrying no further implications (keep this until I ask for it) When, however, it positively denotes a holding securely in one's possession, custody, or control, keep, or more often keep back, is synonymous with one or another of the remaining terms. Keep out specifically implies a keeping back of a portion of something (keep out a part of his salary for emergency expenses) Retain implies continued keeping, especially as against threatened seizure or forced loss (Germany was unable to retain her colonies after the first World War) (the conception of one who . . . poor, sickly, and a slave perhaps, or even in prison or on the rack, should nevertheless retain unimpaired the dignity of manhood—Dickinson) Detain (see also ARREST 2) implies a keeping (as in a place, in conversation, or in one's possession) through a delay in letting go that may be based on selfishness or caprice or on entirely acceptable grounds (keep a ship in quarantine) (much consideration has been given to the practice of detaining children away from home for the sole purpose of diagnostic study—Service to Youth) (the cat) let the rat run about his legs, but made no effort to detain him there—Graham) Withhold implies restraint in letting go or a refusal to let go. Sometimes it is interchangeable with keep, or keep back, especially when hindrance is also implied (timidity caused him to withhold the advice he longed to give) Sometimes, keep and withhold are widely different in meaning; thus, to withhold one's promise is to refuse to give one's promise; to keep (see KEEP 1) one's promise is to fulfill what has been promised. Reserve implies either a keeping in store for other or for future use (the runner reserved some of his energy for the final sprint) (reserve some of the milk for breakfast) or a withholding from present or from others' use or enjoyment (the force of will which had enabled her to reserve the fund intact—Bennett) (reserved his judgment) Hold and hold back are often used in place of withhold or keep back and sometimes in place of detain and reserve when restraint in letting go, whether self-imposed or imposed by others, is implied (hold back a portion of each week's wages for group insurance) (held back the truth in giving his testimony) Ana *save, preserve, conserve: hold, *have, enjoy, possess, own: control, direct, manage, *conduct Ant relinquish —Con *discard, cast, junk: refuse, reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE vb): surrender, abandon, resign, yield (see RELINQUISH) keep n *living, livelihood, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, bread keep back, keep out *keep, retain, detain, withhold, reserve, hold, hold back keepsake *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, souvenir ken n *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, purview Ana *field, sphere, province, domain: view, sight (see look n) kibitzer onlooker, looker-on, bystander, *spectator, observer, beholder, witness, eyewitness kick vb *object, protest, remonstrate, expostulate Ana oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: *criticize, denounce, condemn: objurgate, *execute, curse, damn, anathematize kid vb chaff, *banter, rag, rib, josh, jolly Ana tease, plague, pester, harry, *worry kidnap *abduct kidney kind, sort, *type, nature, description, character, stripe, ilk kill vb Kill, slay, murder, assassinate, dispatch, execute are comparable when meaning to deprive of life or to put to death. Kill is so general that it merely states the fact and does not, except in special phrases (as "Thou shalt not kill"), suggest human agency or the means of death or the conditions attending the putting to death. Also, the object of the action may be not only a person or other living thing but also an inanimate or immaterial thing with qualities suggestive of life (kill snails in the garden) (a boy killed by a fall) (vegetation killed by frost) (the president killed the project when he vetoed the bill making an appropriation for it) (kill a friend's love by indifference) (he believed at that time that the League of Nations was going to kill war, that the Labour Party were going to kill industrial inequity—Rose Macaulay) Slay implies killing by force or in wantonness; it is rare in spoken English, but it often occurs in written English where it may convey a dramatic quality whether in poetic or elevated writing or in journalaes (though he slay me, yet will I trust in him—Job 13:15) (the slain man has not yet been identified) In its extended uses slay usually suggests wanton or deliberate destruction or annihilation (to slay the reverence living in the minds of men—Shelley) (never had she greatly loved before; never would she greatly love again; and the great love she now had she was slaying—Rose Macaulay) Murder definitely implies a motive and, often, premeditation and imputes to the act a criminal character; it is the exact word to use in reference to one person killing another either in passion or in cold blood (Macbeth murdered Duncan) (Thomas à
Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in his own cathedral. It is sometimes used in place of kill as more expressive or in place of slay as more brutally direct and condemnatory, both in literal and extended use

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

kind

340 kind, adj n
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

amicable, good-natured, complaisant, obliging
Ant unkfind —Con cruel, inhuman, *fierce, savage, fell: harsh, *rough: *grim, implacable, unrelenting, merciless
kindle ignite, fire, *light
Ant *blaze, flame, flare, glow: provoke, excite, stimulate: arouse, rouse, *stir: incite, foment, instigate
Ant smother, stifle
kindly benign, benignant, *kind
Ant *gracious, cordial, genial, affable, sociable: *amicable, good-natured, complaisant, obliging: friendly, neighborly (see AMICABLE): considerate, *thoughtful, attentive
Ant unkindly: acrid (of temper, attitudes, comments)—
Con malevolent, malignant, *malicious, spiteful
kindred *related, cognate, allied, affiliated
Ant alien
kingly, regal, royal, queenly, imperial, princely are comparable when meaning of, relating to, or befitting one who occupies a throne. Kingly, regal, and royal are often interchanged, especially when used in reference to a monarch who is called king; thus, kingly, regal, or royal power are equally appropriate and idiomatic. However, usage shows a degree of preference for kingly when the reference is to the personal or ideal character of a king or to his feelings, disposition, aims, or actions (kingly courtesy) (kingly condescension) (leave kingly backs to cope with kingly cares—Cowper) or for regal when the reference is to the king's office or the state or pomp which accompanies the exercise of his powers (regal ceremonies) (regal splendor) (ascend your throne majestically ... sit regal and erect—Auden) and for royal when the reference is to persons or things associated with the king either as a person or as a monarch, but not necessarily involving magnificence or display (the royal family) (the royal residences) (a royal society is one under the patronage of a king or members of his family)

In extended use kingly carries the strongest implication of dignity and nobility (kingly pride) I am far better born than is the king, more like a king, more kingly in my thoughts—Shak) while regal suggests magnificence or majestic character (a regal feast) (her rather regal conception of the behavior to be expected of a whore-house madam may have a comic value—Gibbs) "Just tell me what you would like to eat; you can have anything you want." ... It had a regal ring—Henry Miller) and royal, fitness or suitability for a king especially in superlative excellence (a royal welcome) (had a royal time) (was treated with the royal acclaim of a visiting statesman—White) Queenly is used in place of kingly when the reference is directly to a person who is a female sovereign in her own right or is the consort of a king (queenly courtesy) (queenly prerogatives) But when the reference is to the office, the family of the queen, or anything to which regal and royal are normally applied, the latter adjectives are used without reference to the sex of the sovereign. Imperial suggests reference to a monarch who is called emperor or empress (His Imperial Majesty) (an imperial court) (the imperial power) In extended use imperial implies fitness or suitability for an emperor or empress and typically suggests a more awe-inspiring quality than kingly and more pomp and grandeur than regal or royal (I have seen New York grow from the little old town of the nineteenth to the imperial city that stands there now—White) (she was imperial rather than rude—Wylie) Princely implies reference to one who is called a prince and especially to one who is so called as the monarch of a principality, as the heir to a royal throne, or as a male member of the immediate royal family (the representative of the princely power—Sarah Austin) (among the princely houses of Western Europe—Free-
**knack** 481  **knowledge**

**knack** bent, turn, *gift, faculty, aptitude, genius, talent**

**Ana** *ability, capacity, capability: aptness, readiness, quickness* (see corresponding adjectives at **QUICK**): facility, dexterity, ease, *readiness

**Ant** ineptitude

**knave** *villain, scoundrel, blackguard, rascal, rogue, scamp, rascal, villain, rogue, scoundrel, blackguard, rascal, rogue, scamp, rascal, villain, rogue, scoundrel, blackguard, rascal, rogue, scamp*

**knit** vb *weave, crochet, braid, plait, tat

**knock** vb *tap, rap, thump, thud

**knock** n tap, rap, thump, thud (see under **TAP** vb)

**knotty** intricate, involved, complicated, *complex

**knowing** alert, bright, smart, *intelligent, clever, quick-witted, brilliant

**Ana** *shrewd, astute, perspicacious, sagacious: *watchful, vigilant, alert: discerning, observing or observant, perceiving or perceptive (see corresponding verbs at **SEE**)

**Con** obtuse, *dull, blunt: dense, crass, *stupid, slow

**knowledge, science, learning, erudition, scholarship, information, lore** are comparable when they mean what is known or can be known, usually by an individual but sometimes by human beings in general. **Knowledge** applies not only to a body of facts gathered by study, investigation, observation, or experience but also to a body of ideas acquired by inference from such facts or accepted on good grounds as truths *(his knowledge is both extensive and accurate)* *(the advantage of gaining a knowledge of French literature)* *(strength and burstle build up a firm. But judgment and knowledge are what keep it established—Hardy)* *(the inventor of the radio... had the advantage of accumulated knowledge—Krutch)* **Science** *(see also **ART** 3) is occasionally employed as a close synonym of knowledge but ordinarily it applies only to a body of systematized knowledge dealing with facts gathered over a long period and by numerous persons as a result of observation and experiment and with the general truths or laws derived by inference from such facts. The term usually connotes more exactness and more rigorous testing of conclusions than knowledge does and therefore is often used to denote knowledge whose certainty cannot be questioned *(the art of feeding preceded the science of nutrition by many centuries—Hadley)* *(the defense of nations have become a science and a calling—Macaulay)* *(perhaps all the science that is not at bottom physical science is only pretentious nescience—Shaw)* **Learning** specifically applies to knowledge gained by long and close study not only in the schools or universities but by individual research and investigation; it may be used of those who are engaged in the study of science, but it is more often employed in reference to those who devote themselves to the study of the humanities (as languages, literature, history, and philosophy) *(he is a man... of deep learning—Burney)* *(a man of good education and learning, of an excellent understanding, and an exact taste—Swift)* *(learning commonly connotes organized lore outside of any scientific area. It is an end in itself, it has been so honored by the world for centuries—H. M. Jones)* **Erudition** carries a stronger implication of the possession of profound, recondite, or bookish knowledge than does **learning** *(all the encyclopedic erudition of the middle ages—Lowes)* but often the terms are employed as if they were equivalent in meaning *(I arrived at Oxford with a stock of erudition, that might have puzzled a doctor—Gibbon)* *(it does not seem to me fitting... that one layman, with no special erudition in that subject, should publicly express his views—T. S. Eliot)* **Scholarship** implies the possession of the learning characteristic of the trained scholar; the term usually suggests mastery in detail of a field of study or investigation, the exhibition of such qualities as accuracy and skill in carrying on research intended to extend knowledge in that field, and the display of powers of critical analysis in the interpretation of the material that is gathered *(never fulfilled the promise of scholarship given by his great and precocious intellectual power and his even greater erudition—Economist)* *(what scholarship represents is a change in the temper of the human mind, in the focus of its attention and in the quality of the things it cherishes—Frankel)* **Information** usually denotes a kind or items of knowledge gathered from various sources (as observation, other persons, or books) and accepted as truth; the term carries no specific implication regarding the extent, character, or soundness of that knowledge; often it suggests no more than a collection of data or facts either discrete or integrated into a body of knowledge *(seeking information about her ancestors)* *(his sources of information are not always reliable)* *(the adult, with trained powers, has an immense advantage over the child in the acquisition of information—Eliot)* *(a full, rich, human book, packed with information lightly dispensed and fortified with learning easily worn—Tracy)* **Lore** is occasionally used in place of **learning**, but ordinarily it applies to a body of special or out-of-the-way knowledge concerning a particular subject possessed by an individual or by a group and is primarily traditional and anecdotal rather than scientific in character *(sacred lore)* *(folk, or popular, etymology does not usually create words, but it provides lore about words which is as pleasant as it is unreliable—Laird)* *(a lore composed of beliefs, customs, crafts, anecdotes... bearing in its content and terminology the unmistakable stamp of the backwoods—Amer. Guide Series: Ind.)*

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**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words **See also explanatory notes facing page 1
| vb | label | *mark, brand, stamp, tag, ticket (see under mark vb) |
| vb | label | *mark, brand, stamp, tag, ticket |
| n | labor | *work, toil, drudgery, grind |

**A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.**

**Con**

- have, hold, possess, own, enjoy
- heighten the implication of urgent necessity <great acts require (see also Breck)}

**Ana**

- heavy, ponderous, weighty: awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept: stiff, wooden, rigid
- workingman, workman, worker, craftsman, handicraftsman, mechanic, artisan, operative, hand, roustabout

**Lack**

- Lack, want, need, require are comparable when meaning to be without something, especially something essential or greatly to be desired. Lack may imply either an absence or a shortage in the supply or amount of that something <the house lacks a back staircase> (the army lacked tanks and airplanes as well as rifles) <they are not lacking in food or comforts> <good counselors lack no clients—Shak.*> <what he lacks in knowledge he can make up for by talking fast—Chase> Want frequently adds to lack the implication of urgent necessity and may be difficult to distinguish from its sense connoting longing (see under desire vb) <the oldest... showing incipient moustaches and long hairs on the face that wanted a razor—Sacheverell Sitwell> <everything was dingy and wanted paint—Crofts>* For this reason need may be preferred when a clear connotation of urgent necessity is desirable <he cannot get the rest he needs> Need usually throws the emphasis on urgent necessity rather than on absence or shortage, though both implications are often present <that family needs food and clothing> (the country needs the services and support of every citizen) (the letter needs no reply, but it would be courteous to acknowledge it) <that woman needs a lesson, Gideon. She’s a public nuisance—Rose Macaulay> (needs vicarious compensations and manages to find them in the gossip columns—Huxley) <implements sorely needed by the British in the construction of vessels—Breck>* Require (see also demand) is often interchangeable with need but it may heighten the implication of urgent necessity <great acts require great means of enterprise—Millon> (the Doctor... required a few days of complete rest—Dickens)*

**Con**

- have, hold, possess, own, enjoy

**Lack**

- Lack, want, dearth, absence, defect, privation are comparable when denoting the fact or state of being without something. Lack is somewhat ambiguous in scope since it may imply either a total or a partial failure of something that in the circumstances might be expected to be present and often requires qualification to make its intent unequivocal <with a complete lack of bloodshed, the republic was proclaimed—William Tate>* (the comparative lack of simian fossils—R. W. Murray) <there is a slackening, a lack of faith in the pioneer dream that everyone may be rich, free, and powerful—Lord> Want (see also poverty) may imply either a partial or a complete lack but its range of application is far narrower than that of lack since it specifically applies to deficiencies of what is essential or at least needed or desirable; thus, one may exhibit either a want or a lack of tact; there may be a complete lack, rather than want, of pain immediately after some injuries <showed a certain want of courtesy> <war production occasionally suffered from want of hands to tend the machines or harvest the crops—Handlin>* (an utter and radical want of the adapting or constructive power which the drama so imperatively demands—Poe)*

**Dearth** implies an often distressingly inadequate supply rather than a complete lack <her vanity, dearth of brains, and excessive sentimentality were compensated by her kindness—Simmons> <there were six seasons of dearth approaching famine—Van Valkenburg & Huntington>* (there is no dearth of simple violence in San Antonio—Green Peyton)* Absence is perhaps the most unequivocal of these terms; when not qualified it denotes the complete lack of something <the prolonged absence of rain> or that something or occasionally someone is not present <in the absence of his father the boy managed the farm> (the general absence of undergrowth was understood... to have resulted from repeated Indian-set fires—R. H. Brown)* (the confusion resulting from the absence of a critical discriminating attitude in the discussion of religion—Coen>* Defect (see also blemish) implies the absence or lack of something required for completeness (as in form) or effectiveness (as in function) <be mine the privilege to supplement defect, give dumbness voice—Browning>* (defect in a work [of art] is always traceable ultimately to an excess on one side or the other, injuring the integration of matter and form—Dewey>* <there are certain obvious and superficial defects in this poem... But merit easily outweighs defect—Day Lewis)*

**Privation** in the sense pertinent here (see also poverty) is used primarily in certain philosophical definitions of negative qualities or states as absences of the corresponding positives <cold is the privation of heat> (St. Thomas regards evil as privation. In so far as a thing acts according to its nature, which is good, it cannot cause evil—Thilly)> <dialectical terms... are terms standing for concepts, which are defined by their negatives or their privations—R. M. Weaver>* (negative facts or states of affairs... seem clearly to be absences, lacks, or privations, and as such devoid of any properties which could possibly render them apprehensible in experience—Richard Taylor)*

**Ana**

- need, necessity, exigency: deficiency (see corresponding adjective deficient): exhaustion, impoverishment, draining, depletion (see corresponding verbs at deplete)

- Con abundance, amleness, copiousness, plentifulness, plenteousness or plenty (see corresponding adjectives at plenteous): excess, superfluity, surplus

**lackadaisical** listless, spiritless, enervated, *languid, languishing, languorous

**Ana**

- indifferent, unconcerned, incurious: indolent, slothful, faineant, lazy: inert, inactive, passive, supine, idle: *sentimental, romantic: enervated, emasculated (see unnerve)

**Con** energetic, strenuous, *vigorously, lusty: dynamic, live, *active

**lacunastic** succinct, terse, *concise, summary, pithy, copious

**Ana**

- curt, brusque (see bluff): brief, short

**Ant**

- wordy, prolix, diffuse: loquacious, *talkative, voluble, glib, garrulous

**lacuna** gap, hiatus, *break, interruption, interval, interim

**lacustrine** aquatic, fluvial, fluviali, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal
lade vb load, *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, tax, charge, saddle
Ant unladen
lading freight, cargo, *load, burden
ladle vb scoop, spoon, dish, *dip, bail
lady woman, *female
ladylike feminine, womanly, womanlike, *female, womanish, effeminate
Ana dainty, fastidious, finicky, particular, *nice: fashionable, modish, smart, chic, *stylish: decorous, proper, seemly
lag loiter, dawdle, *delay, procrastinate
Ana slow, slacken, retard, *delay: tarry, linger, wait, *stay
Con hurry, hasten, *speed, quicken, accelerate
laggard adj dilatory, *slow, leisurely, deliberate
Ana dwindling, loitering, delaying, procrastinating (see DELAY): lethargic, sluggish, comatose: phlegmatic, apathetic, *impassive
Ant prompt, quick —Con alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: fast, swift, rapid, fleet, speedy, expeditious
lambent beaming, luminous, *bright, brilliant, radiant, lus-lag
vb lampoon
n loiter, dawdle, *delay, procrastinate
Ana slow, slacken, retard, *delay: tarry, linger, wait, *stay
Con hurry, hasten, *speed, quicken, accelerate
lament vb *grieve, bewail, bemoan
Ana dawdling, loitering, delaying, procrastinating (see DELAY): loathsome, sluggish, comatose: phlegmatic, apathetic, *impassive
Ant prompt, quick —Con alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: fast, swift, rapid, fleet, speedy, expeditious
lampant beaming, luminous, *bright, brilliant, radiant, lustrous, effulgent, refulgent, lucent, incandescent
Ana gleaming, glistening (see FLASH vb)
lament vb *deplor, bewail, bemoan
Ana weep, keen, wail, *cry: *grieve, mourn, sorrow
Ant exult: rejoice
lampoon n *libel, skit, squib, pasquinade
land vb *alight, light, perch, roost
Ana arrive, *come: *reach, gain, achieve, attain: *appear, emerge
Con *go, leave, retire
landing field, landing strip *airport, airdrome, airfield, airstrip, flying field

language 1 Language, dialect, tongue, speech, idiom are comparable when they denote a body or system of words and phrases used by a large community (as of a region) or by a people, a nation, or a group of nations. Language may be used as a general term for a body of communicative symbols whether it is made up of words, or of sounds, gestures, and facial expressions, or of visual signals (as a code of lights, smoke, or flags), or of electrical impulses in a computer. However, in its ordinary and specific sense the term refers to a body of words that by long use by the population of a widespread territory has become the means whereby the ideas or feelings of the individual members of that population are communicated or expressed. The term suggests some degree of stability in behavior (as in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammaticality); it usually connotes the existence of a standard determined by the usage of educated writers and speakers. English and French are languages, that is to say they are systems of habits of speech, exactly like Eskimo or Hottentot or any other language—R. A. Hall
>dead languages such as classical Latin and ancient Greek
But language is also applied to a body of words and phrases that is peculiar to an art, a science, a profession, or a class and that, however well understood by others of the community, is not generally adopted by them. In economic language the “marginal saver” determines the price—Hobson
>it took the three of us, representing economics, sociology, and political science, about six weeks to learn each other’s language—Kerwin
Dialect (see also DIALECT 1) may denote a form of language which is clearly distinguishable from other forms by marked differences and an identity of its own. More often it refers to a variant of a recognized language, restricted to a limited area and not entirely unintelligible to speakers of the language of which it is a phase. <Venetian and Sicilian are equally dialects of Italian, although as far as mutual intelligibility is concerned these two might as well be called independent languages—Sapir
>(the perennial controversy as to whether Scots is a language or a dialect) Tongue and speech both call attention to the spoken rather than written communication. Tongue differs from language chiefly in its being applicable to a dialect, a patois, an argot (for these terms, see DIALECT 1) as well as to the standard form of a language (there is no poet in any tongue—not even in Latin or Greek—who stands so firmly as a model for all poets—T. S. Eliot)
>translated the Bible into an Indian tongue—Eliot

2 Language, vocabulary, phraseology, phrasing, diction, style are comparable rather than synonymous terms when they mean oral or written expression or a quality of such expression that is dependent on the variety, or arrangement, or expressiveness of words. Language applies primarily to verbal expression with reference to the words employed. It may call attention to excellence or ineptness in the use of words, to their dignity or their vulgarity, to their fitness or lack of fitness, to their sonority or their stridency, or to any of the qualities which speech or writing may derive from the choice and arrangement of words (he avoided harsh language in dealing with his children)
>language, grave and majestic, but of vague and uncertain import—Macaulay
>when I read Shakespeare I am struck with wonder that such trivial people should muse and thunder in such lovely language—D. H. Lawrence
Vocabulary calls attention chiefly to the extent or variety of the writer’s or speaker’s stock of words or to the sources from which such a stock is derived (the constant play and contrast in English poetry between the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon vocabularies—Bottrall)
>German, famous for its polysyllabic vocabulary—G. A. Miller
>even the vocabulary of renunciation, and its conventional gestures, were unfamiliar to him—Wharton
Phraseology or phrasing is sometimes used in place of vocabulary when the reader’s attention is called especially to its idiomatic or peculiar character (eccentricities of phraseology—awkward phrasing—The exquisite phrasing in which we feel that every word is in its place—Edmund Wilson)
But phraseology in particular stresses the grouping of words as much as their choice (he can say in the phraseology of the sentimentalist that he “loves nature”) (The phraseology, rather than the vocabulary, of Donne offers difficulty to the inexperienced reader) (the gaundiness and inane phraseology of many modern writers—Wordsworth)
>the gaudiness and inane phraseology of many modern writers—Wordsworth
<this cryptic and involved
phraseology, obscure to the uninitiated, permeates all communist publications—Report of Special Committee on Communist Tactics>  
Diction calls attention to the choice and arrangement of words with reference to their expression of ideas or emotions. The term is used commonly of considered language (as of poetry, literary prose, or oratory) and it usually, therefore, implies selection or arrangement with reference to such ends as impressiveness, elegance, and beauty of sound <he was in a high fever while he was writing, and the blood-and-thunder magazine diction he adopted did not calm him—Kipling>  
<his choice of forceful picturesque diction in speech and writing—Lawrason Brown> <a poet cannot help being of his age, the diction and the idiom see to that—Gogarty>  
Style denotes a mode or manner of expressing one's thoughts or emotions or imaginative conceptions in words, as distinct from or as distinguishable from the thoughts or emotions or conceptions expressed. It is sometimes thought of as a structure and diction peculiar to an age or a literary type and found in each representative work of that time and type <the Renaissance epic style is based upon that of Vergil> <a poem written in the style of the ode but perhaps more often it is thought of as a manner of expression which in structure and diction involves artistry but is individual and characteristic of its author>  
<his then is Style. As technically manifested in literature it is the power to touch with ease, grace, precision, any note in the gamut of human thought or emotion—Quiller-Couch>  
languid, languishing, languorous, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated are comparable when they mean lacking in vim or energy or, when applied to things, the appearance of it. Languid usually implies an unwillingness or an inability to exert oneself owing to fatigue, exhaustion, or physical weakness <struck by something languid and inelastic in her attitude, and wondered if the deadly monotony of their lives had laid its weight on her also—Basso>  
Languishing may suggest delicate insufficiency <no courage can repel the dire assault; distracted, spiritless, benumbed, and blind, whole legions sink—Wordsworth>  
Enervated implies a destruction of qualities or powers essential to the vigorous exercise of the will and the intellect. Often it suggests the influence of luxury or of sloth but it may imply the operation of other causes, even of those that in themselves are not evil but may have deleterious effects <the enervated and sickly habits of the literary class—Emerson> (society in Rome, enervated as it was by vicious pleasures, creaved continually for new excitements—Froude> <that enervated, run-down condition that is commonly known as Southern gentility—Basso>  
Ana *lath coppia, sluggish, comatose, torpid: phlegmatic, apathetic, *impassive: inert, *inactive, supine  
Ant vivacious: chipper  
languishing *languid, languorous, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated  
Ant weakened, enfeebled, debilitated (see WEAKEN): indolent, faineant (see LAZY): inert, *inactive, supine: *sentimental, romantic: pining, longing, yearning (see Long vb)  
Ant thriving, flourishing: unaffected —Con robust, *healthy, sound, hale: *vigorouos, energetic, lusty: *natural, artless, unsophisticated, naïve  
languor *lath coppia, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity  
Ant exhaustion, fatigue, weariness (see corresponding verbs at TIRE): ennui, doldrums, *tiredness: depression, blues, dumps (see SADNESS)  
Ant alacrity —Con celerity, legerity: quickness, promptness, readiness (see corresponding adjectives at QUICK): zest, gusto (see TASTE)  
languorous languishing, *languid, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated  
Ant vigorous: strenuous (<of times, seasons>)  
lank, lanky gaunt, rawboned, *lean, spare, angular, scrappy, skinny  
Ant thin, slim, slender, slight: attenuated, extenuated (see Thin vb)  
lapse  
Ant burly —Con husky, brawny, *muscular, sinewy: plump, portly, rotund, chubby, *fleshy, stout  
Lapse n 1 slip, *error, mistake, blunder, faux pas, bull, howler, boner  
Ant offense, sin, vice, crime: *fault, failing, frailty, foible: transgression, *breach, violation, trespass  
2 relapse, backsliding (see under Lapse vb)  
Ant deterioration, decline, declension, decadence, degeneration, devolution: retrograding or retrogradation, receding or recession (see corresponding verbs at RECEDE): retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression (see corresponding adjectives at BACKWARD)  
Con advance, progress (see under ADVANCE vb): *development, evolution  

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
lapse  vb  Lapse, relapse, backslide and their corresponding nouns, lapse, relapse, backsliding, are comparable when they mean to fall back into a state or condition from which one has raised oneself or has been raised, or the act or state of one who has so fallen back. As distinguished from decline, degenerate, and deteriorate, these verbs do not necessarily imply the reversion of a process or development or the gradual losing and the inevitable loss of a valuable quality (as strength, power, or influence) but they do distinctly imply a failure to continue without break a course of improvement and a return, often quickly effected but not always irreparable, to an earlier bad or lower state or condition. Both lapse and relapse basically imply a sliding or slipping but they are increasingly divergent in their applications and connotations. Lapse usually presupposes reformation in manners, morals, or habits, or the acceptance of a high standard (as of rectitude, accuracy, or accomplishment). It need not imply culpability or weakness, for it often suggests no more than a sudden failure of the memory or the influence of habit or tradition or the pressure of an overwhelming emotion (it is easy for the person who has acquired good manners by effort to lapse into old ways when he is not on guard) (only when she was strongly moved did she lapse into the dialect she spoke in her youth) (the moment his attention is relaxed . . . he will lapse into bad Shakespearean verse—T. S. Eliot) <whatever rhetorical or technical lapses they may contain, the conception is throughout that of a great musician—Edward Sackville-West> When culpability is strongly implied, the word still, in comparison to the other terms in the group, often connotes extenuating circumstances; it is therefore the fitting choice when the context indicates such circumstances (he constantly fought his tendency to lapse into easygoing ways) (the natives lapsed back into accustomed vices—Billington) (in estimating a man's place in the scale of perfection . . . the moral judgment, not withholding condemnation of a particular lapse, may not condemn the man wholly for it—Alexander) Relapse presupposes definite improvement or an advance (as toward health or toward a higher physical, moral, or intellectual state) and it implies a complete and often dangerous reversal of direction; thus, one whose improvement in a serious illness has been marked may be said to relapse, or suffer a relapse, when his condition becomes definitely worse; a reformed thief is said to relapse when he returns to his old life (the Arabs were once the continuators of the Greek tradition; they produced men of science. They have relapsed . . . into pre-scientific fatalism, with its attendant incuriosity and apathy—Huxley) (man's eternal tendency to relapse into apathy and atavism—Stewart) (his firmness of mind soon relapsed into a cankerous intolerance—Cranston) (the corruptions and vices which accompany the horribly swift relapse of a culture into barbarism—Edmund Fuller) Backslide and backsliding also imply a reversal in direction of one who has been going forward, but unlike relapse, which is in many ways their close synonym, they are restricted in their reference largely to moral and religious lapses. They therefore often suggest unfaithfulness to one's duty or allegiance or to principles once professed (did not I . . . backslide into intemperance and folly—Marryat) (this is not to say that backslidings fail to occur; on the contrary backslidings normally follow any strenuous moral experience—G. W. Allport) Ana revert, *return: slip, *slide: deteriorate, degenerate, decline (see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION): *descend: *recede, retrograde Con progress, *advance: develop, *mature larcener, larcenist thief, robber, burglar (see under THEFT) large, big, great mean above the average of its kind in magnitude, especially physical magnitude. Large may be preferred when the dimensions, or extent, or capacity, or quantity, or amount is being considered (a large lot) (a large hall) (a large basket) (a large meal) (a large allowance) (large cresses and huge tunnels in many of them [icebergs] bore witness to a long voyage—Schuyler) Big, on the other hand, is especially appropriate when the emphasis is on bulk, or mass, or weight, or volume (a big book) (a big pile) (the box is too big to carry) (a big voice) (big already—so enormous in fact—that we named him Monstro, and he paddled about like a furry whale—Atlantic) As applied to material objects, great has been practically displaced by large or big. Where great is used to denote physical magnitude, it now regularly connotes some impression (as of wonder, surprise, amusement, or annoyance) associated with the size (the great head that seemed so weighted down with thought and study—The Nation) (the great size of these figures—the largest man is 167 feet long . . . prevented their character from being recognized—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.) (his eyes were great and hollow, as a famished man forlorn—Morris) Great alone, in standard English, expresses degree (he was listened to with respect and, when aroused, with nearly as great fear—W. C. Ford) (great kindness) (great heat) In extended use, great suggests eminence, distinction, or supremacy (if we win men's hearts throughout the world, it will not be because we are a big country but because we are a great country. Bigness is imposing. But greatness is enduring—A. E. Stevenson) while large suggests breadth, comprehensiveness, or generosity (in intellect and humanity he is the largest type I have come across. Other greater men in my time were great in some one thing, not large in their very texture—Ricketts) and big carries over the implication of mass or bulk but often suggests impressiveness or importance rather than solidity or great worth (so-called big names, which are still big and still have great readership value, command high prices—Baldwin) (he didn't expect to work here all his life . . . pretty soon he'd have a new job and would be a big man—Grirte) Ana vast, immense, enormous, *huge, mammoth, colossal, gigantic: tremendous, prodigious, monumental, stupendous, *monstrous: inordinate, *excessive, exorbitant, extreme, immoderate, extravagant Ant small—Con little, diminutive, tiny, wee, minute (see small): slight, slender, slim, *thin largely, greatly, mostly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally are often interchanged, but they are capable of being used with explicitness even though they basically agree in meaning. Largely stresses quantity or extent; it usually connotes copiousness or abundance and often suggests an amount exceeding that of other ingredients, components, or constituents (water enters largely into the composition of the bodies both of plants and animals—Geikie) (good country sausage is largely pork) Greatly carries a heightened suggestion of greatness in degree that differentiates it from largely (he is greatly admired) (careless and lazy is he, greatly inferior to me—Kipling) (the sprouting of seed is greatly helped by sun and rain) Mostly usually stresses numbers (the audience was made up mostly of children) (twenty-seven millions mostly fools—Carlyle) Chiefly emphasizes the importance of one thing among other things; it may connote an outstanding or preeminent position or it may connote merely relative importance (the basket contained many fruits, but chiefly apples) (the battle was won chiefly by the aid of
the air force> Mainly is often used interchangeably with chiefly, but not where preeminence is implied; rather it connotes greatest importance among a number of things, but not exclusive value <be sure to take along with you all that you will need, but mainly informal clothes> <the cause depends mainly on the validity of this act—John Marshall> <the Pickwickian Christmas did very little to stimulate consumption; it was mainly a gratuitous festivity —Huxley> Principally carries an idea of primary importance rather than outstanding or relative importance; the difference is not great between it and chiefly or mainly except when the idea of being first or primary is emphasized <they wholly mistake the nature of criticism, who think its business is principally to find fault—Dryden> <his support comes principally from the income of invested money> <the cash crops are principally wheat and rye> Generally stresses reference to the majority of persons, instances, or cases involved <the people, not universally, but generally, were animated by a true spirit of sacrifice —Froude> <the news was generally received with joy> <the land breezes here are generally hot and dry>

largess boon, *gift, present, gratuity, favor
Ana benefaction, *donation, contribution: grant, subvention (see APPROPRIATION)
lascivious lewd, *licentious, libertine, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, wanton
Ana *immoral, unmoral, amoral: sensual, *carnal, fleshly, animal: obscene, gross, *coarse
Con *chaste, pure, modest, decent: virtuous, *moral
lassitude languor, *l殆gy, strop, torpor, torpidity
Ana exhaustion, weariness, fatigue (see corresponding verbs at TIRE): ennu, doldrums, *tedium: blues, depression (see SADNESS): impotence, powerlessness (see corresponding adjectives at POWERLESS)
Ant vigor —Con energy, strength, might, force, *power
last vb endure, *continue, abide, persist
Ana survive, outlast, *outlive: remain, *stay
Ant fleet

last adj Last, latest, final, terminal, concluding, eventual, ultimate are comparable when they mean following all the others in time or order or in importance. What is last comes at the end of a series, especially of things of the same kind or class; the term usually implies that no more will follow or have followed <the last page of a book> <their last child is now ten years of age> <fairest of stars, fairest of maidens, fairest of men> <little newsboys crying their wares in correct Bostonese, down to broad a's and softened terminal t's—Price> What is concluding brings something (as a speech, a book, a program, a celebration) to an end or marks its finish <the concluding address was delivered by the chairman> <pro-voked comparison by making their concluding paragraphs almost identical—R. G. Davis> What is eventual is bound to follow as the final effect of causes already in operation or of causes that will be operative if a given or understood contingency occurs <the silent decay and eventual overthrow of her natural defenses—Gladstone> it is his object to point out the necessity . . . for a deliberate and purposive art of eugenics, if we would prevent the eventual shipwreck of civilization—Ellis> What is ultimate (see also ULTIMATE 2) is the last, final, or terminal element in a series or process <this ultimate book of my autobiography—Osbert Sitwell> <the ultimate stage in a process of descent—Ellis> or is the final outcome or end to which a person or thing is moving or working <the ultimate effect of a drug> <when I think of the earth's refrigeration, and the ultimate collapse of our solar system—L. P. Smith> or is the most remote in time, either past or future, or most important in a scale of values <the ultimate effect of a war> <that word comes into English from French, but its ultimate source is Sanskrit> <its utopian interferes with an interest in proximate, rather than ultimate, goals—Niebuhr>
Ant first

lasting, permanent, perdurable, durable, stable, perpetual mean enduring for so long as to seem fixed or established. Lasting may imply long continuance with no end in sight; in this sense, it may be close in connotation to everlasting <who . . . sings his soul and body to their lasting rest—Shak.> More typically, however, it does not imply endlessness, but rather a surprising capacity to continue indefinitely <the anger of slow, mild, loving people has a lasting quality that mere bad-tempered folk cannot understand—Deland> <an excellent mind, shrewd wit, and an amazing capacity for developing lasting friendships—Douglas>

Permanent applies chiefly to things which are not temporary, tentative, transitory, or fluctuating but which continue or are likely or expected to continue indefinitely or as long as relevant; thus, a permanent position may be expected to continue on the one hand until death or retirement removes the employee holding it or, on the other, until fundamental changes in or termination of the business of the employer renders it superfluous; permanent damage to an object is damage that will remain as long as the object persists <settled down and made a permanent home for his family> <the stimulation of violent emotions may leave permanent traces on the mind—Inge> <much of the current literature on this subject, both ephemeral and of permanent value, comes out of Russia—Sokolsky> Perdurable carries a stronger implication than does lasting in its typical use of endlessness of existence; but it suggests endless or apparently endless existence especially from the point of view of humane remembrance or humane interest <the memorial</span> <ref to it> makes him one of the few perdurable figures of our Civil War and secures him a sainthood that slander has not been able to violate—Cargilly our literature is going to be our most perdurable claim on man's remembrance—Quiller-Couch> Durable implies power of resistance to destructive agencies; it usually suggests a capacity for lasting that exceeds that of other things of the same kind or sort <a durable pavement> <a durable color> <more durable than brass—Junius> (many writers have longed for durable renown—L. P. Smith) Stable applies to what is so firmly or solidly established that it cannot be moved or changed; the term therefore is applicable to things that
are lasting or durable because they are deeply rooted, or finely balanced, or infixed and not subject or likely to be subject to fluctuations <a stable foundation> <a stable form of government> <stable institutions> <the stable earth and the changing day—George Eliot> <men as steady as . . . wheels upon their axles, sane men, obedient men, stable in contentment—Huxley> <a relatively stable society . . . where the individual remains, both physically and socially, in the place in which he was born—Cheek>

Perpetual (see also CONTINUAL) is in many respects closer to permanent than to the remaining terms but it differs from it significantly in the absence of any notion of relevance and may approach everlasting in its suggestion of an endless course or a going on without a prospect of something intervening to bring about an end; thus, the furnace has a permanent not a perpetual place in the cellar since the cellar itself will ultimately crumble away; perpetual, rather than permanent, motion is considered impossible because of the inevitable interference of friction <a dark, a colorless, a tasteless, a perfumeless, as well as a shapeless world: the leden landscape of a perpetual winter—Mumford> <the song of the minstrel moved through a perpetual Maytime—J. R. Green> <a perpetual embargo was the annihilation, and not the regulation of commerce—John Marshall>

Ana enduring, abiding, persisting or persistent, continuing (see corresponding verbs at CONTINUE): *everlasting, endless, unceasing: *continual, continuous, incessant, unremitting, perennial: eternal, sempiternal (see INFINITE)

Ant fleeting —Con fugitive, passing, evanescent, transient, *transient, short-lived

late 1 *tardy, behindhand, overdue

Ana delayed, retarded, detained (see DELAY)

Ant early: punctual, prompt —Con timely, *seasonable, opportune, well-timed

2 departed, deceased, defunct, *dead, lifeless, inanimate

3 modern, recent

latent, dormant, quiescent, potential, abeyant are comparable when meaning not now manifest or not evincing signs of existence or activity. Latent implies concealment and is applied to what is present without showing itself <latent energy> <a latent infection> <his sinister qualities, formerly latent, quickened into life—Hardy> <it remained possible that by further development, latent contradictions might have been revealed—Russell> Dormant usually suggests sleeping and is applied to something which has once been active but now is inactive though not incapable of future activity <a dormant plant> <a dormant volcano> <which power can never be exercised by the people themselves, but must be placed in the hands of agents, or lie dormant—John Marshall> <she pursued him with attention, and when his passion was dormant sought to excite it—Maugham> Quiescent emphasizes the fact of inactivity without necessary implications either of causes or of past or future explosions <a quiescent volcano> <the increase of their wealth, they sank into quiescent Tories—Meredith> Sometimes it connotes immobility <if only we could persuade ourselves to remain quiescent when we are happy—Jefferyes>

Potential applies to something which at a time in question does not possess such being, nature, or effect as is expressed but which is likely to have or capable of having such being, nature, or effect at some future time <potential energy> <disaffected citizens who are a potential danger to the nation> <this eye for a potential and achievable best—Mumford> <it [an infant] must from the very first be viewed seriously, as a potential adult—Russell> Abeyant (more often, predicatively, in abeyance) implies a suspension of activity or active existence <in Mr. Brooke the hereditary strain of Puritan energy was clearly in abeyance—George Eliot> It usually connotes expectancy of revival (nothing seemed left . . . of the former Lewis Raycie, save a lurking and abeyant fear of Mr. Raycie senior—Wharton> <until all danger of counterrevolution should have been removed, personal rights and liberties would have to be kept strictly in abeyance—Ogg & Zink>

Ana hidden, concealed (see HIDE vb): *inactive, inert, idle: unripe, unmarked, *immature

Ant patent —Con *active, operative, live, dynamic: activated, vitalized, energized (see VITALIZE)

latest final, *last, terminal, concluding, eventual, ultimate

Ant earliest

lather suds, froth, *foam, spume, scum, yeast

laud vb extol, eulogize, *praise, acclaim

Ana magnify, aggravate, *exalt: worship, adore, venerate, *revere, reverence: *commend, applaud, compliment

Ant revile —Con *decry, depreciate, disparage, belittle: censure, condemn, denounce, blame, *criticize, reprehend, *execute, curse, damn, anathematize, objurate

Laughable, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous, comical, comical, farcical, droll, funny are comparable when they mean provoking or eliciting laughter or mirth. Laughable is the general term for whatever is fit to provoke laughter <modern audiences do not find Shylock a laughable character> <a laughable incident> <the lower classes aped the rigid decorum of their “betters” with laughable results—Harrison Smith> Risible is a close synonym of laughable and in this sense, like the former, carries special connotations <a risible account of their difficulties—Hatch>

Ludicrous applies to what induces usually scornful laughter because of its absurdity, incongruity, or preposterousness <the ludicrous mistakes called schoolboy howlers> <had friendships, one after another, so violent as to be often ludicrous—Bello> <some of the best public school teachers in the last century were hot-tempered men whose disciplinary performances were ludicrous—Inge> <buildings of different materials and styles . . . thrown together in a way at times fairly ludicrous—A. O. White> Ridiculous applies to what excites decision because of extreme absurdity, foolishness, or contemptibility <good manners at the court are as ridiculous in the country as the behavior of the country is most mockable at the court—Shak> <to be always harping on nationality is to convert what should be a recognition of natural conditions into a ridiculous pride in one's own oddities—Sanatana> Comic and comical are becoming distinct in implications and in applications, although they are sometimes interchangeable. Comic is applicable especially to something that partakes of the spirit of comedy and particularly of the literary form which aims to present life in a way that does not leave a painful impression and that does evoke smiles or laughter, especially thoughtful laughter, or amused reflection <it is comic to see poor little innocents like Frank Potter caught in it [Christianity], tangled up in it, and trying to get free and carry on as though it wasn't there—Rose Macaulay> <has the unerring instinct for things . . . recognized all the world over as comic. Green vegetables are always funny, and bad poets, and winter underwear, and feet—Morley> Comical applies not so much to the character of what induces laughter as to the impression it produces upon the observer; hence, it aptly describes something which arouses spontaneous and unrestrained laughter <the abrupt transition of her features from assured pride to ludicrous astonishment and alarm was comical enough to have sent into wild uncharitable laughter any creature less humane than Constance—Bennett> <I'm just beginning to get along with them so they don't think I'm quite so comical, and my wife comes
sailing in ... and orders me out—Faith McNulty} Farci-
cal is often used interchangeably with comical but it is es-
pecially appropriate when what creates amusement is,
like dramatic farce, dependent upon extravagance, non-
sense, practical jokes, or burlesque for the effect it pro-
duces (boys are like monkeys ... the gravest actors of
farcical nonsense that the world possesses—Meredith)
<almost farcical to suppose that Henry, as a Norman
prince, could not talk his own language to his Norman
bride—Empson> Droll and funny usually impound oddity
or strangeness to what makes a thing laughable, but
droll ordinarily carries a stronger implication of unfamil-
liarity, quaintness, absurdity, or intentional humorlessness
<Thackeray's names, though often ludicrous, are always
happy, and often inimitably droll—Athenaeum> <the
habit of trying to marshal all the facts, weigh them, and
think things through ... is sometimes regarded as droll—
Bunche> and funny of queerness or curiosity <the
night mail set me down at Marwar Junction, where a funny
little happy-go-lucky native-managed railway runs to
Jodhpore—Kipling> <children thought he was a very
funny old Chinaman, as children always think anything old
and strange is funny—Steinbeck> Funny is, however, the
ordinary informal term interchangeable with any other
word of the group <a funny story> he could rarely risk
being funny and lightening his deadly seriousness with
comedy—Anthony West>
Ana amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): humor-
ous, *witty, facetious, jocular, jocose
Con solemn, *serious, grave: tedious, tiresome, weari-
some, boring, *irksome: pathetic, poignant, touching,
affecting, *moving, impressive
lavish *profuse, prodigal, luxuriant, lush, exuberant
Ana *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, gen-
erous, munificent, handsome: sumptuous, opulent, *lux-
urious: *excessive, inordinate, extravagant
Ant sparing —Con *meager, scanty, scant: econom-
ical, frugal, thrifty (see SPARING): provident, prudent,
discreet (see under PRUDENCE): *stingy, niggardly, par-
simonious, penurious, miserly
law 1 Law, rule, regulation, precept, statute, ordinance,
canon all designate a principle laid down or accepted as
governing conduct, action, or procedure. Law, rule, and
precept are also used as collective nouns to denote a body of
laws, rules, or precepts <obey the law> <work by rule>
<teach by precept> Law and precept are often used
abstractly <the world demanded peace and law, not
liberties and privileges—Buchanan> <the poet's business
is not with precept—Lowes> Law (see also HYPOTHESIS)
primarily implies imposition by a sovereign authority
and the obligation of obedience on the part of those
governed <churches are taking the lead in their own
Communions as being not under the law of states but
under the law of God—Graham> In more restricted
use, however, it implies a will to maintain peace and
justice in the community or group governed and the
expression of that will in concrete injunctions or prohi-
bitions. Laws may be written or unwritten: when un-
written they indicate derivation from established custom;
when written they commonly indicate enactment by a
legislative body or power <the laws of New York State>
-beginning with the definition of law in the lawyer's
sense as a statement of the circumstances in which the
public force will be brought to bear upon a man through
the courts—Justice Holmes> Rule, in contrast with law,
suggests closer relation to individual conduct and method,
or a desire for order and discipline in the group. Sometimes
it implies restriction, whether prescribed or self-imposed,
for the sake of an immediate end (as unity in action, uni-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
head—Graves) <the Vichy regime he considers as illegiti-
mate, although, at first, it was outwardly legal—
Guérard> **Legitimate**, which basically applies to a child
born of legally married parents, also has been used to
describe the person who has legal title (as to a throne, an
inheritance, or a property) <the legitimate monarch
<the legitimate heir of an estate> The word may also
imply not merely recognition by law but recognition or
acceptance by custom, tradition, or the proper authorities
or logical admissibility (a lie may be considered legitimate
if a patient’s restoration to health depends on it) <Jane’s
mother was making indirect but perfectly legitimate in-
quiries into his prospects—Mary Austin> **Legitimate** to
claim that much of our truly wonderful prodigality of
talent is due to the work of gifted teachers—Michener
<in the light of the parallels which I have added the
hypothesis appears legitimate, if not probable—Frazer>
Licit usually implies strict conformity to the provisions
of the law respecting the way in which something should
be performed or carried on; the term therefore is used
especially of what is regulated by law; thus, a licit mar-
rriage, from the point of view of canon law, is one in which
all prerequisites and all conditions attached to the per-
formance of the ceremony have been attended to; licit
liquor traffic is such traffic as obeys strictly the terms of
the law: since dealings in the stock market have come un-
der the control of the government, many deals once re-
garded as lawful are no longer licit <the state is given its
right to determine what is licit and illicit for property
owners in the use of their possessions—Commonweal>
**Ana** rightful, *due, condign: allowed or allowable, per-
mittted or permissible (see corresponding verbs at LET):
justified or justifiable, warranted or warrantable (see corre-
spnding verbs at JUSTIFY)
**Ant** unlawful — **Con** iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious
(seen Vicious)

lawlessness *anarchy, chaos
**Ana** *discord, strife, dissension, contention, conflict,
difference, variance: *confusion, disorder
**Ant** discipline: order

lawsuit *suit, action, cause, case

lawyer, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate, attorney,
solicitor. Lawyer is the general term designating a person
versed in the principles of law and authorized to practice
law in the courts or to serve clients in the capacity of legal
agent or adviser. Counselor, barrister, counsel, and advo-
cate name a lawyer who has acquired the right to plead
cases in open court or whose specialty is conducting and
arguing court cases. Counselor is the usual designation in
the United States for a lawyer who accepts court cases and
gives advice on legal problems. The corresponding British
term is barrister, with, however, special emphasis on court
pleading. Counsel may be used as the equivalent of coun-
selor; it, but not counselor, is also used collectively <a
brilliant array of counselors> Advocate in is its implications
the equivalent of barrister and counselor, but it is used as a
designation in countries (as Scotland) in which the legal
system is based on Roman law and in a few special courts.
**Attorney** and solicitor are applied chiefly to a lawyer who
serves as a legal agent for clients, transacting their busi-
ness in specific courts (as probate court). Other powers
vary with the law of the state or country. Attorney is often
used in the United States as equivalent to lawyer, but the
term may be more specifically used to denote a legal agent
who acts for a client (as in conveying property, settling
wills, or defending or prosecuting a case in court) <the
attorney for the executors of the will> <the State’s
attorney> In England, the term attorney has been sup-
planted by solicitor, with, however, emphasis on the trans-
action of legal business for a client and the preparation
of cases for trial as distinct from actual court pleading.
**Lax** relaxed, *loose, slack
**Ana** *limp, floppy, flabby, flacid
**Ant** rigid (sense 2) — **Con** *firm, solid, hard: tense, taut,
*tight: *elastic, resilient, springy
2 slack, remiss, *negligent, neglectful
**Ana** *careless, heedless, thoughtless: *indifferent, un-
concerned: *forgetful, unmindful, oblivious
**Ant** strict, stringent — **Con** *severe, stern, austere:
*rigid, rigorous: conscientious, scrupulous, honest, *up-
right

lay vb *direct, aim, point, level, train

lay adj secular, temporal, *profane

**Con** professional (see corresponding noun at TRADE):
spiritual, religious, sacred (see Holy)

lay analyst see under psychoanalyst at **NEUROLOGIST**

laze *idle, loaf, lounge, lol

**Ana** relax, rest, repose (see corresponding nouns at
REST)

**Con** toil, travail, labor, grind, drudge (see corresponding
nouns at WORK)

lazy, indolent, slothful, fainthearted are comparable primarily
as applied to persons, their powers, movements, and ac-
tions, but also in some degree to things. All mean not easily
roused to action or activity. Lazy especially when applied
to persons suggests a disinclination or aversion to effort or
work and usually connotes idleness or dawdling, even
when one is supposedly at work; the term is commonly
derogatory (rubbing their sleepy eyes with lazy wrists—
Keats) <Una, now twenty-three, grandly beautiful, alter-
nately lazy and amazingly energetic—Rose Macaulay>
<we were too lazy . . . we passed our indolent days
leaving everything to somebody else—H. G. Wells>

**Indolent** implies an habitual love of ease and a settled dis-
like of movement or activity <the stretching, indolent
ease that the flesh and the spirit of this creature invari-
ably seemed to move with—Wister> <he was so good-
natured, and so indolent, that I lost more than I got by
him; for he made me as idle as himself—Cowper>
**Slothful** suggests the temper or indolence of one who is inactive
when he knows he should be active or who moves or acts
with excessive slowness when speed is essential
<be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith
and patience inherit the promises—Heb 6:12> <not de-
pendency, not slothful anguish, is what you now require,
—but effort—Hawthorne> <he would . . . jog a slothful
conscience and marshal its forces—Parrington>
**Fainthearted** implies both a slothful temper and a disposition to remain
irdly indifferent in spite of pressure or urgency <he does
not abandon hope in the masses . . . or see the people
animated only by a fainthearted desire to be ruled—New
Republic> <carpet-knight . . . is used as a term of reproach
for a soldier who stays at home, and avoids active service
and its hardships, with a particular reference to the carpet
of a lady’s chamber, in which such a fainthearted soldier

**Ana** inert, idle, *inactive, supine, passive: torpid, com-
tose, sluggish, *lethargic: *languid, languorous, lacka-
deous, languid, *languid, languorous: *lethargic, *languid,

lead vb *guide, pilot, engineer, steer

**Ana** *conduct, direct, manage, control: *set, fix, estab-
lishments, *command, order, direct: *induce, persuade, prevail,
get

**Ant** follow — **Con** mislead, delude, *deceive: drive,
impel (see move vb): *force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige

**Leader** head, *chief, chieftain, master

**Ant** follower — **Con** disciple, adherent, henchman.
leading adj *chief, principal, main, foremost, capital
Anna governing, ruling (see govern); conducting, directing, managing, controlling (see conduct vb); prominent, outstanding (see noticeable); eminent (see famous); preeminent, *supreme, superlative
Ant subordinate
league *alliance, coalition, fusion, confederacy, confederation, federation
lean vb *slant, slope, incline
Anna bend, *curve; *turn, deflect, divert, sheer
lean adj Lean, spare, lanky, gaunt, rawboned, angular, scrawny, skinny mean thin because of absence of superfluous flesh. Lean stresses the lack of fat and therefore of rounded contours (lean as a greyhound—Thackeray) (a small, lean, wiry man with sunk cheeks weathered to a tan—Masefield) Sore often suggests stoicism or sinewy strength (he had the spare form ... which became a student—George Eliot) (the spare, alert and jaunty figure that one often finds in army men—Wolfe) Lank suggests tallness or length as well as leanness; often also it implies wasting (meager and lank with fasting grown, and nothing left but skin and bone—Swift) (a pack of lank hounds, sore-footed and sore-eared—H. L. Davis) Lanky adds the suggestions of awkwardness and loose-jointedness (a lanky youth, all arms and legs) (lanky men and women ... so tall and attenuated that they seem at times to approach the one-dimensional—Coates) Gaunt stresses want of sufficient flesh to conceal the bones: it often connotes overwork or undernourishment (her bony visage—gaunt and deadly wan—Wordsworth) (this one with the passing of the years had grown lean and gaunt and the rocklike bones of her face stood forth and her eyes were sunken—Buck) Rawboned often equals gaunt, but it is applied particularly to persons of large, ungainly frame and it seldom implies undernourishment (a long, gawky, rawboned Yorkshireman—Kipling) Angular implies not only absence of curves, but jerkiness or stiffness in movement (sudden retirement of the female in oxydated bombazine—Holmes) Scrawny and skinny imply extreme thinness but scrawny may additionally suggest slightness or a shrunken meager quality (lank scrawny chickens) (a barren slope covered with scrawny vegetation) (the scrawniest, wretchedest horse I had ever seen—Kalischer) while skinny suggests a stringy fleshless condition such as is associated with a deficiency of vitality or strength (skinny children) (the skinniest human being I ever saw. He had not enough flesh on his bones to make a decent-sized chicken—Lynd) Anna slender, slim, *thin, slight: cadaverous, wasted, pinched, *haggard
Ant fleshy —Con brawny, *muscular, sinewy, burly, husky: stout, *strong, sturdy, stalwart: plump, portly, round, fat, obese, corpulent (see Fleshy)
leaning n Leaning, propensity, proclivity, penchant, flair mean a strong instinct or liking for something or sometimes one's self. One has a leaning toward something (as a church, a party, or a school of philosophy) when one definitely inclines to attachment to it or to follow it as a pursuit, a profession, or a course of action. Leaning, however, indicates only the direction in which one is being drawn by the force of attraction; it carries no implication of one's final course or destination (the king was suspected by many of a leaning towards Rome—Macaulay) (he had a leaning toward the law, but his father urged him to study medicine) (a reformer with radical leanings, for years he edited a weekly paper called the Anti-Monopolist—Martin Gardner) One has a propensity (as toward or for something or to do something) when one has an innate or inherent and often uncontrollable longing or is driven by a natural appetite (study the propensities of a group of children) (the invertebrate propensity of their husbands to linger about the village tavern—Irving) (such vehement propensities as drove Romeo, Antony, Coriolanus, to their doom—Bradley) (his propensity for sweeping authoritative statement was so supported by bravura passages of description that the gaps in his knowledge were overlooked—Ferguson) One has a proactivity (as for or towards something or to do something) when one is prone to something not only by natural inclination but also by habitual indulgence or by the peculiarities of one's constitution or temperament (the vesper sparrow, whose special proactivity for singing at twilight gave it its name—W. P. Smith) (curb a proactivity to lying) (the cow pony often maintained the pitching propativities of a bronce—Dobie) Proactivity often implies a tendency toward evil; when it is used without this implication, it still implies a stronger and less controllable urge than the other words here considered (it [the American national genius] is nourished and sustained by ancient traditions and strong racial propativities—Sherman) (the American proactivity for red tape and disoriented activity—W. A. Noyes) One has a penchant usually for something when it has an irresistible attraction for him or when he has a decided taste for it (the Punjabi peasants have a penchant for a strong yellow that leans towards orange—Rand) (authors of medical articles exhibit on occasion an unusual penchant for extravagant terms, inelegant phrasing—Holman) One has a flair for something when one has such an instinct for it as leads one to it as if by the very nature of one's being (he had a flair for finding bargains) (reporters with a flair for news) (that marvellous flair for detecting vital mechanism in every field—Ellis) Often, especially in extended use, flair implies acumen and an innate power of discernment that results in an ability to distinguish the genuine from the counterfeit, the valuable from the valueless, and the significant from the insignificant (a collector with a flair for the genuine antique) (as an editor he had superlative courage, and a flair for new writers—Repliner) Sometimes, the notion of "to do" is substituted for that of "to distinguish" and flair becomes a close synonym of knack, aptitude, or talent (she hasn't a flair for writing)
Anna bias, *predilection, partiality, prepossession, prejudice: inclining or inclination, predisposition (see corresponding verbs at incline): bent, turn, aptitude, faculty, *gift
Ant distaste —Con *antipathy, aversion: repugnance, abhorrence, repellency or repulsion (see corresponding adjectives at repugnant)
leap vb *jump, spring, bound, vault
Anna *rise, arise, mount, soar, ascend
Con *fall, drop, sink, slide, slump
leap n jump, spring, bound, vault (see under JUMP vb)
learn ascertain, *discover, determine, unearth
learned, scholarly, erudite are comparable when they mean possessing or manifesting unusually wide and deep knowledge. Learned implies the possession of knowledge gained by study and research; it usually implies wider and deeper knowledge than do such words as educated, cultivated, and cultured, and is usually applied to those who are conspicuous in their class or profession for learning, to associations composed of such persons, to books or articles written by them, and to periodicals edited by them or publishing articles by them (the learned professions) (learned journals) (colloquialisms which I should not indulge in, were I reading a formal paper before a learned society—Lowes) (he is, in the true sense of the term,
learned. He reads Greek and Latin easily. He can recite poetry in seven languages—Book-of-the-Month Club News—Scholarly also implies learning, but it is applied particularly to persons or to the utterances, ideas, and writings of persons who have attained mastery in a field of study or investigation, who have to a greater or lesser extent advanced knowledge in that field, and who have exhibited consistently high standards in the appraisal of their own and others' discoveries (never academic—still less pedantic—but always scholarly; with the effect of profound learning ever so lightly worn—Storr). Often, more narrowly, the term implies great care for accuracy or exactness (a scholarly study of the causes of the war) (scholarly pursuits) (this biography ... is scholarly to the point of being unreadable, with footnotes covering half the space—New Yorker). Erudite, though often employed as an equivalent of learned or scholarly, usually implies a love of learning for its own sake, a taste for what is out-of-the-way or remote from the interests of the average well-read man, and often an inordinately wide range of knowledge (the point of view of a profound and erudite student, with a deep belief in the efficacy of useless knowledge—Benson) (that excellent critic, Benson) (the point of being unreadable, with footnotes covering half the space—New Yorker). Erudite, though often employed as an equivalent of learned or scholarly, usually implies a love of learning for its own sake, a taste for what is out-of-the-way or remote from the interests of the average well-read man, and often an inordinately wide range of knowledge (the point of view of a profound and erudite student, with a deep belief in the efficacy of useless knowledge—Benson) (that excellent critic, Benson).
benevolence, kindliness, kindness (see corresponding adjectives at kind); compassionateness or compassion, tenderness (see corresponding adjectives at tender); benevolence, humaneness, charitableness (see corresponding adjectives at charitable); laxity (see corresponding adjective at negligent)

Ant severity — con strictness, rigorousness, rigidity, stringency (see corresponding adjectives at rigid); sternness, austerity (see corresponding adjectives at severe)

lesion • wound, trauma, traumatism, bruise, contusion

ana • injury, hurt, damage

less adj less, lesser, smaller, fewer are comparable terms that approach each other in meaning but are not synonyms and are rarely interchangeable. Less means not as much, especially in degree, value, or amount, and its opposite is usually more. It applies chiefly to collective nouns or nouns denoting mass or abstract whole (the moon yields less light than the sun) • John has less money than James

please make less noise • humility has less appeal to men of today than other virtues • lesser means not as great, as important, or as significant as that with which the thing so qualified is compared and implies opposition to greater or major • God made... the lesser light to rule the night — Gen 1:16 • humility is not, in Christian ethics, regarded as a lesser virtue • lesser breaches of the law — Locke

In vernacular names lesser implies that the kind of plant or animal so designated is distinguished from a very similar one carrying the same name chiefly by its comparative smallness of size • the lesser celandine • the lesser snipe

smaller means not as large as that with which the thing so qualified is compared (as in size, dimensions, or quantity) • the smaller of two rooms • give her the smaller table for it will take up less room • fewer means not as many and implies a difference in number of individuals or units; the term therefore modifies a plural noun • he has fewer pupils than he had last year • give her fewer lumps of sugar • no fewer than fifty were present

ant more

lessen • decrease, diminish, reduce, abate, dwindle

ana • shorten, curtail, retrench, abridge, abbreviate; shrink, *contract: lighten, mitigate, alleviate (see relieve): *thin, dilute, attenuate

lesser smaller, *less, fewer

ant major

let 1 lease, rent, *hire, charter

2 let, allow, permit, suffer, leave denote to refrain from preventing, or to fail to prevent, or to indicate an intention not to prevent. Let, allow, and permit, though frequently used with little distinction of meaning, are capable of discrimination. Let is the most informal • her mother wouldn't let her go • she didn't go because her mother wouldn't let her • sometimes let implies failure to prevent through awkwardness, inadver tence, negligence, or inaction • the third baseman let the ball get through him • this dismal sketch of the future of countries that let themselves become dependent on the labor of other countries — Shaw • he is usually very particular not to let his beasts stray — F. D. Smith & Barbara Wilcox and sometimes it implies failure to prevent through lack of power or inclination • he'll have to be a good deal tougher than his dad, who lets himself be pushed around — Medad • allow and permit imply power or authority to prohibit or prevent. But allow may imply little more than acquiescence or lack of prohibition, whereas permit implies express signification of willingness • the freedom of conscience allowed dissenters, the tolerance extended to all creeds — Billington • a business or profession which allows you to get away when you want to — Josephy • i blush for the weakness that allows me to cherish such a passion — Gilbert • he permitted none but Quaker preachers to smoke or drink in his home — Starr • we do not give gifts, throw parties or pay bonuses at Christmas time. We do permit our employees to gather in the lobby and sing carols on Christmas Eve — Wall Street Jour. • suffer (somewhat bookish in this sense) is often a mere synonym for allow in the narrowest implication of that word • suffer little children to come unto me — Lk 18:16 • suffer me to take your hand. Death comes in a day or two — Millay • but it may imply indifference or reluctance • the eagle suffers little birds to sing — Shak. • she suffered herself to be led to the tiny enclosure where... other generations had been buried — S. E. White

perhaps the whole business... of the death penalty will seem... an anachronism too discordant to be suffered, mocking with grim reproach — Cardozo • leave (see also 1) as used with the implication of letting, allowing, or permitting is not clearly distinct from the use discriminated at relinquish, but it tends to stress strongly the implication of noninterference; often it also suggests the departure of the person who might interfere • leave the choice of games to be settled by the guests • the defendant's attorney left him free to tell his story as he wished • we must leave the children to settle their affairs for themselves — Rose Macaulay

ana • sanction, endorse, *approve, accredit, certify; *authorize, license, commission

con • forbid, prohibit, interdict, enjoin, ban, inhibit; *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar; thwart; *frustrate, foil, circumvent

lethal • deadly, fatal, mortal

ana • destroying or destructive (see corresponding verb at destroy) • killing, slaying (see kill) • pernicious, bane

ful, noxious; *poisonous, virulent, venomous, toxic

con • salutary, wholesome, hygienic, *healthful; renewing, restoring or restorative (see corresponding verbs at renew)

lethargic, sluggish, torpid, comatose are comparable when they mean being by constitution or condition physically and often mentally inert or inactive. Lethargic usually implies either a constitutional or a temporary or pathological state of sleepiness or drowsiness that makes for slowness in reactions, responses, or movements, or for temperamental apathy • bullfrogs, in a recent shipment, were quite lethargic... and reacted only when they were strongly stimulated — Giese • zone is the lethargic atmosphere of an apathetic people, hopeless and helpless to direct their own destinies — Atlantic • not all the industry of a Hercules will suffice to awaken the lethargic brain — Mencken • but it was no lethargic calm; my brain was more active than ever — Hudson

Sluggish applies not only to persons but to whatever by its nature moves, acts, or functions; the term implies conditions which create stagnation, inertia, indolence, or inability to proceed at a normal or usual pace • sluggish attention • a sluggish pond • a sluggish circulation • a sluggish market for securities • i want no sluggish languor, no bovine complacency. A phlenobritidal philosophy does not appeal to me — War ren Weaver • England has become unenterprising and sluggish because England has been so prosperous and comfortable — H. G. Wells • Torpid suggests the loss of power of feeling and of exertion; basically it implies the numb or benumbed state of a hibernating animal, but in its more common extended sense it implies a lack of the energy, vigor, and responsiveness that one associates with healthy, vital, active beings • memory was not so utterly torpid in Silas that it could not be wakened by these words — George Eliot • still Richard was torpid; could not think or move — Woolf • Oxford was torpid also, dironing along in its eighteenth-century grooves —
lethargy, languor, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity are analogous words

Discriminating powers of the mind, and...reduce it to a physical condition and torpor to a mental state...blunt the torpor—Wordsworth

Employed in reference to persons, usually imply extreme during the winter...which was in a state of profound sluggishness and inertness...a poor will found Steen) Torpor...stupor...basically torpidity—F. C. Lincoln

Lost all power of exertion or of feeling...has collapsed for the moment in Anderson)

Weariness—Con

Almost narcotic in such medieval poetry; one is lulled into...Ellis)

In extended use...comatose implies the stuflfication of extreme lethargy...advt.

Ana inert, idle, *inactive, supine, passive: phlegmatic, stolid, *impassive, apathetic: * languid, languorous, lackadaisical, listless: *slow, dilatory, laggard

Ant energetic, vigorous—Con alert, quick-witted: *intelligent: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: responsive (see TENDER): *spirited, gingery, peppy

lethargy, languor, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity are comparable when meaning physical and mental inertness. Lethargy implies a state marked by an aversion to activity which may be constitutional but is typically induced by disease, extreme fatigue or exhaustion, overeating or overdrinking, or constant frustration and which exhibits itself in drowsiness or apathy—which means this heaviness that hangs upon me? This lethargy that creeps through all my senses? Nature, oppressed and harassed out with care, sinks down to rest—Addison

The state of apathy and lethargy...has been thrust by their stunning...The St. Louis—Political Science Quarterly

Languor (compare LANGUID) has nearly lost its basic application to a condition of weakness, faintness, or deliracy of constitution induced by illness and serving as a bar to exertion or effort

Nearly sank to the ground through languor and extreme weakness—M. W. Shelley

And has come to imply an inertia such as results from soft living, from an enervating climate, or from amorous emotion (intervals of repose, which though agreeable for a moment, yet if prolonged beget a languor and lethargy that destroy all enjoyment—Hume

She is characterized essentially by languor. Her most familiar posture is on a bed or divan—Fowle

Instead of the languor of the tropics, they seem to have acquired...a good deal of our energy and enthusiasm—Eleanor Roosevelt

Lassitude implies such a listless...physical condition as may result from strain, overwork, poor health, or intense worry; it usually connotes an inertia of mind or body which one has not the strength to fight...Her physical lassitude—Hardy

An overpowering lassitude, an extreme desire simply to sit and dream—Moorehead

Stupor implies a state of heaviness when the mind is deadened (as by extreme drowsiness, intoxication, narcotic poisoning, or the coma of illness); the term may imply any state from a dreamy trance-like condition to almost complete unconsciousness (there is...something almost narcotic in such medieval poetry; one is lulled into a pleasing stupor—Lowes

Was in a stupor of mental weariness—Anderson

Had collapsed for the moment in a stupor of pain—Steen

Torpor and torpidity basically suggest the condition of a hibernating animal which has lost all power of exertion or of feeling (a poor will found during the winter...which was in a state of profound torpidity—F. C. Lincoln

Both terms, especially when employed in reference to persons, usually imply extreme sluggishness and inertness (as in some forms of insanity): torpidity, however, probably more often applies to a physical condition and torpor to a mental state (blunt the discriminating powers of the mind, and...reduce it to a state of almost savage torpor—Wordsworth

torpor has succeeded to her former intellectual activity...in a world of torpidities any rapid moving thing is hailed—Birrell

The torpidity which the last solitary tourist, flying with the yellow leaves...left them to enjoy till the returning spring—Peacock

Ana sluggishness, comatoseness (see corresponding adjectives at LETHARGIC): indolence, slothfulness or sloth, laziness (see corresponding adjectives at LAZY): inertness or inertia, inactivity, idleness, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at INACTIVE): apathy, phlegm, impassivity (see under IMPASSIVE)

Ant vigor—Con quickness, readiness, promptness, aptness (see corresponding adjectives at QUICK): alertness, quick-wittedness (see corresponding adjectives at INTELLIGENT)

letter, epistle, missive, note, message, dispatch, report, memorandum are comparable when they mean a communication sent or transmitted as distinct from one conveyed directly from source to recipient (as by oral utterance). Letter is the ordinary term for a written, typed, or printed communication sent by one person or group to another most often by mail; the term carries no implications about the nature of the communication and no hint as to whether it deals with personal or business matters or with affairs of public concern (she received a letter from her husband yesterday) (all letters sent out from the belligerent courts are censored) (he addressed an open letter (i.e., one given out for publication) to his constituents)

Epistle applies especially to a letter intended to be made public (as one of the scriptural letters of advice and counsel attributed to the Apostles) (the First Epistle to Timothy) (the Second Epistle to the Corinthians) or to a composition in prose or poetry taking the form of an open letter (Pope's "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot") As applied to a private letter, epistle is an over-formal word typically used with some degree of humorous or ironic implication (forced to defend his praise of James Jones's Eternity against a barrage of indignant epistles—Geisma) The amiable epistle of a son-in-law anxious to be a little more than correct—Bennett

Missive, too, is somewhat formal term and as applied to a personal letter may be somewhat ironic or whimsical in implication (many of their missives were illiterate, and the more violent of them were unsigned—Merriman

Note in general use applies to a letter that is brief and pointed, whether it is formal or informal (send a note of condolence) (write a note of acceptance). In diplomatic usage note is applied to a formal communication sent by one government to another (the Porte...acknowledged the validity of the Latin claims in a formal note—Kinglake)

Message differs from the preceding terms in being applicable not only to a written, typed, or printed communication but to one that is orally transmitted (as over the telephone or by a messenger or servant) or is telegraphed, cabled, or radioed (send a message to his mother that he had been called out of town) (but his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us—Lk 19:14)

In official and especially governmental use message applies to a formal communication from the head of a state (as one sent by the president of the United States to Congress or by a governor to the law-making body of his state) (President Wilson broke tradition by delivering his messages to Congress personally) Dispatch applies to a usually brief message that is sent post-haste (as by telegraph, cable, or radiotelegraph). In more technical use dispatch applies to such messages sent by an authorized correspondent to a newspaper or news association; it also specifically applies to an official message, often one in cipher, sent by or to a government to
or by a diplomatic, military, or naval officer in its service. **Report** (see also **account 2**) applies particularly to a communication sent by an official (as a diplomat) to his own government. The term is also applicable to an official communication giving a detailed statement of facts, proceedings, or recommendations (*the committee on foreign affairs is ready to make a report to Congress*). *The school sends a monthly report of each student's work to his parents.* **Memorandum** is used chiefly in business for an informal communication sent to an executive or employee, conveying instructions or directions.

**levée** *wharf, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty*

**level** vb point, train, direct, aim, lay

**level adj** Level, flat, plane, plain, even, smooth, flush are comparable chiefly as applied to surfaces and as meaning having a surface comparable to that of a perfectly calm body of water with no part higher than another. Something is level whose surface, from every point of view, lies on a line corresponding to or parallel with that of the horizon (*the top of the table is not perfectly level*), (*the prairies are vast stretches of nearly level land*), (*a plot of ground made level by grading*). But **level** is also applicable to an adjacent surface lying in exactly the same plane (*in the spring, the river's surface is often level with its banks*). Buildings whose roofs are level with one another. In extended use **level** implies an equality of parts, or of one thing with another, so that there are no manifest fluctuations or irregularities; thus, to speak in a **level** voice is to speak without the variations in pitch or voice volume that indicate imperfect self-control; to keep a **level** head is to keep free from distracting excitement. Something is **flat** (see also **insipid**) which is marked by absence of noticeable curvatures, prominences, or depressions, whether it lies in a horizontal plane or not (*there is no flat ground hereabouts*). (*the flat face of a cliff*), (*the sides of a pyramid are all flat*). But **flat** may apply to something that lies directly upon or against a flat surface (*flat feet*), (*lay the map flat on the table*), (*the chairs have their backs flat against the wall*). (*lie flat on the ground*). In extended use **flat** applies sometimes to what is so lacking in variation or variety as to be monotonous (*a flat speech delivered by the new president*), (*a flat entertainment*) or to what gives no ground for doubt or for difference in description because direct, pure, complete, or unqualified (*a flat question*), (*a belief that is flat heresy*), (*a flat failure*) or to what is fixed or absolutely exact (*ask a flat price*), (*he ran the race in a flat ten seconds*). Something is **plane** or **plain** which is flat and usually level. **Plane** is more usual in technical and mathematical use and more often applies to angles, curves, or figures (as triangles, rectangles, and pentagons) all points of which lie in the same real or imaginary surface so that if any two points be taken within the boundary lines of the angle, curve, or figure, the straight line joining them lies wholly within that surface; thus, **plane geometry**, which deals with **plane** angles, curves, and figures, is distinguished from **solid** geometry (*the plane sides of a crystal*). **Plain** is much less frequent in adjectival use and applies chiefly to the ground (*I recovered some strength, so as to be able to walk a little on plain ground—John Wesley*). **Something** is **even** (see also **steady**) which exhibits a uniformity of all the points either of a plane surface or of a line so that the surface's flatness or levelness or the line's straightness is observable (*he trimmed the top of the hedge to make it even*), (*the hem of your skirt is not even*). (*the frigate was on an even keel—Marryat*). **Something** is **smooth** that exhibits perfect evenness of surface, as though polished, rolled, or planed free from the slightest traces of roughness or unevenness (*the smooth surface of a rubbed and polished table*), (*a smooth lawn*), (*the tall bamboo and the long moss threw farther shadows . . . over the smooth bayou—Stark Young*). A surface or a line is **flush** that is in the same horizontal or vertical plane or forms a continuous surface or line with another surface or line (*the front of the house is flush with the front boundary line*), (*the river's surface is now flush with that of its banks*), (*a flush panel*). (*in the ordinary printed page, all lines are flush except those in titles or headings or those that are indented for paragraphing*).

**A** parallel, uniform, *like, akin, identical, similar: *same, equivalent, equal**

**Con** undulating, fluctuating, swaying (*see swing vb*): varying, changing (*see change vb*)

**levitate** rise, arise, ascend, tower, rocket, surge

**Ant** gravitate, sink

**levity** *lightness, light-mindedness, frivolity, flippancy, volatility, flightiness*

**Ana** foolishness or folly, silliness, absurdity (see corresponding adjectives at **foolish**); gaiety, liveliness, sprightliness, vivaciousness or vivacity (see corresponding adjectives at **lively**)

**Ant** gravity — **Con** seriousness, soberness or sobriety, earnestness, solemnity, somberness (see corresponding adjectives at **serious**); severity, sternness, austerity, asceticism (see corresponding adjectives at **severe**)

**lewd** lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, wanton, licentious, libertine

**Ana** immoral, unamoral, amoral: gross, coarse, obscene: indecent, indeclicate (see **indecorous**)

**Ant** chaste — **Con** decent, pure, modest (*see chaste*): moral, virtuous: continent, temperate (*see sober*)

**liability** debt, indebtedness, obligation, debit, arrear

**Ant** asset (or plural assets)

**liable** 1 amenable, answerable, responsible, accountable

**Ana** obliged, constrained, compelled (*see force vb*): bound, tied (*see tie vb*)

**Con** exempt, immune (*see corresponding nouns at exemption*): free, independent

2 **Liable**, open, exposed, subject, prone, susceptible, sensitive are used with reference to persons or things and mean being by nature or situation in a position where something stated or implied may happen. **Liable** (see also **apt 2**: **responsible**) is used particularly when the thing one incurs or may incur is the result of his obligation to authority, of his state in life, or of submission to forces beyond his control (*one of the most horrible diseases to which mankind is liable—Eliot*). **Literature is liable to obsolescence, not only because language changes and gradually becomes less intelligible, but because the ideas, the interests, the conception of life it expresses, the very form of the thought, the experiences which arouse emotion, all become obsolete—Addington*) *liable to be burned at the stake for . . . heresy—Repple*). **Open** suggests lack of barriers or ease of access (*standing thus alone . . . open to all the criticism which descends on the lone operator—Catton*). *Another modern tendency in education . . . somewhat more open to question* (*I mean the tendency to make education useful rather than ornamental—Russell*)

**Exposed** presupposes the same conditions as **open**, but it is more restricted in application because it implies a position or state of peril or a lack of protection or of resistance (*infant mortality is high because the piglets are exposed to diseases the sow carries—Farmer's Weekly*). *Germans never tire of explaining that their exposed position in Central Europe has forced them to follow a policy of expansion—Bullock*.

**Subject and prone** (see also **prone 2**) both suggest greater likelihood

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of incurring or suffering than liable and even less resistance than exposed; they may both connote the position of being under the sway or control of a superior power, but otherwise they differ in implications. Subject implies openness to something which must be suffered, borne, or undergone for a reason (as a state in life or a social, economic, or political status or a quality of temperament or nature) the French people would have stood permanently weak, open to invasion and subject to continual interference.—Bellloc—both were subject to constant criticism from men and bodies of men whose minds were as acute and whose learning was as great as their own—Henry Adams.—Paul was rather a delicate boy, subject to bronchitis—D. H. Lawrence—The cycles to which all civilizations are subject—Ellis—The constitution was strictly an unknown one, and was avowedly subject to revision in the light of new developments—Buchan—Prime, on the other hand, usually implies that the person, or less often the thing, concerned is more or less governed by a propensity or predisposition to something which makes him or it almost certain to incur or to do that thing when conditions are favorable you may well warn me against such an evil. Human nature is so prone to fall into it—Austen—1. I think that girls are less prone than boys to punish oddity by serious physical cruelty—Russell—In those industries that are most prone to periods of depression and unemployment—Hobson.—Our painters are prone to acquiesce in the colors of nature as they find them, rather than to use colors expressive of the mood evoked in themselves—Binyon—Susceptible carries a stronger implication than the preceding terms, with the exception of prone, of something in the person’s or thing’s nature, character, constitution, or temperament that makes him or it unresistant or liable to a thing and especially to a deleterious thing or a thing that exerts a deleterious influence (wheat tends to be very susceptible to smut—Furnas) a mind enormously more susceptible to tragic impressions than your own—Montague—a natural-born actor, who was, in childhood, susceptible not only to somnambulism but to mesmeric control—Brooks—When used attributively the word often implies a readiness to fall in love a very susceptible young man Sometimes, however, susceptible stresses openness by reason of one’s nature, character, or constitution, rather than liability, and when followed by of is equivalent to admitting or allowing a theory susceptible of proof today’s pedagogical theory asserts that memory cannot be cultivated: it is inborn, full-grown at the start, and not susceptible of increase—Grande'gent—Sensitive differs from susceptible chiefly in implying a physical or emotional condition that predisposes one to certain impressions or certain reactions she was too sensitive to abuse and calumny—Macaulay she discovered that with the clarification of her complexion and the birth of pink cheeks her skin had grown more sensitive to the sun’s rays—Hardy she was extremely sensitive to neglect, to disagreeable impressions, to want of intelligence in her surroundings—Henry Adams—the eye is much more sensitive to light than the hand or the balance to weight—Darrow—

Ant exempt, immune
3 likely, apt
liaison intrigue, *amour, affair
libel n Libel, skit, squib, lampoon, pasquinade mean a public and often satirical presentation of faults or weaknesses, especially those of an individual. Libel (compare libel vb under malign) is the legal term for statement or representation (as a cartoon) published or circulated without just cause or excuse, which tends to expose a person to public contempt, hatred, or ridicule cheap senseless libels were scattered about the city—Clarendon—Skit applies to an amusing satire typically in the form of a dramatic sketch or story that may be more humorous or ironical than satirical and is usually of no very great weight or seriousness; the term seldom connotes malice, bitterness, or abusiveness, but it often suggests the infliction of a sting he did not deserve your skit about his “Finsbury Circus gentility”—FitzGerald—The first of the one-act plays was a skit more or less obviously dealing with the prime minister’s attempt to forestall war Squib applies to a short and clever often malicious piece of satirical writing that makes its point with a sharp thrust and evokes laughter or amusement no one was more faithful to his early friends particularly if they could write a squib—Disraeli—Lampoon suggests more virulence and abusiveness and a coarser humor than squib a lust to misapply, make satire a lampoon, and fiction, lie—Pope—On his master at Twyford he had already exercised his poetry in a lampoon—Johnson—Pasquinade is preferred to lampoon when such circumstances as anonymity, public posting, political character, or extreme scurrility are implied the white walls of the barracks were covered with . . . pasquinades leveled at Cortez—Prescott—Aea scurrility, invective, vituperation, *abuse; burlesque, travesty (see caricature n)

libel vb defame, slander, *malign, traduce, asperse, vilify, calumniate

liberal adj 1 Liberal, generous, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, handsome are applied to a person or to his deeds or utterances and mean showing or revealing a spirit of giving freely and without stint. Liberal suggests openhandedness or lack of closeness or meanness in the giver and largeness in the thing that is given make a liberal provision for a son at college a liberal offer for a house liberal in praise about three thousand New Hampshire men were engaged in privateering receiving liberal rewards for the risks they took—Amer. Guide Series: N. H.—Opium smokers included the upper crust of the underworld, as well as liberal representation from the socialite class—Maurer & Vogel—Generous usually emphasizes some positive quality of heart and mind as warmhearted readiness to give, forgetfulness of self, or magnanimity that prompts the giver or the gift more than the size or importance of the gift made a generous provision for his servants in his will (rejected a friend’s generous offer of assistance) she was generous beyond the dreary bounds of common sense—Osbert Sitwell The boys “not manly enough nor brave enough” to do a generous action where there was a chance that it would get them into trouble—Brooks—Bountiful suggests lavish or unremitting generosity in providing or giving he is a worthy gentleman . . . as bountiful as mines of India—Shak (even the bountiful Queen of Berengaria had overlooked him when she distributed honors—Glasgow—Bounteous carries much the same suggestions as bountiful but is less often applied to a person the bounteous yields of [crops] . . . for which the state is noted—Amer. Guide Series: Aiz.—Caused them to . . . be very bounteous in their avowals of interest—Hawthorne—Openhanded emphasizes generosity in giving and may further suggest freedom from all taint of self-interest and sometimes of forethought in the giving (compare closefisted at stingy) he was free and openhanded and grudged her nothing—McCrone a curious mixture of

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
little thought of their meaning content in more general applications.

*Ana* tolerant, *forbearing, indulgent, lenient

*Ant* authoritarian —*Con* strict, stringent, *rigid, rigorous: dogmatic, doctrinaire, *dictatorial, oracular

liberate release, *free, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise

*Ana* disengage, *detach: extricate, disentangle, untangle, disencumber, disembarass: *rescue, redeem, ransom, deliver

*Con* *imprison, incarcerate, immure, intern: confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit: *tie, bind: ensnare, snare, entrap, trap (see CATCH)

libertine *lictentious, lewd, wanton, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous

*Ana* debauched, corrupted or corrupt (see under DEBASE): *abandoned, dissolve, profligate, reprobate: *immoral, amoral, amoral

*Ant* straitlaced —*Con* *moral, virtuous, ethical: continent, *sober, temperate: *chaste, decent

liberty *freedom, license

*Ana* independence, autonomy (see under FREE adj): *exemption, immunity: liberation, emancipation, enfranchisement, delivery (see corresponding verbs at FREE): scope, *range, compass, sweep

*Ant* restraint —*Con* constraint, compulsion, duress, coercion (see FORCE): confinement, restriction, limitation, circumscription (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT)

libidinous lecherous, lustful, lascivious, lewd, wanton, libertine, *lcentious


library *museum, archives, treasury, gallery

license n liberty, *freedom

*Ana* exemption, immunity: looseness, laxity, slackness, relaxedness or relaxation (see corresponding adjectives at LOOSE): privilege, prerogative (see RIGHT)

*Ant* decorum —*Con* obligation, duty: decorum (see DECORUM): restraint, constraint, compulsion (see FORCE): continence, *temperance, sobriety

license vb *authorize, commission, accredit

*Ana* permit, *let, allow, suffer: *approve, endorse, sanction, certify: empower, *enable

*Ant* ban —*Con* interdict, inhibit, enjoin, prohibit, *forbid: *restrain, curb, check

*licentious, libertine, lewd, wanton, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous* all suggest unchaste habits, especially in being given to or indicative of immorality in sex relations. *Licentious* basically implies disregard of the restraints imposed by law or custom for the enforcement of chastity; the term stresses looseness of life and of habits rather than the impiousseness of one's desires (licentious living) (licentious morals) (the precept that enjoins him abstinence forbids him none but the licentious joy, whose tone, though fair, tempts only to destroy—Cooper) (an irreleligious and *licentious* age had abetted depravity—Glasgow) *Libertine* suggests a more open and a more habitual disregard of moral laws, especially those pertaining to the sex relations of men and women (the frank libertine wit of their old stage—Gibbon) (he castigated the libertine lives of many of his generation) (by merely living together a couple is practicing libertinism—love—and the mere repetition doesn't, in some mysterious way, make it legal—Stone) *Lewd* often carries strong connotations of grossness, vileness, and vulgarity which color its other implications of sensuality, dissoluteness, and unconcern for chastity. As a result it is applied less often than the preceding terms to persons, or to the manners, thoughts, and acts of persons, who retain in their im-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
morality evidence of breeding, refinement, or gentility
<seen in the company of lewd women> <lewd songs>
<lewd actions in public> <where dowdy women whispered lewd invitations from behind wooden shutters—Baum>
(the whiskey had filled his body with a rosy sense of complete well-being, and vague lewd sensual images stroked his mind—Mailer) Wanton (see also supererogatory) implies moral irresponsibility or a disposition or way of life marked by indifference to moral restraints; it often suggests freedom from restraint comparable to that of animals, thereby connoting lightness, incapacity for faithfulness or seriousness, or a generally unmoral attitude
<wanton little creatures without character or depth of feeling—Nordhoff & Hall> <all this was done with a gay, and, as I said, a wanton disregard of the ill effects—Sir Winston Churchill> <so wanton, light and false, my love, are you, I am most faithless when I most am true—Millay>
Lustful implies the influence or the frequent incitement of desires, especially of strong and often unlawful sexual desires <she took the greatest care of his health and comfort, and was faithful to him, not being naturally lustful except of power—Graves>
Lascivious, like lewd, definitely suggests sensuality, but it carries a clearer implication of an inclination to lustfulness or of a capacity for inciting lust <lascivious desires> <lascivious thoughts> <lascivious glances> <lascivious dress> (tales that ... are Rabelaisian in their coarseness and not ... lascivious—Sellery>) <I have seen a nanny goat repel a lascivious and impatient old billy goat who was making advances—Putnam>
Libidinous and lecherous are the strongest of all these terms in their implications of deeply ingrained lustfulness and of debauchery. Libidinous distinctively suggests a complete surrender to one's sexual desires <a lewd youth ... advances by degrees into a libidinous old man—Addison> <the Gauls indulged in libidinous orgies, in which sodomy played a part—Putnam> Lecherous clearly implies habitual indulgence of one's lust, the term often being used when any of the others would seem too weak to express one's contempt <remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!—Shak.> <boasted of his pornographic publications and his pornographic “library” and his own lecherous fornications—Shirer>
<the whiskey had filled his body with a rosy sense of complete well-being, and vague lewd sensual images stroked his mind—Mailer>
Ant continent —Con *chaste, decent, pure: *moral, virtuous: strict, *rigid: austere, ascetic, *severe
licit *lawful, legitimate, legal
Ana permitted, allowed (see LIE): sanctioned, approved (see APPROVE): authorized, licensed (see AUTHORIZE): regulated (see ADJUST)
Ant illicit —Con forbidden, prohibited, interdicted, inhibited, banned (see FORBID)
lack vb beat, defeat, *conquer, vanquish, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout
lissipstle *parasite, sycophant, toady, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, sponger, favorite
lie vb lie, prevaricate, equivocate, palter, fib mean to tell an untruth directly or indirectly. Lie is the straightforward word, flatly imputing dishonesty to the speaker <he lies, and he knows he lies—Johnson> <the article ... has deliberately lied and distorted facts—Nation's Business>
Prevaricate is often used in place of lie as a more formal or less offensive term; distinctively, it can imply evasion of the truth (as by quibbling, dodging the real point, or confusing the issue) <he could prevaricate no longer, and, confessing to the gambling, told her the truth—Hardy> “<Even if it was so, which I don’t say it is”—“Don’t prevaricate,” said Mr. Lorry—Dickens> Equivocate implies saying one thing and meaning another; it usually suggests the use of words that carry more than one sense in the hope that the sense which gives the incorrect impression may be the one accepted by the hearer <by equivocating, hesitating, and giving ambiguous answers, she effected her purpose—Martineau> <he was wholly in sympathy with Congregationalism, and had no mind to conceal or equivocate concerning its democratic tendencies—Parrington>
Palter implies a playing fast and loose, not only in statements but in dealings; it often specifically implies prevarication, equivocation, or the making of promises one does not intend to keep <and be these juggling fiends no more believed that palter with us in a double sense—Shak.> <Caroline, don’t go back—don’t palter with us—abide by your own words—Edgeworth> Fib (see also LIE n) may be used as a euphemism for lie; but it more often implies the telling of an untruth that is either trivial in matter or in significance <she was given to fibbing about her admirers> <the child fibs when he thinks he can gain something by it> <he didn’t like Janet. She fibbed, he said, and was a telltale—Glasgow>
Ana *deceive, delude, mislead, beguile
lie n Lie, falsehood, untruth, fib, misrepresentation, story are comparable when they mean a statement or declaration that does not conform to the truth. Lie is usually felt to be a term of extreme opprobrium because it implies a flat and unquestioned contradiction of the truth and deliberate intent to deceive or mislead <you told a lie; an odious, damned lie—Shak.> <his decent reticence is branded as hypocrisy, his circumlocutions are roundly called lies—Maugham> Falsehood may be both less censorious than lie and wider in its range of application. The term need not imply sinfulness or criminality, for it applies not only to lies <told two flat falsehoods about what had happened in secret session—Davis> but to such fictions as literary fictions, polite fictions, and legal fictions and then contrasts most directly with fact (a man’s entire life may be a falsehood, while with his lips he may not once directly falsify—F. N. Scott & J. V. Denney) Like lie, the term implies known nonconformity to the truth, but unlike lie, it does not invariably suggest a desire to pass off as true something known to be untrue <falsehoods which we spurn today were the truths of long ago—Whittier> Untruth is often euphemistic for lie or falsehood and may carry similar derogatory implications <his report was riddled with inaccuracies and untruths> or it may be selected because of mitigating circumstances <tell you untruths yesterday morning merely to cheer you up—Bennett> Sometimes, however, untruth may apply to an untrue statement made as a result of ignorance or a misconception of the truth <so far as he knew he had never told an untruth> <the traditions and the untruths our cultural fathers have sometimes told us—La Barre> Fib is an informal or childish term for a trivial falsehood; it is often applied to one told to save one’s own or another’s face <not that I couldn’t tell a downright fib if I had to ... but a lie is to me just as silly a performance when it is about marriage or work as about the law of gravitation—Mary Austin> <the trade in drama seems to be prosecuted in a world of perfunctory fibs which no one believes—Montague> Misrepresentation applies to a misleading and usually an intentionally or deliberately misleading statement which gives an impression that is contrary to the truth; the term implies glossing over defects or weaknesses (as in something offered for sale) or placing the emphasis upon details that highlight a character, an occurrence, or a train of events rather than on those that in reality marked it <our guides deceived us with misrepresentations—Addison> <his duty to further the in-
terest of his client does not require him to employ any sort of trickery, chicane, deceit, or misrepresentation—

Drinker

Story (see also ACCOUNT 2) in the sense relevant to this discussion is an informal term used chiefly by or with reference to children in place of any of the preceding terms, especially falsehood, untruth, and fib 〈boys who tell stories are likely to be caught〉

Ana

prevarication, equivocation, fibbing or fib (see corresponding verbs at LIE): mendaciousness or mendacity, untruthfulness, dishonesty, deceitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at DISHONEST)

Ant

truth — Con

veracity, verity, verisimilitude (see TRUTH)

life

*bibography, memoir, autobiography, confessions

lifeless

inanimate, *dead, defunct, deceased, departed, late

light vb 1 Lift, raise, rear, elevate, hoist, heave, boost are

coordinated verbs at LIE; mendaciousness or mendacity, untruthfulness, dishonesty, deceitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at DISHONEST)

Ant

truth — Con

veracity, verity, verisimilitude (see TRUTH)

light adj easy, simple, facile, effortless, smooth

Ana slight (see THIN): trivial, trifling, *petty, puny

Ant

heavy: arduous; burdensome — Con difficult, *hard:

*onerous, oppressive, exacting; rigorous, stringent
lightness, light-mindedness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, lighthearted

vb alleviate, mitigate, relieve, assuage, allay; lighten

vb lightness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, lighthearted, cheerful, happy, glad, joyous

lightness is often unjustly accused of light-mindedness

Levity suggests a temperamental lack of seriousness or stability

thought of tone with which I uttered such serious words—E. J. Goodman

The term may further imply instability

there is a lightness about the feminine mind—a touch and go—George Eliot

Frivolity adds to lightness the implication of empty or idle speech or conduct; the term often carries a strong connotation of triviality or of pettiness

volatility, lightness, light-mindedness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, buoyancy, resiliency, elasticity, effervescence, expansiveness

graveness or gravity, earnestness, sobriety, sedateness, stiffness, somberness

like vb Love, enjoy, relish, fancy, dote are comparable when meaning to be so attracted to a person or thing as to regard him or it with favor. Like (opposed to dislike), the most general and, especially when unqualified, the most colorless of these words, means merely to regard with favor or without the slightest aversion. Therefore, it is chiefly used in reference to persons or things that are pleasing but evoke no great warmth of feeling or urgency of desire

<Sumner whom I admire and dislike; and Shaw of Dunfermline whom I like but do not admire—Laski>

<Arnold, having been poor, liked money and knew the value of it—Osbter Stilwell>

<Hawthorne liked to sit in barrooms; Thoreau would have enjoyed doing so, and have frequented inns, as farmers, and campers on the river—Canby>

Love (opposed to hate) implies not only pleasing liking but ardent attachment and is therefore used with reference to persons or things that arouse the deeper or higher emotions; thus, one likes his neighbors but loves his family; one likes the open country but loves his native land—{I like a church; I like a cow; I love a prophet of the soul—Emerson>

{this peculiar, brooding woman, who loved best in life the sorrow and high seriousness of things—Ballett>

Love also is often used with reference to trivial objects as an informal intensive of like

{ice cream> (old Sarah Battle . . . loved a good game of whist—Lamb>

Enjoy implies a liking or loving that awakens deep satisfaction and keen delight which may be sensuous or intellectual or often a mingling of the two

<we had written our first stories together . . . and together enjoyed the first sweets of success—Rose Macaulay>

no one but Molny and the Bishop had ever seemed to enjoy the beautiful site of that building,—perhaps no one ever would. But these two had spent many an hour admiring it—Cather>

(it is this specific quality, the power of enjoying things without being reduced to the need of possessing them, which differentiates the aesthetic instinct from other instincts—Ellis>

Rielish implies a liking, or sometimes an enjoyment, that arises because the thing relished meets one's approval, satisfies one's taste, or gives one peculiar gratification

relish him as the most perfect opportunist in prose—Morley>

Fancy (see also THINK 1) implies a liking for something that corresponds to one's imaginative conception or sometimes one's ideal of what it should be—{I never yet beheld that special face which I could fancy more than any other—Shak>

he should have yachts, horses, whatever he fancied—Meredith> for or something that appeals to one's taste or one's eye especially at the moment

while she was ill, she fancied only the most delicate of foods—Dote, with on or upon, implies an infatuation or a foolish excessive liking or fondness—you dote on her that cares not for your love—Shak>

he doted on his daughter Mary; she could do no wrong—Havighurst>

Love it may be used as an informal intensive of like

<two peoples, both of whom love palaver and dote on uproar—Monroe>

he dotes on bland horrors in food—Liebling>

Ana prefer, *choose, select, elect: admire, esteem, respect, regard (see under REGARD n); *approve, endorse:

Ant analogous words  Ana buoynency, resiliency, elasticity, effervescence, expansiveness (see corresponding adjectives at ELASTIC): gaiety, liveliness, vivaciousness or vivacity (see corresponding adjectives at LIVELY): lightheartedness, cheerfulness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD)

Ant seriousu —Con graveness or gravity, earnestness, sobriety, sedateness, stiffness, somberness (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)

Like vb, like, love, enjoy, relish, fancy, dote are comparable when meaning to be so attracted to a person or thing as to regard him or it with favor. Like (opposed to dislike), the most general and, especially when unqualified, the most colorless of these words, means merely to regard with favor or without the slightest aversion. Therefore, it is chiefly used in reference to persons or things that are pleasing but evoke no great warmth of feeling or urgency of desire. Sumner, whom I admire and dislike; and Shaw, of Dunfermline, whom I like but do not admire. Arnold, having been poor, liked money and knew the value of it—Osbert Stilwell. Hawthorne liked to sit in barrooms; Thoreau would have enjoyed doing so, and have frequented inns, as farmers, and campers on the river. Canby. Love (opposed to hate) implies not only pleasing liking but ardent attachment and is therefore used with reference to persons or things that arouse the deeper or higher emotions; thus, one likes his neighbors but loves his family; one likes the open country but loves his native land. I like a church; I like a cow; I love a prophet of the soul. This peculiar, brooding woman, who loved best in life the sorrow and high seriousness of things. Ballett. Love also is often used with reference to trivial objects as an informal intensive of like. I love ice cream. Old Sarah Battle . . . loved a good game of whist. Lamb. Enjoy implies a liking or loving that awakens deep satisfaction and keen delight which may be sensuous or intellectual or often a mingling of the two. We had written our first stories together . . . and together enjoyed the first sweets of success. Rose Macaulay. No one but Molny and the Bishop had ever seemed to enjoy the beautiful site of that building, perhaps no one ever would. But these two had spent many an hour admiring it. Cather. It is this specific quality, the power of enjoying things without being reduced to the need of possessing them, which differentiates the aesthetic instinct from other instincts. Ellis. Rielish implies a liking, or sometimes an enjoyment, that arises because the thing relished meets one's approval, satisfies one's taste, or gives one peculiar gratification. His fine taste taught him giving one peculiar gratification. His fine taste taught him
like

appreciate, comprehend, *understand

Ant dislike — Con *hate, abhor, detest, abominate, loathe: *despise, contemn, scorn, disdain

like adj Like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, uniform, identical are comparable though seldom strictly synonymous terms which describe the relation between things or persons that closely resemble each other. Like is a general word indicating resemblance or similarity ranging from virtual identity in all characteristics to a chance resemblance in only one (the children were very like) this finest intuitions may . . . prove convincing only to himself, or to a limited circle of like minds—Times Lit. Sup.) Alike is similar to like but is less likely to be used for the chance, farfetched resemblance and is generally limited to use in a predicate or postposed situation after a compounded substantive modified (their resemblance as brother and sister . . . they looked utterly alike—Sinclair Lewis) (they were strikingly alike in gifts and tastes—Starr) Similar often stresses the likenesses between different things, implying that differences may be overlooked or ignored for a time (Virginia creeper or the deceptively similar poison ivy—Amer. Guide Series: Md.) (regard the attraction which illusion has for us as similar to that which a flame at night has for a moth—Cohen) (this is not to say that the quarters are all alike. But they are as similar as the generation of young writers who contribute to them—R. B. West) Analogous calls attention to the presence of some likeness which makes it feasible or permissible to draw from it an analogy, a sustained or appropriate comparison (the two new states would have a position analogous to that of British Dominions—Manchester Guardian) (quite analogous to the emotionalizing of Christian art is the example afforded by the evolution of the Latin hymn—H. O. Taylor) Comparable implies a likeness on one point or a limited number of points which permits a limited or casual comparison or matching together (the Syrians . . . with Arabian coffee, served thick and strong in tiny cups, as a national drink comparable to the Englishman's tea—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.) The word is especially likely to be used in connection with considerations of merit, standing, rank, or power (neither in military nor industrial terms is China comparable to the other three great powers—Dean) Akin, limited to use in postpositive situations, indicates an essential likeness, often of the sort of likeness found in kinship or suggestive of common descent from an original ancestor, prototype, or ancestral stock (the Mongols of Outer Mongolia . . . are akin to those of the neighboring Buryat-Mongol A.S.S.R.—Foreign Affairs) (real nursery tales, akin to Brer Rabbit—Times Lit. Sup.) (science . . . is akin to democracy in its faith in human intelligence and cooperative effort—Muller) Parallel stresses the fact of similarities over a course of development throughout a history or account or the fact of resemblances or likenesses permitting a setting or bracketing together as though side by side by side (the almost parallel growth of the Twin Cities—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) (parallel to the classic and academic Italian school was one with a more distinctive native feeling—Manship) (parallel to the powers of the king were the powers of the father in the individual household—Linton) Uniform suggests a likeness and similarity throughout and a lack of noticeable variation wherever things in question occur or operate (one of the most fundamental social interests is that law shall be uniform and impartial—Cardozo) (schools . . . no longer expect all children to learn to read at a uniform rate—Education Digest) Identical indicates either the fact of being the same person or thing or, in connection with things copied, reproduced, or repeated, an exact correspondence without detectable or significant difference (George Eliot and Mary Ann Evans were identical) (the interests of workers and their employers were not altogether identical—Cohen) (his home life and his life as a man of letters are never identical—Canby)

Ana equivalent, equal, *same, selfsame, identical: cogitate, allied, *related

Ant unlike — Con *different, diverse, divergent, disparate, various: dissimilar, distinct (see corresponding nouns at DISSIMILARITY): discrepant, discordant, *inconsonant, inconsistent

likely 1 *probable, possible

Ana credible, believable, colorable, *plausible: reasonable, *rational

Ant unlikely — Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic: *certain, inevitable, necessary

2 *apt, liable

likeness, similarity, resemblance, similitude, analogy, affinity are comparable when they denote agreement or correspondence or an instance of agreement or correspondence in details (as of appearance, structure, or qualities) brought out by a comparison of two or more things. Likeness commonly implies closer correspondence than similarity, which often applies to things which are merely somewhat alike (thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above—Deut 5:8) (yes, I should have known you anywhere from your likeness to your father—Archibald Marshall) (Zaza is an old woman, while you, princess, still have youth and beauty. Nevertheless, the likeness is positively amazing—Robert Standish) (certain insects escape danger by their similarity to plants—Lubbock) (great works of art have a decided similarity to great human beings— they are both three-dimensional—Hartford) Resemblance suggests especially similarity in appearance or in superficial or external qualities (it would be as difficult to discover any resemblance between the two situations as between the appearance of the persons concerned—Wharton) Similitude, which is somewhat infrequent and bookish, is occasionally preferred to likeness or similarity when an abstract term is desired (the law which reconciles similitude and dissimilitude, the harmony of contrast—Reed) (all medieval variances of thought show common similitudes—H. O. Taylor) (Analogy distinctively implies comparison of things which are unlike, not only specifically or generally, but often even in substance or essence, and it more often draws attention to likeness or parallelism in relations rather than in appearances or qualities. Philosophically, it suggests such assumptions as that similar causes will produce similar effects or that what is true in one order of existence must be true in another (three principal types of ants) offering a curious analogy to . . . the hunting, pastoral, and agricultural stages in the history of human development—Lubbock) (such senile efforts to penetrate . . . the mystery of religion . . . have a real analogy to that final effort of the emotionally starved to grasp at love which has been called "old maid's insanity"—Ellis) Affinity adds to resemblance the implications of such a relationship as natural kinship, temperamental sympathy, similar experience, or historical influence, which is responsible for the likeness (in Keats, there are . . . phrases and paradoxes that have surprising affinities with Taoist thought—Binyon) (his face . . . had a curious affinity to the faces of old sailors or fishermen who have lived a simple, practical life in the light of an overmastering tradition—Galsworthy)

Ana equivalence, equality, sameness, identicalness or identity (see corresponding adjectives at SAME): agree-
ment, conformity, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at **agree**): analogousness, comparability, uniformity, parallelism (see corresponding adjectives at **like**)  
**Ant** unlikeness —**Con** *dissimilarity, difference, divergence, discrepancy, distinction*  
**likewise** *also, too, besides, moreover, furthermore*  
**limit** bough, branch, *shoot*  
**limber** adj *supple, lithe, litheossome, lissome*  
**Ana** plant, pliable, *plastic: flexible, *elastic, resilient, springy  
**Con** *stiff, inflexible, rigid, tense, stark, wooden*  
**limit** n **Limit, bound, confine, end, term** are comparable when they mean an actual or imaginary line beyond which a thing does not or cannot extend. **Limit** is the most inclusive of these terms because it carries no necessary implication of number, that always being suggested by the context; thus, a thing (as a man's strength, the extent of his authority, or the reach of his arm) may be said to have a **limit**, implying one only; some other thing (as a race course, a lifetime, or a period of time) may be said to have its **limits**, but since linear extent and duration are specifically implied, these limits are by implication two in number *(the **limits** of a room are usually its four walls)* *(nightingales will not pass their **limits**: they seem to have a marked-out range as strictly defined as the lines of a geological map—*Jefferies*)*  
**Also, limit** may be applied to a line which is fixed by nature or inner necessity, established by authority, or determined by agreement *(within the **limits** of human reason)* *(the **limit** of the fisherman's catch is determined by the state game laws)* *(lives within the **limits** of his income)* *(determine the **limits** for the treatment of a topic)* *(the **limit** of Santayana as a poet ... are the restraints of an academic habit—*Edman*)*  
**Bound** and **confine**, on the other hand, are applicable to only one of the limits that comprise the real or imaginary boundaries of a thing. Both terms are used chiefly in the plural, even when the boundary line is continuous and forms a circle or only one side; the same is true of a bounding surface that forms a sphere *(within the **bounds** of the earth)* *(thirty bonfires could be counted within the whole **bounds** of the district—*Hardy*)* *(the western **confines** of China)* *(within the **confines** of our subject)* *(the furthest **confines** of the family property—*Memen*)*  
**The distinctions between these two words are not always apparent; however, **bounds** usually indicates a point of view from within and suggests restriction, and **confines** indicates a point of view either from within or without and suggests enclosure *(the book passes beyond the **bounds** of decency)* *(how they behaved in their spare time, nobody cared, and few knew ... they had no **bounds** to respect—*Forde*)* *(strain the **confines** of formal monogamous marriage—*La Barre*)*  
**End** *(see also **end**: 2; **intention**)* applies usually to one of the two uttermost limits or extremes of a thing; this use is chiefly found in idiomatic phrases *(travel to the **ends** of the earth)* but it occurs also in reference to either extreme in an ascending or descending scale, or in a series that progresses from one extreme to its diametrical opposite *(at one **end** of the social scale there is the outcast or the parish; at the other **end**, the elite)* *(admired from one **end** of Europe to the other—*Andrews*)*  
**Term** applies usually to a limit in duration *(neither history nor archaeology has yet put a **term** to Roman civilization in London—*William Page*)*  
**Ana** limitation, restriction, circumscription, confinement (see corresponding verbs at **limit**): *border, margin, verge, edge, rim, brim, brink*  
**limit** vb **Limit, restrict, confine** mean to set or prescribe the bounds for a person or thing. **Limit** usually implies the predetermination of a point (as in time, in space, in quantity, in capacity, or in production) beyond which the person or thing concerned cannot go or is not permitted to go without suffering a penalty or incuring undesirable consequences *(limit the speed of automobiles to 45 miles an hour outside of towns and cities)* *(the time allowed for the erection of a building to one year from the date of the signing of the contract)* *(limit the acreage planted with potatoes)* *(limit a day's work to five hours)* *(the great point ... on these sacred occasions was for each man to strictly **limit** himself to half-a-pint of liquor—*Hardy*)* *(the Constitution **limits** his functions in the law-making process to the recommending ... and the vetting of laws—*Current History*)*  
**But limit** may also be used with reference to a bound or bounds not predetermined but inherent in a situation or in the nature or constitution of a thing *(the poor soil **limited** their crops)* *(a lonely young girl **limited** ... by the absence of companionship—*Handlin*)* or brought about as desirable by conscious effort or by full choice *(medical science knows how to **limit** these evils—*Eliot*)* *(limit* his aspirations to the search for the attainable)* **Restrict**, in contrast to **limit**, suggests a boundary that encircles and encloses rather than a point that ends; the term therefore often applies to something which can be thought of in the terms of the space, territory, or field that it covers. The word often also connotes a narrowing or tightening *(restrict the powers of a court)* *(restrict the freedom of the press)* *(restricted his diet on orders from his physician)* *(the bureau was dismembered, its staff dispersed, and its appropriations for research restricted almost to the vanishing point—*Heiser*)* *(combinations have arisen which restrict the very freedom that Bentham sought to attain—*Justice Holmes*)*  
**Circumscribe** differs from **restrict** in that its implication of an encircling or enclosing boundary is always clear; consequently, it is often preferred to **restrict** when the idea of being kept within too small an extent or range is to be stressed *(people ... think that the emotional range, and the realistic truth, of drama is limited and circumscribed by verse—*T. S. Eliot*) or when there is the intent to suggest a distinct, complete, but limited whole and its apartness from all that surrounds it *(to undertake here to inquire into the degree of its necessity, would be to pass the line which circumscribes the judicial department—*John Marshall*)* *(the world to which they belonged and for which they worked was strictly circumscribed and complete within itself—*Binyon*)*  
**Confine** may imply limitation, restriction, or circumscription, but it usually emphasizes the bounds which must not or cannot be passed; consequently, it often suggests severe restraint or restraints and carries connotations such as those of cramming, fettering, hampering, or bottling up that are not often present in the other words *(now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in to saucy doubts and fears—*Shak*)* *(the distinction between a government with limited and unlimited powers is abolished, if those limits do not confine the persons on whom they are imposed—*John Marshall*)* *(it is not desirable to confine knowledge to whatever can be put into a useful shape for examinations, drawing rooms, or the still more pretentious modes of publicity—*T. S. Eliot* )* *(we are confined to our senses for perceiving the world—*Darrow*)*  
**Ana** define, *prescribe, assign: restrain, curb, check* *(Ant a wider —**Con** *expand, swell, distend: enlarge, *increase; *extend, lengthen, prolong, protract*  
**limm** vb *represent, depict, portray, delineate, picture*  
**limp, flopply, flaccid, flabby, flimsy, sleazy* mean deficient in firmness of texture, substance, or structure and therefore unable to keep a shape or in shape. **Limp** applies to
something that lacks or has lost the stiffness or firmness necessary to keep it from drooping or losing its original sturdiness or freshness (<collars limp with perspiration> <a limp body that seemed to have been poured into its clothes as if it were sand—Sitwell> <this body was dangling in a most uncomfortable position, all loose and limp, and shapeless—Dickens> <squash-flowers hanging limp as widow's weeds on the stringy stems—Britain> Floppy applies to something that sags or hangs limply (<a dog with floppy ears> <foreigners—fortuitously scarce—wear floppy ties, long hair and beards—Kinross> <an old lady in a ... floppy garden hat—Greene> Flaccid implies a loss or lack of elasticity or resilience and therefore an incapacity to return to an original shape or condition or to keep a desired shape; the term applies primarily to flesh and other living tissues (<flaccid muscles> <a flaccid stem> <now, in swift collapse, he was as flaccid as a sick hound and as disgusting as an aged drunkard—Bennett> In extended use the term implies lack of force or energy or substance (<the style is . . . worthless, slipshod, flaccid—Wildie> <our flaccid culture—T. S. Eliot> <when a writer thinks clearly his prose itself is sharp and fresh, and when his thought becomes flaccid his words too become limp, mechanical and fogged—Krim> Flabby applies to something that is so soft that it yields readily to the touch or is easily shaken (<her breasts had grown flabby and pendulous with many children—Buck> In extended use the term implies the loss or lack of what keeps a thing up or in good sound condition; it often carries suggestions of spinelessness, spiritlessness, or lethargy (<the flabby government which was . . . incapable of defending its own interests—Owen Lattimore> <very few . . . are worth converting. Their minds are intrinsically flabby and parasitical—Mencken> Flimsy applies to something that by its looseness of structure or insubstantiality of texture cannot hold up under use or strain (<a wooden seat put together with nails—a flimsy contrivance, which defies all rules of gravity and adhesion—Jeffries> In extended use the term applies to whatever is so frail or slight as to be without value or endurance (<a flimsy excuse> <the story is fashioned of such flimsy stuff that it almost tears apart in the telling—Krouth> Sleazy applies essentially to flimsy textiles, but it often suggests, as flimsy need not, fraud or carelessness in its manufacture (<a sleazy dress> <thin sleazy woolens> In extended use the term may suggest stress or inferiority of standards (<a sleazy little gold digger—New Republic> <the sleazier forms of competition—Fortune> or inferiority of the resultant product (<sleazy new apartment blocks, their broken, rubber-salvaged bakc unfurint—Flora Lewis> but often its suggestion is one of cheap shabbiness inferiority (<a sleazy piece of the old, tedious reality—Mary McCarthy> <a stammered, sleazy chronicle, told by fits and starts—Time> Ana *loose, slack, relaxed, lax: limber, *supple Con *stiff, rigid, inflexible, stark, wooden, tense; *firm, hard, solid: brittle, crisp (see fragile)

**limpid** clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, pellucid, diaphanous  
Ana *pure, sheer: lucid, perspicuous, *clear  
Ant turbid —Con muddy, roily, (see turbid): *obscure, vague, dark: murky, dusky (see dark)

**line** n Line, row, rank, file, echelon, tier are comparable when meaning a series of things arranged in continuous or uniform order. Line means little more than this, except when it is attached to a specific application that increases its implications; thus, a line of type may equal a line of poetry, but there is a wealth of implication in the second that is absent from the first (<a line of trees> <soldiers fall in line> <the crowd formed a line in front of the ticket office> <there were three lines of enlisted men awaiting examination by physicians> <a line of trading posts from the Mississippi ... across the Rocky Mountains—Irving> Row may suggest one line or one of several parallel lines; it is applicable to lines composed of persons or of things whether they range horizontally or vertically or abreast or away from one (<a row of trees lines the south side of the street> <rows of seats in a theater> <the shrubs are arranged in rows> Rank and file are found chiefly in military use, rank denoting a row of men side by side, file a row of men one behind another (<march in single file> <the front rank was ordered to take one pace forward> The conjoined use of these terms in rank and file is an idiomatic extension meaning the masses of men as distinguished from their leaders or rulers. Echelon usually implies a regular arrangement or formation in which each unit (as one of a series of parallel ranks of troops or one of a fleet of vessels headed in the same direction) is a little to the left or to the right of the unit immediately behind. Tier applies to one of a set of rows arranged one above another; it occasionally refers to persons but usually deals with parts of a structure or framework which are repeated (<the seats rise in tiers in the great Opera House> <three tiers of arches rose on each side of the cathedral's nave> <their mountain-like Sans Philip [a Spanish warship] . . . with her yawning tiers of guns—Tennyson>  
Ana *succession, progress, series, sequence, chain

**line** vb Line, line up, align, range, array mean to arrange in a line or in lines. Line, or more often line up, implies setting in single file or in parallel rows (<line up prisoners for identification> <line up troops for inspection> <four or five men were lined up at the bar—Basso> Align stresses the bringing of points or parts that should be in a straight line into correct adjustment or into correspondence (<align the lenses of a telescope> <align the front and rear wheels of an automobile> <align type in printing> <the tents were aligned in two rows—Mailer> Range stresses orderly or correct disposition, sometimes merely in straight or parallel lines, but more often with the added implication of separation into groups or classes according to some plan or design (<oaken benches ranged in seemly rows—Wordsworth> Array implies actual formation in order, especially battle order, and therefore suggests full equipment and readiness for action (<there is a great Field-Marsh, my friend, who arrays our battalions; let us to Providence trust, and abide and work in our stations—Clough> <scarcely had time to array his men at the townward wall before arrows, stones, and heavy javelins . . . began to fall upon them—A. C. Whitehead>  

These words also are comparable in extended use. Line up stresses organization for unity or singleness of effort (<line up the opponents of a measure to achieve its defeat> <line up public opinion in favor of a proposal> <lined up on the side of those who oppose even attempting to set up peaceful coexistence with Russia is the FBI—New week> Align is commonly used reflexively in this connection and implies falling into line or into a lineup (<at the beginning of World War I France, England, and Belgium aligned themselves with Serbia> <so long as the symptoms failed to align themselves with any known disorder, they were supposed to be amenable to neighborhood advice—Mary Austin> Range implies putting or falling precisely into a group (as a class, party, rank, or category); it may suggest alignment but more often connotes partisanship or alliance or, when used of things, susceptibility of classification (<it's better to be lowly born, and range with humble lives in content—Shak> <they differed violently and ranged themselves into distinct schools of thought—Dinsmore> Array in its extended use retains its implication of
ordinarily; it sometimes also suggests arrangement in logical or chronological order, or as parts of a design. These doubts will be arrayed before their minds—Farrar

More often, however, it stresses the impressive or imposing character of an opposition—several of the best legal minds were arrayed against the prosecution—so much prejudice of one kind or another was arrayed against it that it was not till nearly two hundred years after its discovery that salt peter became the god of war—Encore

Anna marshal, arrange, *order

Con derange, disarrange, *disorder, disturb: disperse, dissipate, *scatter

lineage *ancestry, pedigree

lineal, linear share the basic meaning of or relating to a line or lines, but they are clearly distinguished in their specific senses. Lineal is more often applied to a direct line of succession from or to a common ancestor either physical or spiritual, and is often distinguished from collateral; thus, the lineal descendants of a man would include all his sons and daughters, all his grandsons and granddaughters, all his great-grandsons and great-granddaughters, etc. George Washington had no lineal kinsmen to inherit his property, for he had no children—these men, the lineal descendants of the mystics, found the source of certainty in inner experience, in feeling and instinct—Thilly

Linear tends to lay the stress on a relation to a line other than a line of succession, either in fact or in likeness; often it suggests a relation to something having or felt as having one dimension only, usually length, especially in contrast to what has two or more dimensions—linear measures such as the inch, foot, yard, and rod are used in measuring lengths (as of cloth, rope, poles, wire, and edges or bounds)—from the linear dimensions of a room we can compute the square feet of floor to be covered—a conductor of electricity (as a wire) which is very small or negligible in two of its dimensions, is called a linear conductor—atoms which are so small that it takes one hundred millions of them lying side by side to extend one inch—Darrow

Darrow was measure, the inch, foot, yard, and rod are used in measuring lengths (as of cloth, rope, poles, wire, and edges or bounds) which is very small or negligible in two of its dimensions, is called a linear conductor—atoms which are so small that it takes one hundred millions of them lying side by side to extend one inch—Darrow

line up *line, align, range, array

linger tarry, wait, *stay, remain, abide

Anna *delay, procrastinate, loiter, dawdle, lag

Con hurry, hasten, precipitate, quicken, accelerate, *speed

lingo *dialect, vernacular, patois, jargon, cant, argot, slang

link vb connect, relate, associate, *join, conjoin, combine, unite

Analogous words: Analogous words: Ant antonyms: Ant contrasted words: See also explanatory notes facing page 1

lineage 503

liquid

Romeo and Juliet the profounder dramatist shows his lovers melting into unconsciousness of their isolated selves—T. S. Eliot

I cannot look up to your face. You melt my strength—Lowell or to tones, colors, and sounds that have a liquid quality and merge imperceptibly with others—snow-light cadences melting to silence—Keats

substrate and shadow melted into each other and into the vastness of space—Glasgow

Deliquesce implies a disappearing by or as if by melting away and applies especially to gradual liquefying through exposure to the air and the absorption of moisture from it (hygroscopic salts that deliquesce in moist air) or to plant structures (as mushrooms) that liquefy in their decay—a great display of specimens of fungi that presently dried up or deliquesced and stank—H. G. Wells

In its extended use deliquesce stresses loss of coherence rather than disappearance—Flaubert's instincts were less epical than lyrical, and drama itself was deliquescent into indeterminate forms—Levin

Their lives tended to deliquesce into a murmuring indeterminateness of language—Matthiessen

Fuse (see also MIX) may sometimes replace liquefy or melt—thunderstorm had fused the electric mains—Finlay

but more often it stresses union (as of two or more metals into an alloy) by or as if by the action of intense heat—foundries which fuse zinc and copper into hard, bright brass—Newweek

In its extended use, too, fuse stresses union (a ship, itself a little community in which people of various backgrounds are temporarily fused—Felix Morley

The strata fused together by heat—Livingstone

Thaw may specifically replace melt in reference to something (as ice or snow) that is frozen or in extended use to something (as a cold heart, a cold disposition, or extreme reserve) equally stiff or rigid—(the midday sun has thawed the ice on the roads)—a lady... whose very looks would thaw a man more frozen than the Alps—Shirley

A native reserve being thawed by this genial consciousness—Hawthorne

liquid adj. Liquid, fluid are comparable both as adjectives meaning composed of particles that move easily and flowingly and change their relative position without any perceptible break in their continuity and as nouns denoting a substance composed of such particles. Both terms imply an opposition to solid, but liquid is the more restricted in its application, for the term implies the flow characteristic of water and refers only to substances which, like water, have a definite volume but no independent form except such as is temporarily given by their container—such potable liquids as water, milk, and wines—are blood that does not remain liquid long after removal from the blood vessels—Fluid, on the other hand, implies flow of any sort and is applicable not only to all liquids but also to gases, which, unlike liquids, have neither independent volume nor shape—air whether in the gaseous or liquid state is a fluid—fluid blood

Fluid is especially appropriate for referring to a substance that is highly viscous—molasses is a fluid substance or to one liquefied (as by melting, dissolving, or saturating with water)—(fluid rock)

Fluid wax (mud is fluid earth).

In extended use fluid is opposed to rigid, fixed, unchangeable—open societies of which the boundaries are fluid or indefinite, such as humanity or even the League of Nations—Alexander

Emotion, formless, chaotic, fluid in itself—Lowes

In London all values and all meanings were fluid—Rose Macaulay

Liquid, on the other hand, often implies an opposition to harshness—liquid tones—thy liquid notes that close the eye of day—Milton but it sometimes implies transparency or extreme softness or both—his liquid glance—Wharton

With what liquid tenderness she turned and looked back—
In financial circles, where both terms are used, fluid may distinctively apply to money or funds that are not permanently invested or that are constantly in circulation (the fluid gold of international trade) but more often the terms are used interchangeably to imply the quality or condition of assets that are in the form of money or are easily convertible into money and are therefore readily available for another use.

solid: vaporous

lithesome lisseome, lithe, *supple, limber

Ana & Con see those at LITHE

list n List, table, catalog, schedule, register, roll, roster, inventory denote a series of names or of items written down or printed as a memorandum, a record, or a source of information, but, because of wide differences in their range of application, they are not freely interchangeable. List is the most comprehensive and the most widely applicable of these terms since it may or may not imply methodical arrangement (as in alphabetical or chronological order) and it may itemize units of various kinds (as persons or objects or facts or words or figures) (a grocery list). A list (price list) (an engagement list) Table is also widely applicable, but it distinctively implies arrangement in an order that will assist the person who makes use of it in quickly finding the information he desires; consequently, it usually suggests presentation of items in columns, often, when the items are related or associated with each other, in parallel columns; thus, a table of weights may give in the first column an alphabetical list of the weights of all countries and add in the following columns, directly on a line with each of these names, the place in which it is used, its equivalent in American or British weights, and its equivalent in metric weight (a table of contents of a book) (a table of logarithms) (annuity tables) (a timetable of trains) Catalog basically applies to a complete list or enumeration of all instances of a kind (a catalog of the Lepidoptera of Michigan) (a catalog of the popes) The term is used more often of an informative itemized descriptive list (as of the books in a library, the works of art in a museum, the courses given in a university or college, or the articles for sale by a company). Because business, educational, and art catalogs often contain much other information of value, the term often loses its essential meaning of list, although these catalogs have usually for their main object the presentation of complete lists. Schedule (see also PROGRAM) applies especially to an itemized statement of particulars, whether it is appended to a document (as a bill or statute) to provide supplementary details (Schedule D of the tariff bill) or is separate (a schedule of a bankrupt's debts) (a schedule of assets and liabilities) Register is applicable primarily to the official book, parchments, or papers in which are entered the names of time names or items of a specified character, together with pertinent details, for the sake of maintaining a record (a register of births) (a register of marriages) (a register of seamen) Since, however, these entries constitute not only a record but also a list or catalog, the term often more strongly suggests an official listing or enumeration than a series of entries (this name is not in the register of voters) Roll is applicable to a list and especially an official list of the names of those who belong to a certain group or force; thus, a muster roll includes the names of all the officers and men of a military body or of a ship's company present or accounted for on the day of muster; a class roll is a list of all students belonging to a class. Roster, which is chiefly a military term, applies basically to a table containing a roll of officers and men or sometimes of units and specifying such matters as the order of their rotation in duties or their special assignments. Inventory is a catalog of the goods and chattels and sometimes the real estate held by a person or a corporation at a particular time (as at the person's death or at the stocktaking of the corporation) (the merchant makes an inventory of his stock annually on January 15th) In extended use the term often refers to a list similar in its details to those of a true inventory (nothing short of an authentic passion for concrete detail ... can give the saving gusto and animation which carry off safely the long inventories of utensils and articles of food and attire in Scott and Defoe—Montague)

list vb record, register, enroll, catalog

listless spiritless, *languid, languishing, languorous, languidical, enervated.


Ant eager —Con avid, keen, anxious, agog (see EAGER): alert, *watchful, vigilant: *vigorou5, energetic, lusty: *quick, prompt, ready

lithesome lisseome, *supple, limber

Ana slender, slim, slight, *thin: *lean, spare: pliant, pliable, *plastic: nimble, *agile, brisk, spry: graceful, elegant (see corresponding nouns at ELEGANCE)

Con clumsy, maladroit, *awkward, gauche, inept: *stiff, tense, wooden, inflexible

little *small, diminutive, wee, tiny, minute, miniature

Ana *petty, paltry, puny, trivial, trifling: slight, slim, slender, *thin: *meager, scanty, scrimpy, skimpy

Ant big —Con large, great: abundant, ample, *plenteous

littoral *shore, coast, beach, strand, bank, foreshore

liturgy ritual, rite, ceremony, ceremonial, *form, formality

live vb 1 exist, be, subsist

Ana endure, abide, persist, *continue

2 *reside, dwell, sojourn, lodge, stay, put up, stop

live adj *active, operative, dynamic

Ana *vigorous, energetic, lusty, strenuous: *powerful, potent, forcible, forceful: *effective, efficacious, effectual, efficient

Ant inactive, inert: dormant (as a volcano): defunct (as an institution, journal)

livelihood *living, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread

Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession: *wage or wages, salary, pay, stipend, fee, emolument

lively adj Lively, animated, vivacious, sprightly, gay denote in common keenly alive. Lively suggests especially briskness, alertness, or energy (spent an hour in lively talk about their respective travels in England and France) (she ... was a lively conversationalist, advanced, original—Gore) (the horses ... were lively, and sprang about the street—Thackeray) Animated applies especially to what is also spirited or bright (was not nearly so animated as he had been in his pre-khaki days; there was a quiet exultation in his manner rather than a lively excitement—H. G. Wells) (the animated excitement and hubbub that gives the ... institution its friendly vitality—Saarinen) Vivacious and sprightly suggest greater lightness of spirits or quickness of wit; they apply especially to manner or language (remember her as very pretty and vivacious ... I never met a girl with as much zip—Ring Lardner) (in contrast to the dour, lethargic, and solitary orang, the chim- panzee is highly active, vivacious ... and uninhibited vocal—La Barre) (the was sprightly, vigorous, fiery in his belief in success—Crane) (readers prefer sprightly trash to dull excellence—Canby) Gay implies utter carelessness and exuberant or overflowing spirits (wild with joyful
living

adj
Living, alive, animate, animated, vital mean having life as distinguished from those from which life has departed; they are distinguishable chiefly by the fact that alive follows the noun it modifies either directly or as a prepositional adjective (among living men) (among men still alive) (all living things) (of all it ever was my lot to read, of critics now alive, or long since dead—Cowper) (our appreciations of living or dead writers—T. S. Eliot) 

Animate is opposed to inanimate and is applied to living organic bodies as contrasted with dead organic bodies or, more often, with inorganic bodies having no capacity for life (those who ignore the natural world around, animate and inanimate—Spencer) 

Animated (see also lively; compare animate under quicken vb) is opposed to lifeless or inert, and may apply to something which, once devoid of life, becomes alive (viruses that may behave as animated bodies or as lifeless crystals) or may be used to perfect a comparison of something by its nature lifeless with something living (a large Australian phasmid popularly known as the animated stick) (the moral relativism engendered by the notion that man is nothing more than an animated machine—Nagel) 

Vital is applied chiefly to qualities (as power, force, energy, or motion) which result naturally from or are associated with life in distinction from qualities which result from purely physical or chemical causes (vital functions) (it derived its growth and movement from its internal vital force, not from external sources of energy—S. F. Mason) 

When these words are applied to things which have not life in the sense defined, they form other groupings. All, however, stress qualities suggestive of life. Living usually suggests continued or continuous existence with no diminution of activity or efficacy (a living principle) (a living force) (ballet as an art form was living and not dead—Coleman) Alive and vital are very close in their emphasis on abundance of vigor, on capacity for development, or on powers of endurance; both are applicable to persons as well as to things (we are not sufficiently alive to feel the tang of sense nor yet to be moved by thought—Dewey) (Queen Victoria remains... one of the most absorbing figures of her time. Obviously she is still alive enough to be condemned—Times Lit. Sup.) (the veterans insist that college be made alive, dynamic, vital—Fine) 

Alive and animated often imply the presence of living things in great numbers (the stream is alive with trout) (as animated as water under a microscope—Hardy) Animated also may stress endowment with qualities suggestive of life, especially motion (animated pictures) (an animated doll) (the animated signs that blink, bubble, and bedazzle visitors to Times Square—Fixx) 

Living n
Living, livelihood, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread, bread and butter are comparable when they denote the means, especially the amount of money or goods, required to keep one supplied with the necessities of life (as food, housing, and clothing) and sometimes also the nonessentials that with the necessities supply the needs of a full life. Living is perhaps the most general term since it may denote either the necessities and provisions with which one supports life or the income with which these may be obtained (had undertaken to work as a manager in return for a living and a share of the crops—Glasgow) (many of his other customers had gone... so that his own poor living was cut in impossible half—Malamud) (an industrial community, in which livings are insecure, incomes are inadequate—W. H. Hamilton) Typically it is used in a few simple idioms; thus, a man usually earns or makes or gets a or his living; one does something (as writing, spinning, or farming) for a or his living; someone or something owes or provides him a living (I am quite pleased to make my living by what I write, but the attempt to write for my living would be hopeless, for I can write nothing that is not in itself a pleasure to me to write—Ellis) (men who start out with the notion that the world owes them a living—Sumner) 

Livelihood may be indistinguishable in meaning from living (the population derives its livelihood from farming—Americana Annual) (the livelihood of the people of Malaya has always been uncertain because of the narrow base of their economy—Langdon) (the profession is of necessity a means of livelihood or of financial reward—MacIver) but unlike the latter it may apply specifically to the means (as a trade, profession, or craft) by which one earns a living (education is a preparation for life, not merely for a livelihood, for living not for a living—Sampson) (it is their profession and livelihood to get their living by practices for which they deserve to forfeit their lives—South) (had a low opinion of politics as a livelihood—White) 

Subsistence may be a close synonym of living (Harbor Springs relies for its subsistence chiefly on the summer vacationist trade—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (between disappointment and expectation, is soon disgusted, and returns to pursue his more legitimate means of subsistence—Burroughs) but often it more specifically denotes means sufficient merely to maintain life and implies an amount of money or supply of goods that provides a person or his family with no more than basic necessities (as of housing, food, and clothing) (the question whether people on relief shall be provided only with subsistence) (only in the meager and most limited sense is subsistence a standard of living—Harper's) 

Sustenance is often used in place of living when the emphasis is upon the food that is necessary not only to one's existence but to one's well-being (he was able to wring only a bare sustenance from his farm) (that thin layer of topsoil that... provides the crops—Glasgow) 

Maintenance usually denotes either a complex of necessities such as food, lodging, and laundry, and sometimes clothing or the amount needed to supply such a complex (advertised... for a general resident doctor at $300 a
month and maintenance—Greer Williams> enough to
give him books, and a moderate maintenance—Cibber>
(at least half of them are living parasitically on the other
half instead of producing maintenance for themselves—
Shaw> Support applies not only to the amount of money
that provides maintenance but to the person who provides
the means by which others are maintained (he is the sole
support of his family) (they look for their support to him—
(C. L. Thompson)> Keep is a less dignified synonym of
maintenance and is applicable not only to men but to ani-
imals (the horse is scarcely worth his keep) (hired men
could no longer be had for ten or fifteen dollars a month
and keep—White)> Bread and bread and butter are synec-
doches for living or sustenance, partly as a result of the
use of the former in the Lord's Prayer “Give us this day
our daily bread” (he is a fine poet, but he makes his
bread and butter selling insurance)

load vb 1 *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight,
lade, tax, charge, saddle

Ana bear, convey, *carry, transport
Ant unload
2 *dulterate, weight, sophisticate, doctor

load vb *idle, lounge, loll, laze

Ana rest, repose, relax (see corresponding nouns at REST):
*sauter, stroll, amble
Con work, labor, toil, travail (see corresponding nouns at
WORK)

loath vb *disinclined, indisposed, averse, hesitant, reluctant
Ana *adverse, averse: *antipathetic, unsympathetic,
averse
Ant anxious —Con *eager, keen, avid: desiring or
desirous, wishing, wanting (see corresponding verbs at
DESIRE)

loathe abominate, detest, abhor, *hate
Ana *despise, contempt, scorn, disdain: refuse, reject,
spurn, repudiate, *decline: *recoil, shrink, flinch, blench,
quaile
Ant dote on —Con *like, love, relish, fancy, enjoy;

*desire, crave, wish, want, covet

loathing abhorrence, detestation, abomination, hate, ha-
tred (see under HATE vb)
Ana aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, repellency, dis-
taste (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT)
Ant tolerance

loathsome *offensive, repulsive, repugnant, revolting
Ana abominable, abhorrent, detestable, odious, *hateful:
repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious
Ant engaging, inviting —Con attractive, alluring, charm-
ing, enchanting, fascinating, bewitching (see under AT-
TRACT)

local adj *insular, provincial, parochial, small-town
Ana narrow, narrow-minded (see ILLIBERAL): circums-
cribed, limited, restricted, confined (see LIMIT vb)
Ant cosmopolitan

locality, district, vicininity, neighborhood denote a more or
less definitely circumscribed place or region, especially
from the point of view of those who live in it. Locality
applies to a region of undefined boundaries, but it usually
suggests an area round a center (as the place where the
water or the flowers lives) (he no longer resides in this lo-
cality) or round a place remarkable for some event or
landmark (the deliverer is to be sought in the locality
nearest to the chief scene of the invasion—Stanley)
District usually applies to a locality that has clearly defined
boundaries determined (as by the nation, state, or town)
for such purposes as for administrative and electoral use
( representative of the Fifth Congressional District)
(federal judicial districts) <police district) <postal
district) In a less specific but in this instance more per-
tinent sense district is often applied to a locality with
reference to some of its most obvious or clearly defined
characteristics rather than to the exact area it covers
( the agricultural districts of the United States) (the Lake
District of England) (the mining district of Pennsylvania)
( the theater district of a city) Vicinity never loses its
basic implication of nearness but, since it suggests a dis-
tinct point of view, it applies only to the locality that is
very near from that point of view (there are no ponds in
this vicinity) Neighborhood usually carries an implied
reference to one's neighbors and it may be preferred to
vicinity, which it closely resembles in denomination, when
the emphasis is on the inhabitants rather than on the
locality referred to (there is no one of that name in this
neighborhood) (lived in a good neighborhood) (she is on
good terms with the entire neighborhood) However, it is
frequently interchangeable with vicinity when the emphasis
is on proximity; thus, a man might live in the
neighborhood or the vicinity of a school (the country must be on guard
against the establishment of hostile bases in its neighbor-
hood)

Ana region, *area, zone, belt, tract: section, sector (see
PART): territory, *field, bailiwick, province, sphere, domain
location *place, position, situation, site, spot, station
locomotion *motion, movement, move, stir
locum tenens *substitute, supply, alternate, understudy, 
pinch hitter, double, stand-in

location *phrase, idiom, expression

lofty vb 1 house, board, *harbor, shelter, entertain
Ana receive, take, accept, admit: accommodate, *con-
tain, hold
2 *reside, live, dwell, sojourn, stay, put up, stop

loft* high, tall
Ana elevated, raised, lifted (see LIFT): exalted, magnified,
aggrandized (see EXALT): imposing, stately, august, ma-
estic (see GRAND): sublime, glorious, superb (see SPLEN-
DID)

Con lowly, *humble, modest

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
loiter dawdle, lag, procrastinate, *delay
lonely
lonesome, lone, *alone, solitary, forlorn, lorn, desolate
1 lonely, lonesome, *alone, forlorn, lorn, solitary, forlorn, lorn, desolate
loll
*idle, loaf, lounge, laze

long vs Long, yearn, hanker, pine, hunger, thirst mean to have a strong and urgent desire for something. One longs when one wishes for something, and especially something remote or not readily attainable, with one's whole heart or with great earnestness (socialists who long to see the world a better place—Woodrow Wyatt) (ever have I longed to slake my thirst for the world's praises—Keats) (wretched sensitive beings like ourselves longing to escape—Powys) (in the midst of the finesse, and the artistry . . . one longs at times, not for less refinement but for more virility—Lowes) One yearns when one regards or desires something with eager, restless, often tender or passionate longing (but Enoch yearned to see her face again—Tennyson) (she gazed into his faded blue eyes as if yearning to be understood—Conrad) (dreamers who yearned for things that are not, for things to come or things that have been—Norman Douglas)

hanker One hankers when one is possessed with or made uneasy by a desire because of the urgency of a physical appetite (hanker for fresh fruit in the wintertime) or because of such a passion as greed, lust, ambition, or covetousness (she . . . still hankedered, with a natural hankering, after her money—Trollope) (hankering from the start after the office of tribune—Buchan) or for something beyond one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment (to wean your minds from hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch) (too long a siege of the familiar . . . sets us hankering after the strange—Lowes)

hankering But often hanker is weakened to the point that it means little if any more than want (although collectors still hanker after the period pieces, the trend is for simplicity—Tomkinson) (one hankers after one's own order of comfort in advancing age—de la Mare) One pines when one languishes or grows weak through longing for something that one wants (filled—Quiller-Couch) or for something beyond the office of tribune—Buchan or for something over one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment (she gazed into his faded blue eyes as if hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch) (too long a siege of the familiar . . . sets us hankering after the strange—Lowes)

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hunger Last, one hungered when one wishes for something, and especially something beyond the office of tribune—Buchan or for something over one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment (she gazed into his faded blue eyes as if hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch) (too long a siege of the familiar . . . sets us hankering after the strange—Lowes)

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look n 1 Look, sight, view, glance, glimpse, peep, peek are comparable when meaning both the act of seeing something and the thing that is seen. Look implies the directing of one's eyes to a thing or the use of one's power of vision (let me have a look at the patient) (one dying look he upward cast—Scott) (darted a quick look at me—Kenneth Roberts) When applied to the thing seen (see also appearance), the impression produced tends to be stressed (judging by the look of his rash, he has scarlet fever—the look of his face as he spoke was by no means pleasant—Trollope) Sight, on the other hand, so strongly implies reference to the object that is seen that it suggests reception by the visual powers or presentation to the sense of sight rather than a conscious use of that sense. When the term denotes the act or the power of seeing, one takes a look at something which catches his sight; one has far sight which sees things at a great distance (the litter is set down stage in full sight of the audience—Millay) (I was out of sight of the rest of them—L. A. Viereck) When the term denotes the thing that is seen, qualifying words or phrases are usually necessary to suggest its characteristic, appearance, or the effect it produces (there is no sight in the world equal to it) (a disagreeable sight—the blossoming of a cherry orchard... is a sight eagerly awaited—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (the earth, and every common sight—Wordsworth) View, especially when it denotes the act of seeing, implies chiefly the exercise of the mental rather than the physical vision or an attempt to comprehend something beyond the range of the physical vision (bring the buried ages back to view—Gray) (the scientific view of the world is not indifferent to quality or value. It seeks to find law, harmony, uniformity in nature—Inge) (Unitarianism with its more cheerful view of human nature—Sperry) Often, when seeing through the eyes is suggested, view takes place of sight in either sense, with, however, a stronger implication of a directed or fixed gaze (thy dales, and hills, are fading from my view—Keats) (a house that affords a view of the ocean) (trees that intercept the view) Glance may denote something which is seen as a sudden flash or gleam, or the presence or movement of which is recognized by a swift sudden flash (with winged expedition swift as the lightning glance—Milton) (each sword's bright glance, seemed summons from their fate—Stirling) It is in this sense that "a glance from the eye" is often to be interpreted, especially in older writings (darst no scornful glances from those eyes, to wound thy lord—Shak.), but the transition in sense from the flash that is seen to the quick look that is given is not clearly marked (lift our heads to heaven, and never more abase our sight unto the ground—Scott) (a glance satisfied him of the hopelessness of the thing and the thing that is seen. Look implies the directing flash or gleam, or the presence or movement of which is seen as a flash or a gleam (no dear glimpse of the sun's lovely face, strikes through the solid darkness that pays scant attention to its consequences or the truth of its statements) (loose habits) (loose living) Loos is also applicable to what is not firmly or tightly held by, attached to, connected with, or fitted to something that supports or guides, or something that it is intended to cover (drive with loose reins) (a loose belt) (a loose coat) (loose joints) (a loose sense of a word) Often the word applies to a substance or fabric having particles or filaments which are not close or compact in arrangement (loose soil) (a loose weave) Relaxed implies a loss of some tightness, tension, strictness, or rigidity, rather than total freedom from restraint or considerable departure from a normal state (as of discipline, fitness, or firmness); not only does it not suggest wildness, lawlessness, or immorality, but it rarely suggests anything worse than an easing up, a mitigation, an alleviation of strain, or a softening (relaxed discipline) (relaxed nerves) (Augustus during these months was suffering from the relaxed and surfeited mood which always attends success—Buchan) (White House family life had been easy and relaxed... but it had maintained the standards of gentlefolk—S. H. Adams) (the relaxed attitude of the British toward the sedition expressed every day in Hyde Park—R. K. Carr) Slack (see also negligent) comes close to relaxed in its limitations and implications but it may stress lack of firmness or steadiness rather than a release from strain or severity; thus, a slack rope is one that is not taut, usually one that is not as taut as is necessary or de-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sirable; a slack hold is a weak, unsteady hold (the tired arms lie with every sinew slack —Quiller-Couch) (a pair of sly, keen eyes are dancing in his slack, clown’s face —New Yorker) (the rhythms often are indistinguishable from those of prose and the effect is often flat and slack —Drew) Slack is applied both to business or work that is subject to periods of lessened activity and to the periods or seasons when business is dull or work is hard to find (it’ll be play to me after I’ve done my day’s work, or any odd bits o’ time when the work’s slack —George Eliot) (the slack season for carpenters) Like slack, lax usually stresses lack of steadiness, firmness, and tone (felt the lax droop of her shoulder against his arm —Wylie) (sat there in one of those loose lax poses that came to her naturally —Woolf) In application to nonmaterial things it is not always clearly distinguishable from other senses in which its primary stress is on lack of necessary strictness, severity, or precision (see lax under NEGLIGENCE) (his laws were in advance of general public opinion, an opinion which grew laxer as the years passed —Buchan) (the old unity . . . has been replaced by a new unity based on the principles of chirivialy and courteously love . . . . . This unity is relatively lax and slight —R. A. Hall) *Ana limp, flabby, flaccid, flimsy: *free, independent; disengaged, detached (see DETACH): casual, desultory, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky, *random, haphazard: *negligent, remiss, lax, slack: *careless, heedless, thoughtless *Ant tight: strict —Con taut, tense (see TIGHT): *rigid, stringent, rigorous: precise, exact, *correct: tied, bound (see TIE vb): restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see RESTRAIN)

lax 509

loot

vb

•rob, plunder, rifle, burglarize

loose

vb

•like, enjoy, dote, relish, fancy

love

vb

•like, enjoy, dote, relish, fancy

love

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•like, enjoy, dote, relish, fancy

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love

vb

•like, enjoy, dote, relish, fancy
beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking

An adjective describing someone or something as

An adjective describing someone or something as
lurch
*stumble, trip, blunder, flounder, lumber, lugubrious
doleful, dolorous, *melancholy, rueful, plain-lunacy
* insanity, psychosis, mania, dementia
lumbar
*stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, galumph, lollop, bumble
luminous
*bright, brilliant, radiant, lustrous, effulgent,lucent, refulgent, beaming, lambent, incandescent
Ant
*pacify, placate, mollify: *moderate, qualify, temper: allay, assuage, alleviate, *relieve
Ant
*agitate
lull
*vb: calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, soothe, settle, lull
vb: *laughable, risible, ridiculous, comic, comical, *paying, gainful, remunerative, profitable
lucrative
lure
Lure, bait, decoy, snare, luring, jolly, jovial: cheerful, *glad, joyful
lumber
*reel, stagger, totter: *plunge, pitch, dive
lure
*Lure, bait, decoy, snare, trap
Analogous words:
*paying, gainful, remunerative, profitable
*laughable, risible, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical, droll, funny
absurd, preposterous, *foolish, silly: grotesque, bizarre, antic, *fantastic: amusing, diverting, entertaining
(see AMUSE)
lugubrious
doleful, dolorous, *melancholy, rueful, plain-
lunacy
* insanity, psychosis, mania, dementia
lumbar
*stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, galumph, lollop, bumble
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*bright, brilliant, radiant, lustrous, effulgent,lucent, refulgent, beaming, lambent, incandescent
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lucrative
lure
Lure, bait, decoy, snare, luring, jolly, jovial: cheerful, *glad, joyful
lump, lollop, bumble
lurid

Distinctively, it may apply to the coaxing of something from someone by such means (although he used the most subtle means to inveigle the author into the office to read the press notices, he never succeeded—Bok) (over gin and water we inveigled him to take a pack of well-worn cards—Beaglehole). Decoy may mean to entrap or lead (as into danger) by artifice and especially by false appearances (the islanders had been living in relative opulence from the wreckages of ships which they had skillfully decoyed to destruction on the reefs—Barbour) (the female bird . . . practiced the same arts upon us to decoy us away—Burroughs). Temp historically meant and still may mean to entice into evil through hope of pleasure or gain (weak . . . nations tempt others to prey upon them—Richards). In more general use it may carry a suggestion of exerting such an attraction as inclines one to act against one's better judgment or higher principles (the receipt of remuneration from patents or copyrights tempts the owners thereof to retard or inhibit research or to restrict the benefits derivable therefrom—W. T. & Barbara Fitts) but more often implies an attracting or inducing that is morally perfectly neutral (the decision to tempt women away from their gray flannel suits . . . with a kaleidoscope of color—American Annual) (had a personality that could tempt a female ichthysologist's interests away from fish—Current Bio). Seduce usually means to lead astray (as from the course of rectitude, propriety, or duty) by overcoming scruples (the hideous beast whose craft had seduced me into murder—Poe) and even in its most favorable senses in which it implies a moving or turning into a new course it commonly suggests some degree of deluding or misleading as the method employed (words when used with the gift of magic can seduce a reader into belief that has no roots in reality—Feld) (knew how to seduce the interest of his pupils; he did not drive, he led—Anspacher).

Ana ensnare, snare, entrap, trap, capture, *catch, bag: bewitch, fascinate, allure, captivate, *attract: blandish, wheedle, cajole (see Coax)

Ant revolt, repel

lurid

*gastly, grisly, gruesome, macabre, grim

Ana livid, *pale, pallid, wan, ashy, ashen: *sinister, ma- lignant, baleful, malefic, maleficient

lurk

Lurk, skulk, slink, sneak do not share a common denotation, but they are comparable because the major implication of each word is furtive action intended to escape the attention of others. To lurk is to lie in wait (as in an ambush); the term sometimes implies only a place of concealment (his faithful Tom . . . with his lurk behind—Mead) (had a personality that could tempt a female ichthysologist's interests away from fish—Current Bio). Seduce usually means to lead astray (as from the course of rectitude, propriety, or duty) by overcoming scruples (the hideous beast whose craft had seduced me into murder—Poe) and even in its most favorable senses in which it implies a moving or turning into a new course it commonly suggests some degree of deluding or misleading as the method employed (words when used with the gift of magic can seduce a reader into belief that has no roots in reality—Feld) (knew how to seduce the interest of his pupils; he did not drive, he led—Anspacher).

Ana ensnare, snare, entrap, trap, capture, *catch, bag: bewitch, fascinate, allure, captivate, *attract: blandish, wheedle, cajole (see Coax)

Ant revolt, repel

luster

512

lust

luxuriant, *profuse, lavish, prodigal, exuberant

Ana abounding or abundant, teeming, swarming (see corresponding verbs at TEEM): sumptuous, opulent, *luxurious

lust

*desire, appetite, passion, urge

Ana *cupidity, greed, avarice, rapacity: yearning, longing, hangking, thirsting or thirst, hungering or hunger (see Long vb): craving, coveting (see Desire vb): gust, zest, *taste

luster, sheen, gloss, glaze are comparable when they denote a smooth shining surface that is the natural property of a thing or is given to it by some such process as polishing, burnishing, or coating. Luster basically and in technical use regularly implies a giving off of often iridescent reflected light (the satiny luster of fine pearls) (the soft gloss of polished wood) (cut a piece of lead or of zinc, and observe the luster of its fresh surface—T. H. Huxley) (the luster of minerals can be divided into two types, metallic and nonmetallic—Hurlbut). In literary and extended use luster is often used to imply radiance or brilliance (see Bright 1) (the sun was shining with uncommon luster—Dickens) Sheen applies to a lustrous surface (as of a textile) or a surface luster (as of a mineral cleavage surface or a dark feather) that may be dull or bright and may be a simple shining or marked by richly iridescent or metallic tones (repeared scrubings have given the wood a silvery sheen—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (the flashing sheen on the bird's plume—Sitwell) (the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea—Byron) (the sheen of his poplin and velvet—Cather). In extended use sheen may stress richness and brilliance (an amazing sheen over the orchestral sound, a definition of textures and effects not to be heard even in the concert hall—Robert Lawrence) or it may stress a superficiality suggestive of a surface luster (daughters with a sheen of drawing-room accomplishments upon them—Bell) Gloss stresses superficiality more than luster or sheen and is appropriately applied to something that shines because coated with a shining substance (the gloss of a newly varnished floor) or because well polished (buffed the leather to a high gloss) or specially finished (the gloss on this chintz will wash off). In extended use, gloss often implies superficial attractiveness or plausibility (Mr. France plans to put the same gloss . . . on the place as he does on the fancy Collins Avenue hotels—Friedlander) (writes with his usual agreeable gloss, but it may be that the ingredients are wearing just a bit thin—New Yorker). Glaze applies particularly to a glasslike coating which provides a smooth impervious lustrous surface on ceramic wares, but it is also applicable to such comparable coatings as one made on cooked meats by pouring over them broth thickened by boiling or by
addition of gelatin, or on baked goods by beaten egg or syrup, or as one formed on terrestrial surfaces (walks covered with a glaze of ice) (a porcelain bowl with a thick bubbly celadon glaze). The term also is sometimes applied to the material from which such a glaze is made (new carrots dressed with a glaze of brown sugar and butter). Glaze is the least common of these terms in extended usage and in such use is typically metaphorical (we whites have a color glaze on our imaginations that makes it hard to feel with the people we have segregated ourselves from—Lillian Smith) (her skin had the healthy glaze that comes from sunshine and ten hours of sleep a night—Brodey).

Ana iridescence, opalescence (see corresponding adjectives at PRISMATIC): brilliancy, radiance, luminosity, effulgence, refulgence (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT)

lustful lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, wanton, lewd, *licentious, libertine

Ant ascetic —Con austere, stern, *severe: self-denying, self-abnegating (see corresponding nouns at RENUNCIATION)

2 Luxurious, sumptuous, opulent are comparable when they are applied to things and mean ostentatiously or obviously rich and magnificent. Something luxurious (see also SENSUOUS) is exceedingly choice and costly (luxurious sable coat) (the luxurious appointments of their drawing room) (a luxurious cargo of wine, olive oil, and candied tropic fruits—Wylie) Something sumptuous is extravagantly rich, splendid, gorgeous, or luxurious; the word usually suggests a grandeur or magnificence that almost overwhels the senses (the sumptuous life of the Court provided material for some painters—Binyon) (Venice, soon to be known as the most beautiful and sumptuous city of Europe—Ellis) (a velvet gown, sumptuous and wine-purple, with a white ruff that stood up . . . high and stiff—Edmund Wilson) (for the most sumptuous masques in England, Italian managers, engineers and artists were brought over—T. S. Eliot) Something opulent (see also RICH) flaunts or seems to flaunt its luxuriousness, or luxuriance, and, in some cases costliness (offered the bribe not only of her person but of an opulent and glittering eastern throne—Buchan) (the dictionary of poetry became, with notable exceptions, opulent, sumptuous, lavish, rather than pointed, terse, concrete—Loewy)

Ant ostentatious, pretentious, *showy: magnificent, stately, imposing, majestic, *grand: costly, expensive, valuable, precious

Ant frugal, thrifty, economical, *sparing: *meager, scanty, scanty, skimpy, scrumpy, spare, exiguous

luxury *amenity

Ant *pleasure, joy, delight: agreeableness, gratification, gratefulness (see corresponding adjectives at PLEASANT)

Ant hardship —Con *difficulty, rigor, vicissitude

lying mendacious, untruthful, *dishonest, deceitful

Ant *false, wrong: deceptive, *misleading, delusive, delusory

Ant truth-telling —Con honest, just, *upright, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable: candid, *frank, open, plain: *reliable, dependable, trustworthy

M

macabre gruesome, *ghastly, grisly, grim, lurid

Ana horrifying, daunting, appalling, dismaying (see DISMAY): horrific, horrendous, *horrible, horrid

macerate *crush, mash, smash, bruise, squash

Ana *separate, part, divide: stew, seethe, simmer (see BOIL): soften (see corresponding adjective at SOFT)

machination intrigue, conspiracy, *plot, cabal

Ana *trick, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, feint, wile

machine, machinery, machinist, apparatus, engine, motor are comparable especially when they denote a device or system by which energy can be converted into useful work. Machine is at once the most fundamental of these terms and the most varied in its applications. Basically it denotes an assemblage of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy from one to another in a predetermined manner and to a desired end (as sewing a seam, hoisting a load, printing a book, or maintaining an electric current) (a drilling machine) (machines that convert rags to paper) (a washing machine) But it also may apply specifically to any of the six simple machines (the lever, the wheel and axle, the pulley, the inclined plane, the wedge, and the screw) that together contain the elements of which all other machines are composed. Again, it may apply to a machine in the basic sense together with its power-generating unit and sometimes with supplementary equipment (as for moving the whole complex) (road-building machines) or it may apply specifically to a conveyance and especially an automobile (the term “machine” as used in the patent statute includes every mechanical device or combination of mechanical powers and devices to perform some function and produce a certain effect or result—Toulmin) (only an organism has its own internal purposches which belong to it intrinsically and . . . a machine, so far as we know, is merely an extension of the specific purpose of organisms, men—La Barre) (gears are modified simple machines such as the lever, pulley, wheel-and-axle, and inclined plane. They all serve to multiply force, change speed, or direction of motion and serve as connecting devices between driving units and driven mecha-
nisms—Heitner) ≡ man uses machines to transform energy, transfer energy, multiply force, multiply speed, or change the direction of a force—C. E. Dull, H. C. Metcalfe, & J. E. Williams> and machine is the only term of this group that is freely used collectively of machines as a class or abstractly of the technology and technological society associated with their use when I use the word machines hereafter I shall refer to specific objects like the printing press or the power loom. When I use the term “the machine” I shall employ it as a shorthand reference to the entire technological complex—Mumford> <the domination of our cultural and collective life by the machine—Glicksberg> <the liberty of choice allowed to the craftsman who worked by hand has almost vanished with the general use of the machine—Dewey> Mechanism may come close to the basic sense of machine when it denotes an assemblage of working parts functioning together to produce an effect, but more often than not it applies to relatively simple straightforward mechanical linkages such as make up a complex machine; thus, a sewing machine is made up of several mechanisms (as one to advance the thread, another to convey the cloth, another to determine the length of the stitch, and still another to wind the bobbins) the real mechanic understands the construction of his machine; he knows the names and uses of the parts and the principles underlying the operation of the mechanisms—Burghardi & Axelrod> <the economic machine that provides for our everyday needs is so intricate that it is hard to see the purpose of particular cogs in its mechanism—W. T. C. King> Sometimes, however, mechanism suggests not merely the physical parts but the various steps that lead to the final result of the process the propeller is the source of an intense sound but the exact mechanism by which this sound is produced is not clearly understood—Armstrong> Machinery (see also EQUIPMENT) may apply to machines collectively <the mill sold its old machinery and bought more efficient machines> machinery for making shoes> <the term machinery is very much more comprehensive in scope than the word machine. . . . Unquestionably, the term is broad enough to include a number of machines and their connecting appurtenances which are operated as a unit for a given purpose—U.S. Treasury Decisions> but it may also replace mechanism to denote an assemblage of working parts performing a function a strange, quiet boy, interested much less in booklearning than in what was to be learned from rusty automobiles on the junkheap or from the thousand machineries all around him—Kerouac> <men who are temperamentally unsuited to fiddling with the adjustment machinery put in the backs of most bow ties—New Yorker> Apparatus (see also EQUIPMENT) basically denotes an assemblage of parts for attaining some end or doing some thing, but in itself it implies nothing about the complexity or simplicity, the efficiency or inefficiency, or the precision or crudity of the assemblage; thus, chimpanzees have been reported to put sticks together into a crude apparatus for reaching fruit that is beyond the reach of their hand modern heating and refrigerating apparatuses raise the temperature during the winter and lower it during the summer—Carrel> <the apparatus which took the photographs and reproduced them . . . are more sensitive and truthful than the human eye—Dow Lewis> Engine and motor in their basic relevant sense both denote a machine for converting energy (as heat, chemical, or nuclear energy) into mechanical force or motion, but in many situations they are not at all interchangeable, choice between them being firmly fixed by idiom. Engine is the more general term in this relation and is applicable to such machines whether large or small, simple or complex <an internal-combustion engine> or it may apply both to a power-generating unit and a working unit that depends upon this <these engines were built to pump out mines—Kettering & Orth> and sometimes specifically designates certain automotive units (as a locomotive or fire engine) <sent engines, hose carts, and ladder trucks to the fire> <a long freight train drawn by two engines> From an earlier general use engine is still specifically applied to a few kinds of machines <rose engine> and it is the idiomatically appropriate term to designate the power plant of an aircraft <with either turbojet or rocket engines these research airplanes would have sufficient power to permit the maximum speed aerodynamically possible—Bonne} Motor is applicable to a small or light engine <an outboard motor> <a spit worked by a small clockwork motor> or to a gasoline-<or other internal-combustion engine; thus, one may speak of the motor or engine of an automobile; diesel engines or motors power many modern locomotives <the finest machine in the world is useless without a motor to drive it—Furnas> Motor is the specific term for a rotating machine that transforms electrical energy into mechanical energy <household appliances run by electric motors> <a motor is a machine for transforming electrical energy into mechanical energy or power—Cloud> Like machine, motor also applies specifically to an automotive vehicle (as an automobile or truck) we want a truck battalion of at least four companies. . . . The vehicles for this unit would be obtained by drawing on excess motors in various division units—Combat Forces Jour.> <the taxpayer did not then provide Ministers with carriages and coachmen as he now provides them with motors and chauffeurs—Collis> Ana contrivance, *device, contraption, gadget: *implement, tool, instrument, utensil, appliance machinery 1 *equipment, apparatus, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear, matériel Ana *mean, instrument, instrumentality, agency, medium, machine, organ, channel, agent: *machine, mechanism, apparatus, engine, motor: *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget: *implement, tool, instrument, utensil, appliance 1 *machine, mechanism, apparatus, engine, motor macromosm cosmos, universe, world, *earth mad 1 *insane, crazy, crazed, demented, deranged, lunatic, maniac, non compos mentis Ana frenzied, hysterical, delirious (see corresponding nouns at MANIA): *irrational, unreasonable 2 *angry, irate, wrathful, wroth, indignant, acrimonious Ana maddened, incensed, infuriated, enraged (see ANGER vb): offended, outraged, affronted (see OFFEND) madden *anger, incense, enrage, infuriate Ana vex, *annoy, irk: exasperate, provoke, rile, aggrivate, *irritate Con pacify, placate, mollify, appease, propitiate, conciliate: assuage, allay, mitigate, *relieve maelstrom eddy, whirlpool, vortex magazine 1 *armory, arsenal 2 *journal, periodical, review, organ, newspaper magic n Magic, sorcery, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy, thaumaturgy are comparable rather than synonymous in their basic senses. In extended use they are sometimes employed indifferently without regard to the implications of their primary senses and with little distinction from the most inclusive term, magic, but all are capable of being used discriminately and with quite distinctive implications. Magic primarily denotes one of the arts or the body of arts whose practitioners claim supernatural
magnificent imposing, stately, majestic, august, noble, grandiose, *grand


Ant modest — Con *mean, abject, ignoble, sordid: trifling, trivial, *petty, paltry: *humble, meek, lowly

magnify *extal, aggravize

Ana extol, *praise, laud, acclaim, eulogize: enlarge, *increase, augment: *expand, amplify, distend, swell, inflate, dilate

Ant minimize, belittle — Con *deceit, depreciate, detract, derogate: reduce, lessen, diminish, *decrease: *contract, shrink, deflate

magniloquent grandiloquent, aureate, flowery, *rhetorical, euphuistic, bombastic

Ana turgid, timid, *inflated, flattened: theatrical, histrionic, melodramatic, *dramatic

magnitude volume, *size, extent, dimensions, area

Ana amplitude, *expansive, stretch, spread: *bulk, mass, volume

maiden adj 1 *unmarried, single, celibate, virgin

Ana *youthful, virginal, juvenile

2 *youthful, juvenile, virgin, virginal, puerile, boyish

Ant experienced

maim, cripple, mutilate, batter, mangle are comparable when they mean to injure the body or an object so severely as to leave permanent or long-lasting effects. Maim implies the loss of a limb or member or the destruction of its usefulness usually through violence (as by war, accident, or the deliberate act of oneself or another) <automobiles maim large numbers of persons every year> may—be I wouldn't have to kill you . . . I could just maim you—so you couldn't keep me from turning back—Edison Marshall> seems to have been maimed psychologically by a brutal father—N. Y. Times Book Rev.> Cripple (see also weaken) is more restricted than maim because strictly it implies the loss of or serious impairment of the use of a leg or arm or part of one <he is crippled as a result of an amputation following blood poisoning> crippled by a congenital hip disease >Mutilate (for specific sense of this word, see sterilize 1) implies the cutting off or removal of a part essential to completeness, not only of a person but also of a thing, and to his or its perfection, beauty, entirety, or fulfillment of function <could make little manikins of their enemies and by mutilating these, inflict pains and ills on the persons they represented—Cobban> windows . . . darkened by time and mutilated by willful injury—Henry Adams> the last twelve pages of this codex have been mutilated by fire—Modern Language Notes> Batter and mangle do not suggest loss of limb, member, or part, but they do suggest injuries which excessively disfigure the person or thing. Batter implies a pounding (literal or figurative) that bruises deeply, deforms, or mutilates <he emerged from the fight battered and dazed> the first time he made a helmet, he tested it out of shape—Russell> so rough were the roads that we were battered and pitched about like cargoes in a heavy sea—A. R. Williams> Mangle, on the other hand, implies a tearing or crushing and a covering (literally or figuratively) with deep wounds or lacerations <mangled with gashly wounds through plate and mail—Milton> <reckless people who have disregarded the warnings and been mangled by sharks—Heiser>

Ana *mar, spoil, damage, *injure: *deface, disfigure

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1

magisterial authoritarian, *dictatorial, domatic, doctrinaire, oracular

or occult powers (as in calling spirits to their assistance, in performing miracles, in divining the future, and in fixing the destinies of men). In extended use the word denotes a power or influence that produces effects akin to or suggestive of those of magic. Usually it stresses the power to call forth an image, an emotion, or a response from or as if from a void <his magic was not far to seek—he was so human! . . . where'er he met a stranger, there he left a friend—J. R. Lowell> the faint significance of words . . . for a common dullard, or their evocative magic for a Keats—Montague> Less often it is applied to an art or an artist transcending the natural or explainable <but Shakespeare's magic could not copied be; within that circle none durst walk but he—Dryden> Sorcery is the form of magic practiced by those who use incantations and charms and cast spells in order to work their usually harmful ends. In extended use it is especially appropriate to suggest an attempt to overpower or enthrall by glamour or artful enchantment <to fence my ear against thy sorceries—Milton> (the old evocative themes recur . . . and they are still touched with that verbal and metrical sorcery whose secret his younger contemporaries seem to have lost—New Yorker> Witchcraft, witchery, and wizardry in their primary senses suggest powers derived from evil spirits or the use of human beings as the instruments for the accomplishment of Satanic ends, the only difference being that the first two are chiefly applied to the work of women, and the last to that of men. In extended use, however, they often vary in implications. Witchcraft is sometimes indistinguishable from sorcery, but it more often suggests guile rather than enchantment and wiles rather than spells <there is something more than witchcraft in them [women], that masters even the wisest of us all—Rowe> Witchery, on the other hand, occasionally implies either sorcery or guile <thus has a bit of witchery crept into certain methods of plague control in the past—Hubbs> but usually stresses a winning grace or an alluring loveliness <the soft blue sky did never melt into his heart; he never felt the witchery of the soft blue sky!—Wordsworth> <the witchery of legend and romance—Riker> Wizardry suggests a more virile and compelling power to enchant and usually connotes exceptional skill, talent, or creative power in the person who exerts such an influence <that white-winged legion through whom we had plowed our way were not, could never be, to me just gulls . . . ; there was the wizardry of my past wonder, the enchantment of romance—Galsworthy> his playing had a grandeur that one often misses in the work of younger and more meticulous artists, and there were moments when his wizardry held me spellbound—Sargeant> Alchemy is properly classed with magic only because its practitioners claimed mastery of secret forces in nature and the power to work such miracles as the changing of base into precious metals. In discriminative extended use, therefore, it implies transmutation or sometimes transfiguration <gilding pale streams with heavenly alchemy—Shak.> <by happy alchemy of mind they turn to pleasure all they find—Green> the vast majority of those who write verse are unenamored with the assimilating alchemy of genius—Lovess> Thaumaturgy basically is applied to performing of miracles and wonders or to the art of wonder-workers (as conjurers or those who profess the power to work miracles) <a world of miracles wherein they turn to pleasure—Shak.> Alchemists say that the stylus of nature, or the divine hand, and they are still touched with that verbal and metrical alchemy of genius—Lovess> In extended use it is applied to what mystifies and dazzles or is designed to mislead or confuse.
main adj principal, leading, *chief, foremost, capital

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

mainly *largely, greatly, mostly, chiefly, principally, generally

maintain, assert, defend, vindicate, justify are comparable when they mean to uphold as true, right, just, valid, or worthy of notice or acceptance in the face of opposition or indifference. Maintain implies a firmness of conviction. When this implication is the only one, maintain usually means to argue in the spirit of one who does not admit any weakness in his contention (the artisan, for example, ranks no doubt lower than the professional man; but no one maintains that he is a different kind of being—Dickinson) (there is... a Philosophic Doctrine—. I know that many serious people believe it—which maintains that all men, in spite of appearances and pretensions... live alike for pleasure—L. P. Smith) Often, however, the term additionally implies persistence or insistency in upholding in defiance of all opposition (before this court ought to intervene the case should be of serious magnitude clearly and fully proved, and the principle to be applied should be one which the court is prepared deliberately to maintain against all considerations on the other side—Justice Holmes) Assert (see also assert 1) so strongly implies a determination to make others accept or recognize what one puts forward as the truth, or as a claim, or as a right, that it often suggests aggressiveness or obtrusiveness (the provision of the constitution never has been understood to embrace other contracts, than those which... confer rights which may be asserted in a court of justice—John Marshall) But assert does not always imply the use of argument to force conviction or recognition (anyone... can feel the sustained dignity of the sculptor's work, which is asserted with all the emphasis he could put into it—Henry Adams) (on the whole New Zealand was lavish with money and attention, and used force only to assert her sovereignty—Heiser) Defend implies a maintaining in the face of attack with the intention of demonstrating the truth, rightness, or propriety of what is questioned; thus, one defends a thesis who, as a candidate for a degree, submits himself to examiners who assail the weak or dubious points of his argument (the independence of the Supreme Court of the United States should be defended at all costs—Lippmann) Defend, in this sense, does not imply, as it so often implies in its more common sense (see defend 1), that the defender is in a weak or dubious position; however it seldom suggests as much aggressiveness does assert and often connotes the aim of an apologist (I have not adopted my faith in order to defend my views of conduct—T. S. Eliot) Vindicate (see also exculpate) implies an attempt, usually a successful attempt, at defense or assertion. It presupposes that whatever is being defended or asserted has been or is capable of being challenged, questioned, denied, or contended. When the emphasis is on defense, then argument or something which has the force of argument is usually implied, and an aim not only to make one's point but to confute and confound one's opponents is often connoted (writers who vindicated our hereditary House of Lords against a certain Parliamentary Act—Quiller-Couch) (the view of the informed and disinterested men turned out to be almost completely wrong, while the relatively uninformed... were vindicated on all counts—Rovere) When the emphasis is upon assertion, vindicate usually implies an effort to resist triumphantly the force of encroachment or interference or to overwhelm those who deny or doubt, not so much by argument as by appropriate action (arise, and vindicate Thy Glory; free thy people from their yoke—Milton) (what was it that stood in his way? His unfortunate timidity! He wished to vindicate himself in some way, to assert his manhood—Joyce) Justify (see also explain 2, justify 3) implies that the thing concerned can no longer be opposed or ignored because it has been conclusively shown to be true, valid, or proper by irrefutable arguments or on inescapable grounds, such as its consequences or its successful operation (if the Germans are to justify the high claims they make for Lessing as a critic, they must rest them on other grounds than his intellectual originality—Babbiot) (fate persists in justifying the harsh generalizations of Puritan morals—Bennett) (it isn't by the materials you use that your claim to originality will stand justified or condemned; it is solely by the thing you do with them—Lowes) Affirm, aver, protest, avow, declare, profess, avouch (see assert) (content, fight, battle, war; persist, persevere Oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight; *deny, gainsay, contradict, traverse

maintenence sustenance, support, *living, livelihood, subsistence, keep, bread majestic stately, august, noble, magnificent, imposing, *grand, grandiose

lofty, *high: sublime, superb, glorious, *splendid, resplendent; monumental, tremendous (see monstrous) *exceptional

mean, abject, sordid, ignoble: lowly, *humble, modest, meek; ordinary, *common

majority, plurality are arbitrarily defined in the United States, especially by statute, when they refer to an excess of votes as determining an election. Both imply an excess of votes over the next highest candidate. The distinction between the two words applies when there are three or more candidates; then the person who is elected by a majority has more votes than the other candidates combined, that is, his vote is in excess of half of the total number of votes cast, and his majority is the number of votes cast for him in excess of one half of the total number of votes. A person is elected by a plurality when he has more votes than any other candidate, whether he has a majority of the total or not. Thus, if a total of 290,000 votes are cast in an election contested by three candidates, with candidate A polling 200,000 votes, candidate B polling 75,000, and candidate C polling 15,000, candidate A wins the election by a majority of 55,000, and by a plurality of 125,000 over candidate B, and by a plurality of 185,000 over candidate C. Sometimes, where the successful candidate has a vote that exceeds the total of votes cast for all opposing candidates, the term plurality is applied to this excess; thus, in the example given, while candidate A's majority is 55,000, his plurality over candidates B and C together is 110,000.

make vb Make, form, shape, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge can all mean to cause something to come into being or existence. This is the underlying meaning of make, the most general and the most widely applicable of these terms. Make may imply the operation either of an intelligent agent or of a blind agency, and either material or immaterial existence (make a chair) (make a poem) (make a choice) (this factory makes bicycles) (he is unable to make friends) (God made the world) (the spider makes webs) (the liver makes bile) Form adds to the implication that the thing brought into being has a definite outline, design, or structure (a sculptor who forms hands with exquisite delicacy) (we are ready to form a plan) (form a federation of states) (character
is partly formed by training.} Shape, though often interchangeable with form, is much more restricted in its application because it characteristically connotes an external agent that physically or figuratively impresses a particular form upon something (as by molding, beating, carving, or cutting). (the blacksmith shapes a horseshoe on his anvil) (a hat on a block) (events that shaped his career) (every life is a work of art shaped by the man who lives it—Dickinson) Fashion means to form, but it implies an intelligent and sometimes a purposeful agency and more or less inventive power or ingenuity. (he fashioned a lamp out of an old churn) (legislative committees often fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (intelligent creatures, fashioned by the hand and in the image of an all-wise God—Hambly) Fabricate stresses a making that unites many parts or materials into a whole. (Dr. Hitchens and his associates alone have fabricated more than 500 compounds resembling one or another of the simpler chemicals out of which D. N. A. (an enormously complex substance) is fashioned in the cell—Engel) and it usually connotes either a making according to a preconceived plan (fabricate doors, windows, and other parts of a house) or skillfulness in construction (fabricate a good plot for a novel) (fabricated a creed fitted to meet the sordid misery of real human life—Woolf) Very commonly fabricate implies an imaginative making or inventing of something false (the particulars of that genealogy, embellished with every detail that memory had handed down or fancy fabricated—Stevenson) (his feats of legendarium sounded so improbable that many people considered his experiences fabricated—Heiser) Manufacture emphasizes the making of something by labor, originally by hand but now more often by machinery. The term is applied to a making in which raw materials are used and a definite process or series of processes is followed (manufacture cloth) (manufacture kitchen utensils) (manufacture automobiles) In extended use manufacture often is preferred to the preceding words when laboriousness or the knowledge of the mechanics of a process, rather than skill or ingenuity, is connotated (manufacture paintings by the dozen) (the strain of manufacturing conversation for at least ten minutes—Fenburgh) Forge basically suggests the operation of a smith who heats metal and beats or hammers it into shape (forge a horseshoe) (forge a chain) In its extended sense it carries a strong implication of devising or concocting by physical or mental effort so as to give the appearance of truth or reality (the proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart—Ps 119:69) (whate’er I forge to feed his brain) suits, do you uphold and maintain in your speeches—Shak) (however feeling may render plastic the stuff of poetry, the poet, in his fancy, is the maker of the poem) (he forge the bond—Lowes) In specific use, both legal and ordinary, forge implies the making of a counterfeit, especially by imitating the handwriting of an original or of a supposed maker; thus, one forges a document, such as a will, deed, or check, by making or signing it in imitation of another’s handwriting or by making alterations in a genuine document by the same means. Ana produce, turn out, yield, *be: accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill (see PERFORM) make-believe *pretense, pretension maker n Maker, creator, author denote one who brings something into being or existence. When written with an initial capital letter, all three terms designate God or the Supreme Being; without the capital they ascribe similar but not equivalent powers or effects to a person. Maker typically implies a close and immediate relationship between the one who makes and the thing that is made. It implies the physical or figurative handling of material and individual or personal responsibility for what is turned out; hence, in religious use (as in hymns and prayers) God is usually called one’s Maker (every soul, insisted Luther, stands in naked confrontation before its Maker—Bainton) Maker in such terms as kingmaker, a maker of men, a maker of phrases, a maker of poems, suggests the use of persons, words, or ideas as instruments by which one brings something into existence through one’s own labor or effort (in every creative writer there is a touch of the poet, the maker, even if his medium is prose—Forster) Creator, on the other hand, seldom suggests either literal or figurative use or handling of materials; its leading implication is that of bringing into existence what the mind conceives and the will, as the mind’s instrument, carries out. As applied to God, the term usually evokes the picture of Creation as presented in Genesis; the term is used, therefore, rather than Maker, when His omnipotence and the greatness of His works are stressed (and touched their golden harps, and hymning praised God and his works: Creator him they sung—Milton) In the same way creator is used of a man who brings into being something new, which has form in his mind or imagination before he gives it objective existence (a conservator, call me, if you please, not a creator nor destroyer—Browning) (they are genuine creators: they do not describe nor interpret reality as much as construct it—Howard Moss) Author is applied to one who originates and who, therefore, is not only the source, or ultimate source, but the one responsible for a person’s or thing’s existence. It is applied to God chiefly in the phrase “the Author of one’s being” when the reference is to the gift of life or its attendant circumstances (then casting up my eyes, thanked the Author of my being for the gift of that wild forest, those green mansions where I had found so great a happiness—Hudson) In reference to persons it is not only applied to a writer (see Writer) but also to one (as a founder, an inventor, or an initiator) who brings something into existence (the policy of which he was principally the author—Bello) (the gay and bewitching . . . coquette Célimène who is the author of all Alceste’s woes—Alexander) makeshift shift, expedient, *resource, resort, stopgap, substitute, surrogate Ana *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget: *mean, instrument, apparatus, instrumentation maladroit clumsy, gauche, inept, *awkward Ant adroit—Con *dexterous, deft, handy: *clever, cunning, ingenious: skilled, skillful, expert, adept, masterly, *proficient: politic, diplomatic, bland, smooth (see SUAVE) malady ailment, disorder, condition, affection, *disease, complaint, distemper, syndrome male adj Male, masculine, manly, manlike, mannish, manful, virile are comparable when meaning of, characteristic of, or like a male, especially of the human species. Male (opposed to female) applies to animals and plants as well as to human beings and stresses the fact of sex (a male tiger) (a male willow tree) (male children) (a male choir) Masculine (opposed to feminine) alone of these words may imply grammatical gender (masculine nouns and pronouns) but it characteristically applies to features, attributes, or qualities which belong to men rather than to women (he was a big, active, masculine creature—DeLand) (the masculine character lying behind the lofty idealism of Sung painting—Binyon) (this poetry is masculine, plain, concentrated, and energetic—Landon) (it’s a masculine sort of town . . . with solidarity rather than
style, dignity rather than sparkle, graciousness rather than grace—Joseph Macaulay is sometimes interchangeable with male (the masculine part of the audience) (although this is largely a masculine disease, about 5 per cent of the patients are women—Fishbein) Manly (often opposed to boyish or, from another point of view, to womanly) is used to qualify whatever evidences the qualities of a fully developed man (manly virtues) It often specifically suggests the finer qualities of a man (as courage, frankness, and independence) or the physical characters and skills which come with maturity; it is applicable not only to men but to boys (his big manly voice, turning again toward childish treble—Shak) (what more manly exercise than hunting—Walton) (it was amusing to watch the manly coolness with which the announcement was taken—Meredith) Manlike (often opposed to womanlike) is more apt to suggest characteristically masculine qualities or, especially, foibles (manlike bluntness) (from long association with men she had learnt a manlike reticence—H. S. Scott) Often manlike suggests reference to man in the more general sense of the word and therefore means little more than human or like human beings (there were a dozen or more of the hairy manlike creatures upon the ground—Blue Book) Mannish (often contrasted with womanish or effeminate) applies chiefly to women or their dress, gait, and manners, when they suggest masculinity rather than femininity (a woman impudent and mannish grown—Shak) (a mannish costume) (those who dislike . . . mannish head-gear, might try his simple but feminine small hats—Lois Long) Manful differs from manly chiefly in its greater stress on sturdiness and resoluteness (a manful effort to gain self-control) (his life has been one manful struggle against poverty—Trollope) Virile (a stronger word than masculine and opposed to puerile or, in specific sense, to impotent) suggests such qualities of fully developed manhood as aggressiveness, masterfulness, forcefulness, and, in a specific sense, procreativeness. It differs from manly and manful in being applied only to mature men (virile style) (ye chiefly, virile both to think and feel, deep-chested Chapman and firm-footed Ben—J. R. Lowell) (the virile story of a little man, his big wife, and his bigger bull—Atlantic) Ant female—Con feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, ladylike (see female) malediction *curse, imprecation, anathema Ant benediction malefactor *criminal, felon, convict, culprit, delinquent Ana miscreant, scoundrel, *villain, blackguard Ant benefactor: well-doer malefic, maleficient malign, baleful, *sinner malevolence ill will, malignity, malignancy, *malevolence, spite, despite, spleen, grudge Ana animosity, rancor, animus, antipathy, antagonism, *enmity, hostility: hate, hatred, detestation, abhorrence, abomination (see under hate v⑧) Ant benevolence—Con benignity, benignancy, kindness, kindness (see corresponding adjectives at kind) malevolent malignant, malign, *malicious, spiteful Ana *sinner, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient Ant benevolent—Con benign, benignant, *kind, kindly: *charitable, humane, altruistic, humanitarian, philanthropic, plebeian, malice, ill will, malevolence, spite, despite, malignity, malignancy, spleen, grudge do denote a feeling or a state of mind which leads one to desire that another or others should suffer pain or injury. Malice usually implies a deep-seated and, often, an unjustified or unexplainable desire; it frequently carries an implication of an innate pleasure in doing evil, in inflicting injury, in seeing others suffer, or in wanting destruction (with malice toward none; with charity for all . . . let us . . . bind up the nation's wounds—Lincoln) (there are people in the world with that degree of . . . malice in them that they can't bear to allow a good man his merits—Shaw) (man, with his usual monkey-like malice, took pleasure in pulling down what he had built up—Henry Adams) (argues that Dreyfus' court-martial and imprisonment . . . were mostly a tragedy of honest errors, not a conspiracy of racial malice—Time) Often, however, it may imply mischievousness or impishness rather than a hardened, vindictive nature (she was clever, witty, brilliant, and sparkling beyond most of her kind; but possessed of many devils of malice and mischievousness—Kipling) (we get far too little good conversation and artistic malice in life or art—Coxe) In law malice applies to the state of mind of one who willfully commits wrong, whether in full deliberation (malice aforethought) or out of hatred and a desire to inflict injury on another (malice in fact) or out of the depravity of his nature (implied malice) Ill will and malevolence both imply an unfriendly attitude or state of mind that is rarely without some basis, real or fancied, and that need not, as malice so often does, lead to overt action. Ill will applies to an attitude or state that is definite but measured and rarely involves any marked upheaval of mind (proposal to defend Formosa for Chiang and invite the ill will of all the rest of Asia—Progressive) (could not believe it possible that any injury or any misfortune could provoke such ill will against a person not connected, or, at least, not supposed to be connected with it—Austen) Malevolence applies primarily to a bitter and rancorous ill will that affects the whole outlook of one possessed by it and that is both more persistent and more likely to seek outlet in malicious conduct than is ill will (their society is organized by a permanent, universal animosity and malevolence; sullen suspicion and resentment are their chief motives—Muller) (the frigid malevolence with which Wilson denied this strong man's plea, made in what Wilson, being sensitive and wise, knew was exasperating abuse—White) Spite suggests petty ill will and mean envy and resentment that often manifests itself in trivial harassments (a man full of the secret spite of dullness, who interrupted from time to time, and always to check or disorder thought—Yeats) (it is, indeed, a little shabby, a little insignificant: not really hate at all, but spite—Day Lewis) Despite (see also under DESPISE) in this sense is a rather uncommon or literary term that may imply more pride and disdain and less pettiness than spite (not in despite but softly, as men smile about the dead—Chesteron) (if you will imagine a glint of moonlight running up the blade of a rapier, you may know the chill flame of spite and despite that bickered in her eyes then as she spoke—Quiller-Couch) Malignity and malignancy imply deep passion and relentless driving force (he is cruel with the cruelty of petrifed feeling, to his poor heroine; he pursues her without pity or pause, as with malignity—Arnold) (blinded by malignancy against the class of manual worker—Sprigge) Spleen implies deep-seated rancor combined with bad temper; it usually suggests wrathful release of latent spite or persistent malice and the wish to harm (his countrymen vented their spleen at his failure . . . by sending the unfortunate naval commander exile—J. R. Lowell) (the unfortunate man was dominated by partisan spleen—Parrington) Grudge applies to cherished ill will against an individual which seeks satisfaction; it usually suggests deep resentment for some real or fancied slight or affront and, often, a determination to get even (I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him—Shak).
malignant adjective: malignant, malicious, malevolent, spiteful

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<td>adj</td>
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<td>Malignant, malevolent, malignant, spiteful are comparable when they mean disposed to do or to inflict evil or resulting from a disposition to do or to inflict evil. A person or thing is malignant, malicious, malevolent, spiteful, if they are disposed to do or to inflict evil. A person or thing is malignant that is motivated or dictated by hatred or spite and, usually, by a desire to inflict injury and suffering or to see another in disgrace or an object of ridicule or contempt (episodes ... when they create a scandal, they are hushed as much as possible, so as not to offend chaste ears and rejoice malignant ones —Guérard)</td>
<td>Malignant, trade, asperse, vilify, calumniate, defame, slander, libel mean to speak evil of for the purpose of injuring and without regard for the truth. Malign and trade usually imply persecution; they commonly suggest such a blinding passion as hatred, violent prejudice, or bigotry as the motive. Malign, however, although it carries the implication that the person, group, or race affected is the victim of lies, does not necessarily impute deliberate lying to the speaker or writer (the most malignant race in history)</td>
<td>Malignant — Con: mercy, grace, clemency, lenity: benignity, benignancy, kindness, kindliness (see corresponding adjectives at Kind)</td>
<td>Ant: -malignant — Con: favorably, auspicious, propitious: fortunate, *lucky, providential, happy</td>
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malign adj 1 malignant, malicious, malevolent, spiteful

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<td>Malignant; hostile, rancorous, antipathetic, antagonistic (see corresponding nouns at Enmity): venomous, virulent, toxic: *poisonous, nosious, baneful, deleterious, detrimental: *envious, jealous: wanton, gratuitous, uncalled-for, *supererogatory</td>
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malign verb: Malign, trade, asperse, vilify, calumniate, defame, slander, libel mean to speak evil of for the purpose of injuring and without regard for the truth. Malign and trade usually imply persecution; they commonly suggest such a blinding passion as hatred, violent prejudice, or bigotry as the motive. Malign, however, although it carries the implication that the person, group, or race affected is the victim of lies, does not necessarily impute deliberate lying to the speaker or writer (the most malignant race in history) | Malignant — Con: mercy, grace, clemency, lenity: benignity, benignancy, kindness, kindliness (see corresponding adjectives at Kind) | Ant: -malignant — Con: favorably, auspicious, propitious: fortunate, *lucky, providential, happy | See also explanatory notes facing page 1 |
or his reputation and the publication or circulation of such printed or written matter (it is dangerous for a care-
less or malicious newspaper to libel individuals—Time)*
(the month in which William Pryne was branded for
libeling the bishops—Times Lit. Sup.)*
Ana detract, *decry, disparage, depreciate, derogate:
vituperate, revile (see SCOLD): defile, pollute (see CON-
tAMINATE)*
Ant defend —Con vindicate, justify, *maintain: extol,
eulogize, *praise
malignancy 1 malignity, *malice, ill will, malevolence,
spite, despite, spleen, grudge
Ant & Con see those at MALIGNITY
2 *tumor, neoplasm, cancer
malignant malign, malevolent, *malicious, spiteful
Ana virulent, venomous (see POISONOUS): *envious,
jealous: baneful,noxious, *pernicious: diabolical,devilish,
*flendish
Ant benignant —Con benign, *kind, kindly: benevo-
 lent, *charitable, altruistic, humane
malignity malignancy, *malice, ill will, malevolence,
spite, despite, spleen, grudge
Ana rancor, animus, animosity, *enmity, hostility:
malignancy, malignousness, spitefulness (see correspond-
ing adjectives at MALICIOUS): hatred, *hate: vindictive-
ness, revengefulness, vengeancefulness (see corresponding
adjectives at VINDICTIVE)*
Ant benignity —Con benignancy, kindliness, kindness
(see corresponding adjectives at KIND)
maligner *dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, shirk, fence
Ana evade, avoid, elude, *escape, shun
malleable *plastic, pliable,pliant,ductile,adaptable
Ana tractable, amenable (see OBEDIENT)*
Ant refractory, —Con intractable, recalcitrant, ungov-
ernable, *unruly
malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid,
*stinking, musty mean having an unpleasant smell. Malodorous
is the general term which is referable to any smell of this
character, from one that is noticeably unpleasant to one
that is distinctly offensive <malodorous flowers> <the flavor
. . . like that of many malodorous cheeses, is delic-
ate—Rowlings>R Stinking, the familiar term, and fetid,
the literary or technical term, describe an odor or a thing
that emits an odor which is peculiarly offensive; the former
more obviously suggests disgusting foulness than the latter
A stinking dungeon <a stinking outhouse> <the cave . . .
was indescribably foul and stinking—Barbour> <exploded
stinking flashlight powder in enclosed rooms—Mott>
A fetid weed <he detected at once a fetid odor, not very
strong but highly disagreeable—Cather>Noisome is ap-
ciable chiefly to what emits a poisonsly or unwhole-
somely offensive odor <four sewers emptied into these
twenty-five acres of swamp and morass—stagnant, no-
some, and crawling with huge snakes—Heiser> Putrid
is applicable primarily to organic matter in such a state
of decomposition that it is loathsomely malodorous <a
bloated, putrid, noisome carcass—Burke> <the whole
was putrid with fish corpses—Semon> Rank (see also
RANK 1: FLAGRANT) applies to an odor or to a thing which
emits an odor that is exceedingly strong and unpleasing
yet not necessarily loathsome <the rank smell of a sun-
flower> <O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven—
Shak.> <wreathed in smoke from a rank cigar—Ralph
Watson>R Rancid usually suggests an offensive taste as
well as an offensive smell that is indicative of a loss of
freshness: it is used especially of fatty substances (as
oil or butter) that have undergone a chemical change or
decomposition <rancid bacon> Fusty and musty both
suggest lack of ventilation and sunlight, but of the two
words fusty carries the stronger implication of age and
prolonged uncleanness or an accumulation of dust and
dirt, and musty, the stronger implication of moldiness
or of the effects of darkness or dampness <the ill-ven-
tilated schoolroom full of boys smelled . . . fusty—Ellis>
(the department had moved from its fusty old headquar-
ters . . . to a shiny new home—Time) <the musty odor
of a damp cellar> <there was an acrid, musty smell; the
raw air was close with breathing—Rose Macaulay> Ant
odorous —Con fragrant, aromatic, redolent (see
ODOROUS)
maltreatment mistreat, ill-treat, misuse, *abuse, outrage
Ana see those at ILL-TREAT
mammal *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine,
giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Hercu-
lean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian
Ana *monstrous, monumental, stupendous, tremendous,
prodigious: ponderous, weighty, cumbrous, cumbersome
(see HEAVY)
manacle vb *hamper, trammel, clog, fetter, shackles, hog-
tie
Ana *hinder, impede, obstruct, bar, block: *tie, bind:
*restrain, inhibit, curb, check
manage *conduct, control, direct
Ana *govern, rule: *guide, lead, steer, pilot, engineer:
*handle, manipulate, wield, swing, ply
mandate n 1 dictate, *command, order, injunction, bidding,
behest
Ana charging or charge, direction, instruction (see corre-
sponding verbs at COMMAND): sanctioning or sanction,
endorsement, approval (see corresponding verbs at AP-
PROVE)
2 Mandate, initiative, referendum, plebiscite are comparable
when meaning a political action or procedure whereby
a constituency instructs or gives information of its desires
to its legislature or legislators. Mandate, the most general
of these terms, applies to instruction delivered by the people
(as by a general vote or by a choice in an election) that
makes their wishes clear not only to their representatives
in a legislature but also to those who hold the execu-
tive power, or, in an extended sense, to those who repre-
sent them in any way or who by the nature of their office
or duties are necessarily responsive to the will of the peo-
ple <the president of the United States, reelected by an
enormous majority, declared that he had a mandate from
the people to continue his policies> Initiative often denota-
a right, but when it denotes a procedure, it implies recog-
nition of the right of a group of voters or, more often,
of a clearly defined number of voters, to propose a new
measure or a constitutional amendment to a legislature
(the initiative, both as a right and as a procedure, is legally
recognized in many of the states of the United States of
America) Referendum applies to the practice, adopted
by some states and cities in the United States, of sending
measures that have been considered by or proposed to
the legislative body to the voters for approval or rejection
or for an expression of their wishes. Plebiscite basically
applies to a vote of the people usually by universal
suffrage on some measure submitted to them by the group
or the body having the initiative. Sometimes plebiscite
implies a vote of the population of a territorial unit that
testifies to their wishes especially as to the form of govern-
ment they will accept, or their choice in a proposed merger
with either of two nations.
maneuver n stratagem, *trick, ruse, gambit, ploy, artifice,
wile, feint
Ana *device, contrivance: expedient, resort, *resource,
shift, makeshift: intrigue, machination, *plot
manful virile, manly, manlike, masculine, *male
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
mangle

*insane, mad, crazy, crazed, demented, deranged, manic

vb

express, vent, utter, voice: *reveal, discover, disclose, divulge

manic

*flourish, brandish, shake, *swing, wave, thrash

manifest

*show, evidence, evince, demonstrate

many

manipulate

*handle, wield, swing, ply

Ant

suggest —Con adumbrate, shadow (see SUGGEST)

manikin

*midget, *dwarf, pygmy, homunculus, runt

Ant

giant

manipulate

*handle, wield, swing, ply

Ant

manic

*mannish, manlike, virile, manly, masculine, *male

manlike

*mannish, manlike, virile, masculine, manly

manly

*mature, matured, grown-up, adult: sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart

manly

*mature, matured, grown-up, adult: sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart

man

unmanly, womanly —Con effeminate, womanish, ladylike, effeminate, womanly, *female

man

*mature, matured, grown-up, adult: sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart

man

Unmanly, womanly —Con effeminate, womanish, ladylike (see FEMALE): boyish, puerile, juvenile, *youthful

manner

*method, mode, way, fashion, system

mannerism

*pose, air, affectation

manner

*eccentricity, idiosyncrasy: peculiarity, singularity, oddness, querness (see corresponding adjectives at STRANGE)

mannish

*mannish, manlike, virile, masculine, *male, manful, manly

Ant

womanish —Con womanly, womanish, unmannish, ladylike, feminine, *female

manufacture

*fabricate, forge, *make, form, shape, fashion

Ant

produce, turn out, yield (see BEAR)

man

emancipate, enfranchise, deliver, discharge, "free, release, liberate

Ant

enslave

many

*several, sundry, various, divers, numerous, multifarious mean consisting of a large number or comprising a large group. Many implies a likeness between the individuals or units in class, category, kind, or sort; except that it vaguely implies more than a few, the term gives no explicit suggestion as to how large the number is; of the eleven poets who accepted (representing, in many cases, a second choice on the part of the committee . . .)

—Mary McCarthy

*many inventions which we now see to be precursors of the second industrial revolution—Wiener

* Several (see also DISTINCT 1) is almost as vague as many in its implication of number. In law the term is construed as meaning more than one; thus, the several counts of an indictment may be two or more counts. In more general use it is usually construed as meaning at least three (the journey will take several days) (they saw several strangers on the road) (there are several reasons why you should not go) Sometimes the term means both more than a few and different each from the other; in such use, several is often preceded by a possessive adjective (a review of our denominational theologians . . .). There have been many of them; they have served their several causes well—Sperry (her several thoughts . . . as signaled by the changes on her face—Hardy) (chosen every second year by the people of the several States—U. S. Constitution)

Sundry

also implies an indefinite number, but it carries regularly a stronger implication of the difference of each from the others than does several; thus, there are several, rather than sundry, eggs left; there are sundry, more explicit than several, aspects of the problem that have not been considered (she differed in sundry important features—Quiller-Couch) (all their sundry emotions of a moment ago were one now in a sense of submissive, unquestioning reverence—Tasaki)

*various (see also DIFFERENT) is often used to mean an indefinite number, with a more or less attenuated implication of difference in identity of each from each (various persons spoke to me about it) (the various social layers of the American population—Packard) (Divers (compare diverse under DIFFERENT) also has come to imply a vague number, often meaning little more than many or several, but often retaining some of its originally strong impli—
cation of difference among the individuals \(\text{he told his story to divers persons} \) \(\text{divers styles of musical expression—Virgil Thomson}\) \(\text{Numerous may qualify plural nouns or singular nouns that designate a collection or assembly of units or individuals. In each case the term implies the existence of a noticeably large number of units or individuals; sometimes, in fact, it connotes a crowding or thronging} \(\text{every president has numerous letters from numerous persons} \) \(\text{I have contracted a numerous acquaintance among the best sort of people—Steele} \) \(\text{the commoners who had been summoned . . . formed a numerous assembly—Macauley}\) \(\text{Multifarious adds to the implications of many that of great diversity and often incongruity in the units, individuals, or elements involved} \) \(\text{in many of the multifarious activities he undertook—Ellis} \) \(\text{the multifarious Italian dialects—Heiser} \) \(\text{the large desk on which multifarious files and papers were ranged—Bennett} \) \(\text{the multifarious sufferings of the refugees} \) \(\text{Ant} \) \(\text{few}

\begin{itemize}
\item \text{many-sided} \*versatile, all-around
\item \text{map} \(n \& vb\) \*chart, graph
\item \text{Ana} \(vb\) \*plot, scheme, design; \*sketch, outline, diagram
\item \text{mar} \(vb\) \*injure, damage, hurt, harm, impair, spoil
\item \text{Ana} \(vb\) \*deface, disfigure; \*deform, contort, distort, warp; \*ruin, wreck
\item \text{Con} \*embellish, decorate, \*adorn, beautify, ornament
\item \text{mend}, \text{repair}, \text{patch}; \text{amend}, \text{revise}, \text{reform}, \*correct, rectify, emend
\item \text{marble} \(vb\) \*spot, sputter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, speckle, spangle, bespangle
\item \text{marbled} \(vs\); \*spotted, sputtered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under \text{spot} \(vb\))
\item \text{margin} \(n\) \*border, verge, edge, rim, brim, brink
\item \text{Ana} \(vb\) bound, end, term, confine, \*limit: penumbra (see \text{SHADE})
\item \text{2} \(n\) \*room, berth, play, elbowroom, leeway, clearance
\item \text{Marine} \(adj\) \*oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal, \*aquatic, lacustrine, fluvial, fluviatile
\item \text{2 Marine, maritime, nautical, naval} are not closely synonymous terms but they are so interrelated that they are sometimes a cause of confusion. \text{Marine and maritime} both imply a connection with the sea. \text{Marine is the appropriate term when what is qualified is produced by or is found in the sea or in a body of salt water (for this sense see \text{aquatic})} \(or is intended for use at sea \text{Marine barometer} \) \(\text{Marine chronometer} \) \(\text{deals with the sea or with vessels that ply the sea or other large bodies of water \text{Marine painting}} \) \(\text{Marine engineers} \) \text{Marine is sometimes used also when there is an actual or implied reference to seamen \(at that time the Marine Board examinations took place at the St. Katherine's Dock House} \) \(\text{on Tower Hill—Conrad} \) \(\text{the Marine hospital system long maintained by the United States for the care of sick and disabled merchant seamen} \) \(\text{and the term commonly applies to soldiers who serve at sea \text{Marine Corps} \text{Maritime} is the appropriate term when the reference is to countries, climates, or peoples on the borders of a sea \text{the Maritime Provinces of Canada are on its eastern coast} \text{maritime races} \) \(or to the navigation of or commerce on the seas} \(\text{maritime} \) \text{pursuits such as fishing or whaling} \text{maritime laws} \text{maritime perils} \text{in the whole of British genius . . . I have estimated the maritime ancestry as 1.9, less than any other class—Ellis} \) \text{but maritime and marine are sometimes used interchangeably, especially in reference to law and insurance}. \text{Nautical and naval, on the other hand, imply a connection with ships and shipping, and therefore only indirectly with the sea}. \text{Nautical, however, is the usual term in applications where a relationship to sailors or seamen or the sailing of ships or boats is distinctly implied} \text{pursuits such as yachting} \text{nautical skill} \text{a man of nautical interests is never satisfied until he owns some sort of boat} \text{nautical clothes} \(\text{no one rows, very few sail} . . . \text{Brighton . . . is the least nautical of seaside places—Jenners} \) \text{Nautical is usually the preferred term when reference to the art or profession of navigation is implied} \text{nautical charts} \text{nautical tables} \text{nautical astronomy} \text{nautical mile} \text{Naval usually implies reference to a navy as distinguished from a merchant marine and as composed not only of ships, but of men, supplies, and armaments; at times, only from the context can a reader be sure whether ship or naval force is referred to} \text{naval stores} \text{a naval architect} \text{a naval engagement} \text{he belongs to the naval reserve} \text{mariner, sailor, seaman, tar, gob, bluejacket} all denote a person engaged in sailing or handling a ship. In non-technical use \text{mariner} generally refers to those directly involved in the navigation and operation of the ship but in legal use it is applicable to a person employed aboard a ship in any capacity and then includes not only the navigators and operators but such persons as those concerned with the ship's business and housekeeping; thus, a ship's master, officers, engineers, and stewards all are in this sense \text{mariners}. \text{Mariner} is not so common as the other terms, but it is very common in literary use \text{ye mariners of England that guard our native seas—Campbell} \text{Sailor} still so strongly retains its original implication of concern with the management of boats or ships that are propelled by sails that it is the appropriate term whenever this idea is specifically suggested. However the term is also applicable to a person engaged in the actual navigation or operation of a vessel regardless of the power which drives it. In ordinary use it applies especially to one more technically called a \text{seaman}, one of the working force sometimes including or sometimes excluding officers employed on a ship. The term \text{seaman} alone is not ordinarily applied to apprentices, for it suggests skill and craft in operation and guidance of a vessel. \text{Tar} is a familiar, often poetic, designation of a sailor; \text{gob} designates informally a sailor belonging to the navy and is not applied to an officer, whether commissioned or noncommissioned. \text{Bluejacket} is commonly applied to an enlisted man in the British or American navy; the term originally referred to the distinguishing uniform of such a seaman; it is often employed in distinguishing a sailor in the \text{navy from a marine or a sailor in the merchant marine}. \text{marital} \*matrimonial, conjugal, connubial, nuptial, hymenal \text{maritime} \*marine, nautical, naval \text{mark} \(n\) \*sign, symptom, note, token, badge \text{Ana} \(vb\) \*stigma, brand, blot, stain; criterion, touchstone, gauge, yardstick, \*standard; \*trace, vestige, track; stamp, print, imprint, impress, \*impression \text{2} \*character, symbol, sign \text{Ana} \(vb\) device, contrivance 

\begin{itemize}
\item \text{3 brand, stamp, label, tag, ticket (see under \text{MARK} \(vb\))}
\item \text{mark} \(vb\) \*Marine, \*brand, \*stamp, label, tag, ticket are comparable both as verbs meaning to affix, attach, or impress something which serves for identification and as nouns meaning the thing affixed, attached, or impressed for such a purpose. \text{Mark,} the comprehensive term of this group, in itself as distinct from context implies nothing about the way of affixing, attaching, or impressing and therefore may take the place of any of the remaining terms to suggest a means by which something may be identified, or
such matters as its ownership, origin, and quality may be established (all her linen was marked by embroidered initials) ⟨English gold and silver articles are marked, to attest their purity, with the official mark of the Goldsmiths' Company⟩ ⟨the marks of old age are appearing in his face⟩ ⟨bringing with him the marks of his rank and privilege, the silver, the linen, and damask, the portraits in peeling gold frames—Warren⟩ Brand basically implies a burning or searing with a hot iron to make a permanent mark that serves to identify (as in respect to status, ownership, quality, or make) ⟨cattle on the open range were branded to show their owner⟩ But brand has been extended to other methods of marking and then commonly stresses the indelibility of the mark and this implication affects its various extended uses much as does the more basic one (see brand n under stigma) ⟨history has once again branded this lesson on the minds of those who choose to see—Beauchamp⟩ In particular the noun often implies a being the identified product of a specified maker ⟨accustomed to ask for goods by brand⟩ ⟨a store that carries only well-known brands⟩ Stamp (see also impression) basically implies an impressing of a mark of identification, authentication, or authorization upon some softer material by means of a machine or instrument that hammers it in; it may imply also any comparable method of affixing a mark, usually with some suggestion of permanence or indelibility ⟨every coin is stamped with a particular design that certifies it as belonging to a certain country and as having such and such a value⟩ ⟨the meat was dark red with uneven white edges of fat⟩ Blue inspection stamps were on the white fat—Wirt Williams ⟨stamp a bill "Paid"⟩ ⟨stamp a letter with the date of arrival at the post office⟩ ⟨put a ten-cent postage stamp on that letter⟩ ⟨this passport now bears all the necessary stamps⟩ ⟨this maternity was stamped so indelibly on his outer shell—Costain⟩ ⟨a poet who has left her stamp on her generation—S. H. Hay⟩ Label implies the affixing of a piece of material (as paper, metal, or cloth) upon something to show its name, description, origin, or the person and address to which it is being sent ⟨label all the minerals in the collection⟩ ⟨she affixed a small paper label to each jar of preserves⟩ ⟨the contents of every bottle should be carefully labeled⟩ In its extended use label usually applies to the applying of an epithet, often rather arbitrarily, to something or someone ⟨when I was at Harvard all the types of narrative were labeled and classified like beetles in a case—Marquand⟩ ⟨hanging the subversive label on their own liberal clergy—Winnett⟩ Tag is applied to a label loosely attached (as to a package or a piece of baggage) giving destination or information; it often implies less permanent attachment than label ⟨a tag pinned to his lapel, bearing his name and destination—Current Biog.⟩ ⟨tag a parcel for shipment⟩ ⟨price tags⟩ ⟨write out tags for all the pieces of baggage⟩ Ticket in the relevant sense is more common as noun than verb and basically denotes a slip (as of paper, cardboard, or metal) usually conveying information or evidencing a right. Often the word is interchangeable with label or tag without loss of meaning (many retailers who attach their own store tags to the merchandise look at the manufacturers' tags and labels as auxiliary tickets supplementing their own—Women's Wear Daily) Ana imprint, impress, print (see corresponding nouns at impression); recognize, identify (see corresponding nouns at recognition) 2 *characterize, distinguish, qualify Ana *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, prove, argue: intimate, hint, *suggest marriage, matrimony, wedlock, wedding, nuptial, espousal are comparable though not always synonymous because they all refer directly or indirectly to acts by which a man and woman become husband and wife or to the state of being husband and wife. Marriage is the common term; it may apply to the rite or ceremony ⟨many were present at their marriage⟩ ⟨a civil marriage⟩ but it more often applies to the legal or spiritual relation which is entered upon ⟨joined in marriage⟩ ⟨annul a marriage⟩ or to the state of being married ⟨theirs was a long and happy marriage⟩ or to the institution as an abstraction ⟨nor does he dishonor marriage that praises virginity—Donne⟩ In extended use the term is applicable to any similarly close and intimate union ⟨let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments—Shak.⟩ ⟨the same sort of poetic effect as the Romantics obtained by the marriage of fertile words—Day Lewis⟩ Matrimony is in most contexts interchangeable with marriage, but it is the more appropriate term in religious and sometimes in legal use; in many Christian churches it designates one of the seven sacraments ⟨matrimony is the sacrament which unites in holy wedlock a man and a woman, between whom there is no impediment that would render marriage null and void—Currier⟩ The term therefore may be chosen in place of marriage when a religious ceremony or sanction is implied ⟨joined in bonds of holy matrimony⟩ In general the term is more often applied to the relationship which exists between husband and wife than to the ceremony or the state of marriage ⟨so prays the Church, to consecrate a vow “The which would ender matrimony make”—Wordsworth⟩ Wedlock, chiefly legal or archaic, applies especially to marriage as a legally or ecclesiastically sanctioned relationship or state; thus, children born out of wedlock are children of parents who are not legally married ⟨grave authors say, and witty poets sing, that honest wedlock is a glorious thing—Pope⟩ Wedding is the common term for the ceremony that marks a marriage and the festivities that accompany it ⟨a thousand invitations to the wedding were sent out⟩ Nuptial, usually as the plural nuptials, is a more rhetorical term than wedding; it also carries a stronger implication of an elaborate ceremony ⟨I don’t object to married priests, but I do strongly object to their nuptials. . . . When a priest. . . . indulges in an immense artistic wedding, I feel there is something undignified and almost unpleasant about it—MacKenzie⟩ Espousal, often as the plural es-pousals, differs little from nuptial except in its extended application. In the latter it uses it implies a spiritual union, especially one that is dependent upon a vow or pledge ⟨let every act of worship be like our es-pousals, Lord, to thee—John Wesley⟩ marshal vb *order, arrange, organize, systematize, methodize Ana array, range, align, *line, line up Con derange, disarrange, *disorder, disorganize, unsettle, disturb: *scatter, disperse, dissipate martial, warlike, military carry as their basic meaning belonging to, suitable to, or characteristic of war. Martial distinctively implies reference to war in general and to its essential and fundamental characteristics; it often specifically suggests the pomp and circumstance of war ⟨standing in martial array⟩ ⟨the army set out to the martial strains of a fife and drum corps—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.⟩ Warlike, as a rule, implies reference to war as a reality, its actual causes, its actual methods, its actual effects; it therefore applies more often to feelings, acts, or activities that lead to or accompany real war than to those which suggest its thrilling or stirring qualities; thus, a warlike temperament suggests bellicosity or readiness to fight to the bitter end, whereas a martial temperament ...
massive, mass, bulky, monumental, substantial are comparable when they mean impressively large or heavy. Massive distinctively stresses solidity and strength of construction and may imply an imposing appearance (its ceilings...heavy with massive beams—Dickens) (the mainland of Asia, and especially that part of it occupied by the massive bulk of China—Owen Lattimore) (a man whose massive shoulders and determined cast of features ought to have convinced him that such an enterprise was nothing short of desperate—Shaw) Massy, chiefly a literary word, carries a stronger implication of ponderousness than massive, but an equal implication of solidity and strength (your swords are now too massy for your strengths and will not be uplifted—Shak.) (thast thou a goblet for dark sparkling wine? That goblet right heavy, and massy, and gold?—Keats) (it was a castle, steadfast among storms, its side a massy wall—Sinclair Lewis) Bulky stresses size rather than weight, and the excessive amount of space occupied rather than solidity or strength of construction (a bulky parcel) (its front door and steps were wide, presumably in order to permit the passage of bulky objects—Chidsey) (the museum finds it impossible to accept for display a great number of interesting but bulky items such as aircraft, guns or tanks—Report on Nat’l Development (Ottawa)) Monumental implies greatness of size, but it distinctively suggests an imposing massiveness (me, Goddess, bring to arched walks of twilight groves, and shadows brown...of pine, or monumental oak—Milton) (the monumental fourpost bed has been taken down—Daily Telegraph) (a tall red-haired woman of monumental build—Wharton) Substantial stresses solidity and strength of construction but it carries a weak implication of size or outwardly imposing appearance and a strong implication of established quality, worth, and stability (the most substantial buildings in England today are the Old Norman cathedrals—the British Empire crowded in their drab, substantial, gray and brown clothes—Dorothy Canfield) (substantial homes, and substantial relatives of some sort or other, on whom we could fall back—Galsworthy)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
masterful, domineering, imperious, peremptory, imper- 
imate are comparable when they apply to persons or their 
acts, utterances, and demands and mean governed by, 
or manifesting, a strong tendency to impose one's will 
on another. One is masterful who by the strength and 
virility of his personality is able to enforce his will on 
others or who deals with affairs commandingly and 
compellingly <the major was a masterful man; and I knew 
that he would not give orders for nothing—Kipling> 
the man had such a masterful and magnetic personality 
. . . that it was impossible not to take fire at his ardor 
—Huxley> One is domineering who tries to enforce his 
will or to make a show of his power by an overbearing or 
insolently tyrannical manner <they are . . . not courageous, 
only quarrelsome; not determined, only obstinate: not 
masterful, only domineering—Shaw> the European 
nationality domineering, and rapacious, have done 
delight to recommend the name of Christianity in Asia and 
Africa—Inge> One is imperious who by temperament 
or by position is fitted to command or who assumes the 
air or manner of such a person; the term implies more 
arrogance than masterful and less insolence than domi-
neering <this ancient despotic—this imperious old Louis 
XIV in a black front and a cap and ribbon—Thackeray> 
one could not have passed him on the street without 
feeling his great physical force and his imperious will— 
Cather> One is peremptory who insists, often with curt-
ness, on an immediate response to his commands; the 
term usually implies authoritiveness and a refusal to 
brook disobedience or delay or to entertain objections how-
ever valid <the general issued a peremptory summons> 
two peremptory raps at the door—Shaw> when we say of 
. . . a man that he has a great deal of character, we 
generally mean that he has disciplined his temperament, 
his disposition, into strict obedience to the behests of 
duty; that he has clear and peremptory ideas about right 
and wrong—Brownell> One is imperative who, or whose 
behavior, is peremptory because of the urgency of the 
situation rather than because of a domineering tempera-
tment <'Go back!' cried the old man, with an imperative 
voice at the telephone; he heard her imperative 
voice on the telephone; he heard her summon the 
doctor—Glasgow> 
Ana magisterial, *dictatorial, authoritarian, oracular, 
dogmatic, doctrinaire: arbitrary, *absolute, despotic, 
tyrannical 
masterly *proficient, adept, skilled, skillful, expert 
Ana *dexterous, deft, adroit: preeminent, superlative, 
transcendent, *supreme 
match vb Match, rival, equal, approach, touch are com- 
parable, especially in negative constructions, when they mean 
to come up to or nearly up to the level or standard of some-
thing else. One thing matches another when it proves to 
be its mate, rather than its duplicate, in power, strength, 
performance, beauty, or interest; it has been said that no 
language can match French in expressing ideas with clarity and 
exactness <the beauty of his person was matched by 
the grace and dignity of his spirit—Buchan> no mortal 
builder's most rare device could match this winter 
whale of pride—J. R. Lowell> we are prone to imitate the 
vices of those whose virtues we cannot match—McC 
Cartney> One thing rivals another when it closely com-
petes with it for superiority or in excellence <but would 
match you sing, and rival Orpheus' strain, the wond'ring 
forests soon should dance again—Pope> work of a beauty 
certainly not rivalled until we come to the Norman builders 
—Quiller-Couch> some of them are furnished with colors 
that rival or exceed the brilliance of the famous Morpho 
botherflies—Curran> while my father could never have 
rivaled the sartorial magnificence of some of his friends, 
his dressed in the ceremonial manner of the time—Brooks> 
One thing equals another when it rises to the same level 
or plane (as in quantity, value, or degree) and there is no 
question concerning a difference, especially a deficiency 
such a striking civility . . . ought to be imitated, though 
it could not be equalled, by some exertion of politeness 
on their side—Austen> no other measure of our work 
equals the sight of the product put to its full uses— 
Suzzallo> its society was formed by religion to an extent 
ever equalled in any other epoch of its history—M. W. 
Baldwin> One thing approaches another when it so nearly 
equals or matches the other that the difference, though 
detectable, is seldom important <an adult reader with 
trained habits of . . . concentration will absorb the contents 
of a book with a speed and retentiveness which no child 
can approach—Eliot> an unlettered speaker may startle 
you with his power of giving to the spoken word an urgent 
aptness that approaches the vivid instance of an invol-
untary cry—Montague> One thing touches another thing 
when it closely approaches the other (as in excellence or 
beauty) <not another woman there to touch her—W. J. 
Locke> Yeats, the last in the aristocratic tradition of 
poets . . . none of us can touch his later work—Day 
Lewis> 
Ana correspond, harmonize, *agree, conform, square, 
accord 
Con *differ: vary, *change, alter, modify 
material adj 1 Material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, 
sensible, objective are comparable when they mean 
belonging to or having a relation to things that belong to 
the world of actuality or of things apparent to the senses. 
Material applies to whatever is formed of matter or relates 
to things formed of matter; it often implies an opposition 
to spiritual, but it may imply an antithesis to ideal, formal, 
tangible, or impalpable <material objects> transport-
ing his material possessions <believes in no other 
world than the material world> busy with material 
affairs—Conrad> bathrooms . . . motorcars, and other 
matter comforts of which that age was ignorant— 
Russell> these poor Christians are not thrifty like our 
country people at home; they have no veneration for 
property, no sense of material values—Cather> Physical 
(see also bodily) differs from material chiefly in suggest-
ing an opposition to physical, mental, metaphysical, 
imaginary, and, less often, spiritual; it applies especially 
to things perceived by the senses or capable of being dealt 
with in the same manner as objects of sense, and it usually 
implies a contrast to things knowable only through thought 
or intuition or built up by the mind or imagination; thus, 
the material objects and the physical objects within one's 
reach may be exactly the same objects, but material 
suggests their substantial nature and physical suggests 
their susceptibility of perception and identification, or, 
or what is more important in science, of being weighed and 
measured. In scientific use physical is also applicable to 
things that are not objects, but forces, actions, motions, 
or states which are operative in nature or in mechanics 
and which can be measured or calculated, or put to use, 
even though, strictly speaking, they cannot be handled 
<physical properties of light> <physical effect of radiation> 
everything physical is measurable by weight, motion, 
and resistance—De Quincey> Corporeal (see also Bodily)
applies to what not only has physical existence but also is tangible or can be described as a body; thus, energy in itself has no corporeal existence though it is a physical power found usually in corporeal things (in a monistic . . . sense "the mind" may be regarded as a living, growing "structure" even though it lacks corporeal tangibility —Science) (the spiritual life commences where the corporeal existence terminates—Frazier) Phenomenal implies a relation to what is known or knowable through the senses and experience, as distinguished from what is knowable only through thought or intuition because beyond perception by the senses; the term is chiefly used in philosophy and science when there is an intent to mark the line between what is actually perceived and what has been ascertained by the reason, has been accepted by faith, or is theoretical or hypothetical (phenomenal reality is often specifically called actuality) (phenomenal nature is reduced to an array of events in the four-dimensional continuum—Jews) her introspective bent has yielded more and more, in her recent writing, to a determination to capture the phenomenal world—Redman) Sensible which basically applies to what is known or knowable through sense experience and thereby comprehends the specific terms visible, audible, tangible, palpable is sometimes opposed to intelligible, conceptual, or notional (there is no sensible movement of the earth) (is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee . . . are thou not . . . sensible to feeling as to sight? or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation—Shak.) (the man of science may carry us off into a world of symbols, but his symbols stand for features of the external world and he is bent on verifying them by sensible experience—Alexander) Objective (see also FAIR) implies the same kind of existence as phenomenal and sensible, but it stresses the apartness of the thing known through the senses from the person who perceives it through his senses; the term, therefore, implies not only material existence but an existence which is or is felt as uncolored by the prejudices and preconceptions of the perceiver (the ancient Hebrew . . . saw the rainbow as an objective structure set in the heavens for all men to behold—Jews) (acosmism, the theory which denies the objective existence of the world or universe—Inge) Ana *carnal, fleshly, sensual, animal: actual, true, *real: tangible, *perceptible, appreciable, palpable Ant immaterial 2 *relevant, germane, pertinent, apposite, applicable, apropos *important, significant, consequential, momentous *tangible, *perceptible, appreciable, palpable *material which basically applies to what is known or knowable through sense experience and thereby comprehends the specific terms visible, audible, tangible, palpable is sometimes opposed to intelligible, conceptual, or notional (there is no sensible movement of the earth) (is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee . . . are thou not . . . sensible to feeling as to sight? or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation—Shak.) (the man of science may carry us off into a world of symbols, but his symbols stand for features of the external world and he is bent on verifying them by sensible experience—Alexander) Objective (see also FAIR) implies the same kind of existence as phenomenal and sensible, but it stresses the apartness of the thing known through the senses from the person who perceives it through his senses; the term, therefore, implies not only material existence but an existence which is or is felt as uncolored by the prejudices and preconceptions of the perceiver (the ancient Hebrew . . . saw the rainbow as an objective structure set in the heavens for all men to behold—Jews) (acosmism, the theory which denies the objective existence of the world or universe—Inge) Ana *carnal, fleshly, sensual, animal: actual, true, *real: tangible, *perceptible, appreciable, palpable Ant immaterial 2 *relevant, germane, pertinent, apposite, applicable, apropos *important, significant, consequential, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE): vital, cardinal, *essential, fundamental Ant immaterial material n *matter, substance, stuff *element, constituent, ingredient, component materialize externalize, objectify, incarnate, embody, actualize, *realize, hypostatize, reify matériel 1 *equipment, apparatus, machinery, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear 2 *armament, munitions, arms, ordnance, artillery, ammunition matrimonial, marital, conjugal, connubial, nuptial, hymeneal mean of, relating to, or characteristic of marriage. Matrimonial is the most general term applicable to whatever has to do both with matrimony and with marriage in most of its senses (see MARRIAGE) (matrimonial vows) (the matrimonial state) (with close fidelity and love unfigned, to keep the matrimonial bond unstained—Cowper) (matrimonial bliss) Marital which sometimes implies specific reference to the husband and his part in marriage (matrimonial rights) (matrimonial authority) is often used interchangeably with matrimonial (matrimonial vows) (the marital relationship) Conjugal and connubial are frequently used interchangeably. More discriminatively, conjugal refers to persons who are married (they flaut their conjugal felicity in one's face—Wilde) (I count it my good fortune that never once in . . . my childhood was I the witness of any conjugal jar—Ellis) and connubial to the marriage state (of my friends who have been least successful in connubial contracts—Johnson) (enter the connubial state) Nuptial has primary reference to the marriage rites or ceremony (the nuptial torch—Milton) (the nuptial ceremony was then performed by the Superintendent—Motley) Hymeneal is a poetic or literary word, suggestive of the splendors of marriage rites and festivities (hymeneal songs) (chorus hymeneal, or triumphal chant matched with thine would be all but an empty vaunt—Shelley) (one fully expects that . . . the characters will join hands at the conclusion and dance off the stage to hymeneal music—Booth) 

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
mature

critical and especially of made things (a cake made from the best materials) (the material of this dress is silk) (the sculptor, who is limited to a few materials like stone, wood and metal—Read) But often it subordinates physical nature to the fact of being made and then may imply the idea of actuality or a basis in actuality rather than physical substance; thus, raw materials are usually physical substances capable of refinement or manufacture but they also may be events, ideas, or facts capable of further use (as in literary creation) (adventures which would make good raw materials for several novels—J. H. Burton) (a region rich in coal, iron, and other raw materials) (is the whole creative effort of the artist an endeavor to form material so that it will be in actuality the authentic substance of a work of art?—Dewey) Stuff may replace material or substance in reference to constituent materials or substances (the house was built carelessly and of poor stuff) (creating out of raw material a skilled working class ... they are the stuff of which The New Congo is made—Marvel) but more often it refers to all the parts, parcels, objects, or items that make up an aggregate or a whole; in both cases it is likely to imply indeterminateness and suggest vagueness if at all the nature of the constituent materials or parts (pick up the stuff you left on the table) (ambition should be made of sterner stuff—Shak.) Sometimes, distinctively, stuff carries an inherent implication of inferiority (not a line of the volume was ever included by Bryant in his later writings, and he spoke of the pamphlet with testy disgust as stuff—Nevins) (what was the psychological impulse behind the pedantic and elaborate stuff he called in the end Finnegans Wake?—Desmond MacCarthy) 2 a affair, business, concern, thing 3 subject, subject matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv

matter-of-fact * prosaic, prosy

Ana stolid, phlegmatic, *impassive; arid, *dry: downright, *forthright
Con fanciful, *imaginary, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic, visionary: ideal, transcendental (see abstract adj); romantic, *sentimental mature adj Mature, matured, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-up are comparable if not often interchangeable because they all bear the same underlying meaning "fully developed." Mature, in its basic use as applied to living things, stresses fullness of growth and readiness for life or function; as applied specifically to persons, it usually implies attainment of the prime of life, when a person is at the height of his powers, physically and mentally (a great writer of the past is known by the delight and stimulus which he gives to mature spirits in the present—Brooks) (the life has a mature tone, an intellectual alertness, a sense of proportion—Laski) As applied to things, mature usually equals matured, which implies the completion of a course, process, or period; thus, a matured plan is a fully thought-out plan; a matured wine is one that has been allowed to age properly; a matured note is one that has reached the date when payment is due (must be replaced by the matured concept that virtue is its own reward—Davies) A matured poetic intelligence is often happily fused with the creative beat of poetic imagination—Horace Gregory) Ripe, though it implies maturity, stresses readiness for use; in its basic sense it is applied chiefly to such things as fruits ready for eating, grains or vegetables ready for harvesting, or seeds ready to germinate. In extended use it often connotes merely readiness or full preparedness for action, activity, or use (ripe for exploits and mighty enterprises—Shak.) (to be careful, in teaching history, not to obtrude aspects which are interesting to us until the child is ripe for them—Russell) Sometimes, however, ripe connotes one or more of the characteristics of ripe things, especially ripe fruits, such as ruddiness, plumpness, or richness (Greek sculpture, in its ripe perfection—Binyon) Mellow stresses such either agreeable qualities associated with ripe or slightly overripe fruits as softness, tenderness, sweetness, or the loss of their opposites, the signs of immaturity, such as hardness, harshness, or bitterness (mellow cheese) (mellow wine) (the more mellow and cheerful outlook of his second book—Buchan) Adult is the equivalent of mature in its application to the physical characteristics of living things (a rhesus monkey ... is infantile 1.5 years, juvenile 6.5 years, and adult some 20 years—La Barre) It presupposes, however, a clearer line of demarcation, especially when used of human beings. An adult person physiologically is one that has passed beyond adolescence; in law, he is one that has attained his majority (people born in this country who have not been within its borders in all the years of their adult lives—Discovery No. 2) In extended use adult implies the attainment of that point in development where the weaknesses of immaturity or of imperfection are surmounted (the difference between Realism and Classicism) seems to me rather the difference between the complete and the fragmentary, the adult and the immature, the orderly and the chaotic—T. S. Eliot) (people supremely adult and specially schooled to comprehend ideas and employ logic—Flanner) Grown-up is sometimes used in reference to adult when an antithesis to childish is needed (adults incapable of grown-up behavior)

Ant immature: childish—Con *childlike: *youthful, juvenile, boyish, puerile, maiden mature vb Mature, develop, ripen, age are used in reference to living, growing things or to things with latent capacity for betterment and mean to come or cause to come to the state of being fit for use or enjoyment. When employed with reference to living things or their specific characters, mature stresses fullness of growth and readiness for normal functioning (in warm climates human beings are more rapidly than in cold climates) (in his maturing days, young Warren was a cheerful and attractive personality—S. H. Adams) (he was matured by six years' practical experience in a New York militia regiment—Robert Lowell) while develop stresses the unfolding of all that is latent and the attainment of the perfection that is appropriate to the species or is possible to the individual (the kitten's hunting instinct was not yet developed—Russell) and ripen emphasizes the approach to or the attainment of the peak of perfection (the fruits are now sufficiently ripened) (there is nothing here of slow budding, of fruits ripening in stillness—Carlos Baker) (at twenty-three she was still young enough to ripen to a maturer beauty—Glasgow) Age may equal mature when it is applied to the young (hard work ages a boy) but more often and in other contexts, routinely, it implies approach to the period of decline or decay (the leaders of the movement are aging rapidly) (as the individual matures and then ages, he constantly has to unlearn patterns of response which have ceased to be effective—Linton)

In their extended applications to things with latent capacity for improvement all these terms imply a perfecting with time. Mature suggests that something not fully formed undergoes completing changes (mature a plan) (an art that toiling ages have but just matured—Cowper) (his ideas about the novel continued to develop and mature—Cousins) while develop especially applies to the unfolding into full being or effectiveness of something that is potential, latent, or nebulous (the environ-

Ana analogical words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
ment fitted to develop . . . a genius at once so subtle and so humane as that of Socrates—Dickinson<ref>the sense of fact is something very slow to develop—T. S. Eliot</ref> Both ripen and age imply a becoming fit for some use, action, or purpose over a period of time. Distinctively, ripen tends to suggest the addition of desirable qualities <ref>{time had ripened his life and mellowed its fruits—Brooks} the civil law, which was in force in most of the countries of continental Europe and their colonies, was the accepted product of the ripened experience of many centuries of Roman jurisprudence—Encyc. Americana</ref> while age may suggest the elimination of unwanted qualities <ref>{water for tropical fish should be aged by standing long enough for toxic substances to escape} {aging tends toward the restoration of real equilibrium in the metal, and away from any unstable condition induced by a prior operation—Rusinoff} but often the two are used without distinction {beef, mutton, venison, and game birds become more tender and palatable by the process of ripening, hanging, aging, or maturing—Ashbrook}</ref><ref>Ana *harden, season, acclimatize, acclimate: *habituate, accustom, inure, addict</ref>

matured *mature, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-up Ana completed, finished (see close vb): *deliberate, considered, advised, designed, studied, premeditated Ant unmatured: premature —Con crude, green, callow, uncouth, *rude, rough, raw: *youthful, juvenile, puerile, boyish, childish, *childlike

mawkish mawkish, *sentimental, romantic, soppy, mushy, slushy Ana confused, muddled, fuddled, addled, befuddled (see confuse): embarrassed, rattled, fazed, disconcerted, disconcerted (see embarrass)

mawkish mawkish, *sentimental, romantic, soppy, mushy, slushy

maxim *saying, saw, adage, proverb, motto, epigram, maxim

may *can

meager, scanty, scant, skimpy, scrimp, scrimp, exiguous, spare, sparse are comparable when they mean so small (as in amount, number, or size) as to fall short of what is normal, necessary, or desirable. Mean stresses thinness: as applied to persons or animals, it suggests emaciation <ref>{meager were his looks, sharp misery had worn him to the bones—Shak} but as applied to things in general, it implies the absence of elements, qualities, or numbers necessary to a thing’s richness, substance, or potency <ref>{a meager diet} an outline in itself is meager, truly, but it does not necessarily suggest a meager thing—James> his austere and meager life bred too little sensuousness of nature and too few intellectual passions —Parrington> meager appropriations which necessitated the most rigorous economies—Pahlow> Scanty emphasizes insufficiency in amount, quantity, or extent <ref>{a scanty supply of food for the winter} the book . . . is not, like some biographical essays with scanty material, stuffed out with appreciation and conjecture—T. S. Eliot> <ref>{such a scanty portion of light was admitted . . . that it was difficult, on first coming in, to see anything—Dickens} Scant may differ from scanty in suggesting a falling or a cutting short (as in amount or quantity) of what is desired or desirable rather than in what is necessary or essential <ref>{the work of those hours was miserably scant—Hardy} they were held in scant esteem—Grandgent> Scanty and the less common scrimp as applied to things may be quite interchangeable with meager <ref>{sufficiently recovered from her cold to climb out of bed and into a skimpy, strapless blue gown—Capote} a reasonably thoughtful appraisal of the new Russian leader, based on such skimpy evidence as is now available—Ulh> {four acres is scrimp measure for a royal garden, even for a king of the heroic ages, whose daughter did the family washing—Notes & Queries} but often they are more strongly colored by the related verbs, skimp and scrimp, and then usually suggest niggardliness or penury as the cause of the deficiency <ref>{prevents skimpy construction that often leads to airfield shutdowns and aircraft accidents—Livingston} <ref>European art books commonly come out with hundreds of huge, magnificent color plates. American art books, especially those produced by commercial publishers, are often skimpy, starved and inadequate by comparison—Frankenstein> more of their breeding than they were of the scrimp, almost stingy respectability of the menage—White> Exiguous stresses a smallness in size, amount, extent, or capacity that is more or less inherent in the thing under consideration and makes it compare unfavorably with other things of its kind <ref>{brains too exiguous to hold more than half an idea at a time—Amer. Speech} {building ships to supplement his exiguous navy—Buchan} a much larger dominion than the exiguous Dalriada—Times Lit. Sup.> Spare (see also lean, superfluous) implies merely a falling short of what is easily or fully sufficient; unlike scanty and meager, it seldom suggests resulting loss or hardship <ref>{a spare diet} <ref>{a alert, and jaunty figure—Wolfe} the journals . . . are by no means spare and laconic—Dullis> Sparse stresses a lack of normal or desirable thickness or density; the term need not suggest insufficiency or inadequacy in numbers or in quantity, but it always connotes a thin scattering of the units <ref>{the sparse population of the mountainous district} {facing the facts of her defeat and her poverty and by encouraging sparse, stringent living—Anthony West} a sparse congregation of old women scattered over the church—Bruce Marshall> Ant thin, slender, slim, slight, tenuous, rare: thinned, attenuated, extenuated, diluted (see thin vb): jejune, flat, *insipid, inane: penurious, *stingy, parsimonious

Ant ample: copious

mean adj Mean, ignoble, abject, sordid can all be applied to persons, their behavior, or the conditions in which they live with the meaning so low as to be out of keeping with human dignity or generally acceptable standards of human life or character. Mean usually suggests such repellent antisocial characteristics as malevolence or cupidity. It almost invariably connotes small-mindedness <ref>{those who are tempted by the flesh have usually nothing to fear from avarice or the meaner vices—Mackenzie} {her father is a decidedly vulgar person, mean in his ideals and obtuse in his manners—Erskine} Often mean implies conduct or an attitude that is detestable and unworthy of a human being {Delane . . . flung him off like a thing too mean for human handling—Wharton} {now and then in his pages war flashes out in romantic or heroic episodes, but for the most part it is mean and degrading, a thing to be hated—Parrington} Ignoble, like its opposite noble, usually implies qualities of mind or soul. It frequently comes close to mean except that it seldom connotes small-mindedness. Its distinguishing implication is loss or lack of some essential high quality (as spiritual elevation, moral dignity, or intellectual excellence) (to see how those he has converted distort and debase and make ignoble parodies of his teaching—Huxley> {these are . . . as low and ignoble, as gutter-fallen and dispiriting, as can only be found in the gloomier literature of imperial Russia—J. M. Brown}> Abject, in its most inclusive sense, means little more than extremely low in station or in degree {bad not that fear of beautiful and rich things which renders
mean

 vb 1 *intend, design, propose, purpose

 mean

 n 1 *average, median, norm, par

 mean, instrument, instrumentality, agent, agency, medium, organ, vehicle, channel denote a person or thing through or by which work is performed or an end is effected. Mean, usually in the form means which may be either singular or plural in construction, is the general word of these words; it may be applied not only to persons and to such concrete things as implements, tools, and machines, but also to their actions or operations; it may also be applied to methods, policies, devices, and strategies. The habit of regarding the laboring class as a mere means to the maintenance of the rest—Dickinson

〈the manufacturer who doesn't look into every possible way and mean to show . . . where he may practically and economically find new business—Harry Martin 〈the justification of barbarous means by holy ends—Muller〈the principal means of transportation was . . . Afghan camels—Hoover

 Instrument is applied especially to persons who merely carry out another's will or intention, often as tools, sometimes as dupes 〈he . . . turned on me . . . suspecting perhaps that I only wished to make an instrument of him—Hudson〈if they [judges] were to be used as the instruments, and the knowing instruments, for violating what they swear to support—John Marshall

When applied to concrete things, instrument often derives connotations from its musical sense (as susceptibility to manipulation and responsiveness to touch or use) 〈he knew his brain was now a very uncertain instrument, sometimes quite good, sometimes a weary fount of half-formed ideas—H. G. Wells Instrumentality is interchangeable with means but not with instrument because its chief implication is effective action by, or effective use of, the instrument (through the instrumentality of the police he was able to locate his relatives) 〈without the instrumentality of a free press liberty could not be preserved 〈Agent is applied chiefly to persons and only by extension to things; the term usually names the one who does the work as distinguished from the one who wills, plans, or orders. I often think, then, how you were an unconscious agent in the hands of Providence when you recalled me from Tucson—Cather〈ultimately these tattooed devils . . . were turned into effective agents for the maintenance of law and order—Heiser

When applied to a thing, agent names what effects a desired result or serves as a cause producing a definite effect

In their special use in reference to the interpretation of the content of a term, these words are not always distinguishable. Mean, however, is capable of implying reference to the term's full content, that is, to the idea or relation between ideas which it conveys to the mind and the suggestions which it evokes (only a philosophically minded person can grasp what beauty and truth mean in Keats's lines "Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.") Signify can, as mean usually does not, suggest symbolic relationship between the term and the idea it conveys (the phrase "bread and butter" signifies the material needs of life

Denote (see also DENOTE 2) can imply a logical definition in which the idea named or expressed by a term is clearly marked out and its application or range of application accurately determined 〈"design" denotes one of three ideas, the act of adorning, or a thing used in adorning, or the results achieved by one who adorns 〈Import, used with less frequency in relation to terms, is precise in its implications. A term imports not what it denotes, or bears as a definition, but any or all of the implications involved in its interpretation 〈does it [the word "necessary"] always import an absolute physical necessity

〈—John Marshall

Ana *carry, convey, bear, transmit: *denote, connote: define, assign, *prescribe: *suggest, imply, intimate, hint

Ant analogues words Con antonyms See also explanatory notes facing page 1
meander

(meaning, sense, acceptation, signification, significance, average, median, par (see under AVERAGE)

extreme

 An organ is a part or representative that performs a particular function (the political cartoon is one of the greatest organs of propaganda—Harmsworth) or accomplishes a particular end (the cabinet's function as a general organ of government without special regard to the king's wishes—Times Lit. Sup.) or presents a particular point of view (see under JOURNAL). A vehicle is a medium that serves to carry and especially to carry effectively something which is to be revealed through it (the play was an excellent vehicle for the genius of Booth). We must find a new form of verse which shall be as satisfactory a vehicle for us as blank verse was for the Elizabethans—T. S. Eliot. A channel is a medium that provides either an outlet or a fixed course through which something may flow from one to another (the accident which directed my curiosity originally into this channel—Lamb) (submitting material to the Defense Department without going through the prescribed Army channels—N. Y. Times).

Ana *method, mode, manner, way, fashion, system: machinery, apparatus, *equipment, paraphernalia

3 in plural form means resources, assets, effects, *possessions, belongings

Ana *money, cash, currency: riches, wealthiness, affluence, opulence (see corresponding adjectives at rich)

mean adj average, median, par (see under AVERAGE n)

Ant extreme

meander stray, roam, ramble, *wander, rove, range, prowl, gad, gallivant, trapse

meaning, sense, acceptation, signification, significance, import are comparable when they denote the idea which something (as a word, a passage, a facial expression, an action, or a situation) conveys to the mind or is intended to convey to the mind. Meaning, the general term, may be used interchangeably with any of the remaining terms; it may be used of whatever can convey information when properly interpreted and therefore is not only applicable to language and expressions or gestures but to such more cryptic things as symbols and works of art (a dictionary gives the meanings of words) (if human and the words formed from it can have an exact meaning ... that meaning must refer to those qualities, characteristics, and powers which distinguish the human being—Krutch) (to understand a plain man in his plain meaning—Shak.). The sentence has meaning to Sam even if it will not have meaning to you. A great many ruminations, discoveries, and memories contribute their connotation—Mailer Sense (see also sense 2) denotes either the meaning or, more often, one of the specific or particular meanings, of a word or phrase, or sometimes of an allegory (some words have many senses) (the literal and figurative senses of

Pilgrim's Progress) (in the sense usually implied by the word, Minneapolis has no slums, even though it admits to neighborhoods where substandard housing conditions prevail—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) More abstractly, it refers to intelligibility in general (speaks things ... that carry but half sense—Shak.) (in the first authentic edition ... the words, I believe, ran "and a table of green fields," which has no sense—Newman) (if his work rarely has startling originality ... it always has sense and penetration of judgment—Schesinger b. 1917) Acceptation (see also acceptance) differs from sense as denoting a meaning of a term chiefly in its stress upon the actual use of that sense or upon its acceptance by a large number of writers and speakers (it is necessary first to consider the different acceptations of the word knowledge—Locke) (philosophy) in its common ... acceptance ... signifies the search after wisdom—Fielding) (where German has separate words for each subsidiary meaning, French is content with a general term, leaving it to the context to specify which particular acceptance is relevant—Ullmann) Signification and significance (see signify under MEAN vb 2; significance under IMPORTANCE) are often used interchangeably in spite of the fact that they can be carefully differentiated in their meanings. Signification applies specifically to the established meaning of a term, a symbol, or a character, or to an established sense of a word; it usually implies that when a particular term or symbol or character is used only such an established idea is evoked in the mind of informed persons (the significations of the characters which serve as Roman numerals). I find it very ... interesting to know the signification of names, and had written to ask him whether Jerusalem meant "the vision of peace" or "the foundation of peace"—Arnold) (the counsel for the appellee would ... restrict a general term, applicable to many objects, to one of its significations. Commerce, undoubtedly, is traffic, but it is something more: it is intercourse—John Marshall) Significance, on the other hand, applies specifically to the covert as distinguished from the established or the ostensible meaning of something; it may from its other sense (see importance) carry a connotation of weight or moment (his language is so grandiose that one wonders if his speeches have any significance) (no one knows for a certainty the significance of some early Christian symbols) (for the mathematically illiterate, like myself, these things are ... mere scribblings, without significance—Huxley) (explaining all the minute happenings of the ranch ... as though each of them had a special joyous significance—Mary Austin) Import (see also importance), like significance, may imply momentousness, but in contrast with that term, and like signification, it denotes the idea or the impression conveyed or to be conveyed to the mind by the medium of words (spoke words in her ear that had an awful import to her—Meredith) (Kim gathered the import of the next few sentences—Kipling) Ana suggestion, implication, intimation, hinting (see corresponding verbs at suggest): denotation, connotation (see under denote)

meaningful significant, pregnant, sententious, *expressive, eloquent

Ana important, consequential, momentous, weighty (see corresponding nouns at importance)

Ant meaningless

measly paltry, trifling, trivial, puny, *petty, picayunish, picayune

Ana *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby: *stingy, parsimonious, penurious, miserly

mechanic workman, workingman, artisan, *worker, opera-

Asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
medicine

mediocre

*medium, middling, second-rate, moderate, average, fair, indifferent

meditate

meddle, interfere, intermeddle, tamper are comparable

mechanic

mechanical

mechanism

mechanical

medium

medicate

medicate

medicate
meed were resolved (published an article called "The Eclipse of the Highbrow," in which the average man was exalted—Forster) (an average June day) However the term is applied more often to what seems of the common run or is undistinguished either by its superiority or its inferiority, or is not exceptional or outstanding in any way; thus, a man of average ability seems to have neither greater nor less ability than that of the ordinary man (the only one . . . with whom he cared to probe into things a little deeper than the average level of club and chophouse banter—Wharton) (Mr. Shaw has understood everything but the average values of average living. His virtues, like his values, have all been exceptional—J. M. Brown) Fair is applied to what is neither notably good nor bad, excellent nor poor, large nor small; often, only the context can reveal whether the implication is one of adequacy or of deficiency (scrapped together a fair breakfast) (the enrollment of 475 was composed largely of freshmen, with a fair representation from other classes—Kinne) (his health was only fair) (this region has had a fair amount of rain) (a fair knowledge of English and a smattering of Latin—W. E. Smith) Indifferent is applied to what is difficult to rate because it is completely unimpressive, warranting neither praise nor censure (play an indifferent game of bridge) (it is not cluttered up with indifferent and unimportant records, and aims at . . . the best—Edward Sackville-West) (the surprising obscurity and even indifferent Latinity of Locke the perfectionist—Times Lit. Sup.)

meed n guerdon, prize, award, reward, +premium, bounty, bonus

meek modest, +humble, lowly

meed mean, median, average, par (see under AVERAGE n): +common, ordinary, vulgar, popular

meed n guerdon, prize, award, reward, +premium, bounty, bonus

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meet vb 1 Meet, face, encounter, confront can all mean to come across or to run into someone or something face-to-face or as if face-to-face. Meet fundamentally implies the action of two or more persons or things which from different directions come across each other by design or by accident; often it implies nothing more (the narrow strip of Syrian seaboard which they occupied when we first meet them in history—Clodd) (where the Mohawk meets the Hudson river) (the little girl ran to meet her father as he came up the hill) Beyond this, the word may suggest such actions or intentions as finding, experiencing, or dealing with successfully (I never met with such kindness before) (it is perhaps only in England that such ideas can be expressed without meeting anger or ridicule—Sykes) (Hobart . . . could talk; he could assert; produce opinions and information, but he couldn’t meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay) Face may imply nothing more than a standing or a meeting face-to-face (as of persons or things that merely present their faces or their fronts to each other) (they faced each other across the table) (a very capacious couch faced a generous fire-place—Sidney Lovett) but it more often emphasizes the act or intention of one who with courage or resolution or confidence, or with effrontery, or with desperation, looks upon or meets another person or thing (the government faces a strong storm of protest over its decision—Current History) (the artist must face life and defy it—Bambrick)

melancholic adj Melancholic, melancholy, atrophilous, hypochondriac are comparable when they mean gloomy or depressed, especially as a manifestation of one's temperament or state of health. Melancholic and melancholy are often used interchangeably without additional implications or suggestions (the drawings Thurber has produced . . . calling into being an ineradicable population of fierce-looking women, furtive men, and gently melancholic dogs—Newsweek) (the Cape Colored, a gentle and melancholy people—N. Y. Times) although each can be used discriminately to suggest the differences inherent in their related nouns (see melancholia and melancholy under SADNESS). In such use melancholic describes a person who is afflicted with or inclined to melancholia (those recurring moods of melancholic suspicion which had so tortured me . . . remained absent and she seemed on the road to recovery—Ellis) Melancholy, on the other hand, describes a person, or the mood, disposition, acts, or utterances of a person, who is excessively sad or detached in spirit and, usually, averse to what is cheerful or gay ("They say you are a melancholy fellow."); "I am so; I do love it better than laughing"—Shak) (a changed smile flickered like sunlight over the melancholy countenance—Wylie) (there is noerriment . . . comparable to that of melancholy people escaping from the dark region in which it is their custom to keep themselves imprisoned—Hawthorne) Atribophilous preserves the implication of an
unhealthy physical condition more strongly than the pre-
ceding words; often in modern use it suggests the morose
or choleric disposition of the dyspeptic or the predilec-
tion for gloom of those who have been subjected to severe
strain (neither were those plump rosy-gilled Englishmen
that came hither, but a hard-faced, atrabilious, earnest-
eyed race—J. R. Lowell) (that the American genius was
foredoomed to fail was the atrabilious Ames’s firm con-
viction—Brooks) Hypochondriac comes close to atrabil-
ious in its suggestion of constitutional gloominess but it
implies also an unwelcome anxiety about one’s state of
health (she was rather hypochondriac and was gloating
over the tale of her symptoms—Edmund Wilson) (the
culture just had gone hypochondriac, and all members
of the society, whatever their congenital individual
dispositions, had fear and pessimism pounded into them
from childhood on—Kroeber) Ana *despondent, despairing, hopeless, forlorn, desper-
ate: pessimistic, misanthropic, *cynical, misognic
melancholy n *sadness, melancholia, dejection, gloom,
depression, blues, dumps
Ana miserable, miserable, misery, wretchedness (see corre-
sponding adjectives at MISERABLE): despondency, despair,
helplessness, forlornness, desperation (see under DES-
PONDENT): *tedium, boredom, ennui, doldrums
Ant exhilaration — Con joy, delight, *pleasure, enjoy-
ment, delectation, fruition: hopefulness, optimism (see corre-
sponding adjectives at HOPEFUL)

melancholy adj 1 *melancholic, atrabilious, hypochon-
driac
Ana morose, gloomy, glum, *sullen, dour, saturnine: depres-
sion, oppressed, weighed down (see DEPRESS): *despondent, despairing, hopeless, forlorn, desperate
2 Melancholy, dolorous, doeful,lugubrious, rueful, plain-
tive are comparable when they mean expressing or sug-
gestting sorrow or mourning. All of these words have, to a
greater or less extent, weakened from their original mean-
ing and are often used with a half-humorous connotation.
Melancholy May stress a quality that inspires pensiveness
or sad reflection or awakens mournful thoughts or recol-
lections which are not only not necessarily painful or
disagreeable, but often agreeable, especially to the poetic
or thoughtful mind (sweet bird, that shunneth the noise of
folly, most musical, most melancholy!—Milton) (the ten-
der images we love to trace steal from each year a melan-
choly grace—Rogers) (1 have in the present moment only
the melancholy pleasure of an easy conscience—Warren)
The term more frequently applies to something which
expresses or excites dejection or depression (his mel-
ancholy old house on the hill—Deland) (that melancholy
problem of a money-earning occupation which lay so
heavily on my thoughts—Ellis) Dolorous describes what
is lamentable in its gloom or dismalness or is exaggeratedly
dismal (that dolorous aspect of human nature which in
comedy is best portrayed by Molière—T. S. Eliot) (a
rapid succession of warnings, as dolorous and pessimistic
as the little booklets of possible mishaps that accompany
the sale of English papers—Gallant) Doeful and lugubrious
are also frequently applied to what is exaggeratedly dismal
or dreary, but doeful connotes a weight of woe (a doeful
and luckadaisical air) (the mourners, who are singing
a very doeful dirge—Goodenough) and lugubrious,
an undue, and often an affected, heaviness or solemnity
(dark funereal barges like my own had flitted by, and
the gondoliers had warned each other at every turning with
hoarse, lugubrious cries—Howells) (a lugubrious obituary
quality in the treatment given by the American press
to Sir Winston’s resignation—Reporter) (a lugubrious
place which filled me with dread—Henry Miller)

Rueful implies sorrow and regret but it often suggests a quizzical
attitude (the woebegone heroes . . . eyed each other with
rueful countenances—Irving) (the fleeting glory of Napo-
leon, the rueful memory of Josephine and her somehow
less enviable successor—Cassidy) Plainive applies chiefly
to tones, sounds, utterances, or rhythms that suggest
complaint or mourning or that excite pity or compassion
(the plaintive cries of a child) (he sighed, his voice
became plaintive—Huxley) (the clarinet sings, in its
erie plaintive tone—S. R. Watson)

Ana pathetic, poignant, *moving, touching: hopeless,
forlorn, despairing (see DESPONDENT): pensive, reflective,
thoughtful: discomposing, disquieting, perturbing, dis-
turbing (see DISCOMPOSE)
Con happy, *glad, cheerful, joyous, joyful, lighthearted:
*lively, vivacious, gay

meelee fracas, row, *brawl, broil, rumpus, scrap
Ana altercation, *quarrel, wrangle, squabble: *confusion,
disorder

mellow ripe, matured, *mature, adult, grown-up
Ana *tender, warm, sympathetic, responsive, warm-
hearted
Ant unmellow: green — Con raw, crude, callow, un-
couth, *rude, rough

melodramatic histrionic, theatrical, dramaturgic, *dram-
ic
Ana *showy, pretentious, ostentatious: *sentimental,
romantic, maudlin, mawkish

melody, air, tune all denote a clearly distinguishable
succession of rhythmically ordered tones. Melody stresses
the sweetness or beauty of sound produced by such an
arrangement of tones (sweetest melodies are those that
are by distance made more sweet—Wordsworth) It
also commonly suggests expressiveness or moving power
and a carefully wrought pattern (nerve-dissolving melody
—Tennyson) (tis a rich sobbing melody, with reliefs
full and majestic—Keats) Technically, as applied to
complex musical structure, melody implies a contrast to
harmony: it designates that kind of musical beauty
produced by a continuous series of tones in one or more
of the voice parts, in distinction from that produced by
simultaneously sounded tones in all the voice parts.
Air is applied technically to the dominating melody, usually
carried by the upper voices (as in a chorale or part-song)
and whistle all the airs from . . . Pinareore—Gilbert)
In more general use air is often applied to an easily re-
membered succession of tones which identifies a simple
musical composition (as a song, a ballad, or a waltz) and
which is more commonly and more precisely called tune;
thus, one may refer to the air, or the tune, of a song (hum
the air of the Marseillaise) (left her fancynwork and
played for them some old Scotch airs—Black) (he . . .
can invent a good tune which immediately captivates
one—Dyneley Hussey) Tune is also applied to the
musical setting of a text (as a ballad, psalm, or lyric)
(a hymn tune) and to a simple composition whether
written or harmonized (a dance tune) (many hundred
texts and tunes of English-Canadian folk songs—Report
on Nat’l Development (Ottawa))

melt *liquefy, deliquesce, fuse, thaw
member *part, portion, piece, detail, division, section,
segment, sector, fraction, fragment, parcel

Ana *element, component, constituent: branch, limb,
*shoot, bough

memento *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, me-
 morial, token, keepsake, souvenir
Ana token, earnest, *pledge: *gift, present, favor

memoir * biography, life, autobiography, confessions

memorable *noteworthy, notable

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
memory, memorandum

memorandum *letter, epistle, missive, note, message, dispatch, report

memorial n *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir

Ana monument, record (see DOCUMENT): *sign, mark, token

memory, remembrance, recollection, reminiscence, mind, souvenir are comparable though not wholly synonymous terms since all involve the ideas of remembering and of being remembered. Memory applies chiefly to the power or function of remembering what has been experienced or learned; in this sense it suggests the power to reproduce images of what is no longer before one, to retain something (as words, ideas, or skills) that has been learned, and to recognize and identify something previously known <he has a remarkably good memory for names> <her memory . . . went slipping back upon the golden days—Tennyson> Memory often occurs in the sense of something remembered either as an aggregate or as a single item. More than the other words memory as used in this sense suggests a keeping in mind rather than a bringing back and often, therefore, a treasuring as something intimate or personal <a present moment of comfortable reality was worth a decade of memories—Hardy> <it was the merest memory now, vague and a little sweet—Galsworthy> <you must have had a charming evening . . . if I may judge from the way you have kept the memory green—Conrad> Remembrance applies primarily to the act or the process, as distinguished from the faculty, power, or function, of remembering <the remembrance of all that made life dear pierced me to the core—Hudson> <Roman soldiers . . . keep the restless Jews in remembrance of their provincial status—Douglas> <as April’s green endures; or will endure like her remembrance of awakened birds—Stevens> Remembrance also denotes the state or fact of being kept in the memory <moments . . . that live again in remembrance—Gibbon> <our literature is going to be our most perdurable claim on man’s remembrance—Quiller-Couch> Recollection often takes the place of remembrance but it may carry a strong suggestion of more voluntary and sometimes even more effortful recalling to mind often of something forgotten or for long unconsidered <he looked . . . alarmed; but with a moment’s recollection and a returning smile, replied—Austen> <half a word fixed upon or near the spot, is a worthy carload of recollection—Gray> <there came to him a slight uneasiness, a movement of the memory, a distant recollection of something, somewhere, he had seen before—Dahl> But recollection is quite as often used of something remembered, especially as the result of conscious effort <vivid indeed is my recollection of our halts before shaded homesteads, our protracted and usually successful parleys with lean housewives, hungry for conversation—Grandgent> <carried away from Casablanca an unpleasant recollection of indignities to which he believed he had been subjected—Funk> Reminiscence carries a stronger implication of recovery through retrospection than any of the other terms. Like remembrance and recollection it denotes either the act or the process of remembering but it further suggests the recollection of what has been long unremembered, especially because it belongs to one’s remote past <the old man spent hour after hour indulging in reminiscence> <after another quarter of an hour of reminiscence they had got around to the things that had happened to each of them since they had last met—Mary Austin> <spurred into reminiscence ... revealed a strange tale told to him years earlier—Rippin> The term is often used in place of recollection in the concrete sense where what is remembered serves as a contribution to biography, an autobiography, or a history <the author’s own reminiscences of childhood and youth—Times Lit. Sup.> or is recalled from the past in conversation or in writing by an aging or aged person <enjoy the reminiscences of the old veterans> or is a phrase, a passage, a thought, or a custom that is so like one found in an earlier writer or people as to be regarded as an unconscious imitation or repetition or a survival <the young poet’s best phrases are reminiscences of Keats> <reminiscences of medieval pageants in modern carnivals> <here and there are to be found the reminiscences of Rimski-Korsakov’s mannerisms—Sargeant> Mind (see also MIND 2) is found in the sense here considered chiefly in certain idiomatic phrases where it means either the entity (as distinct from the function) which stores up what is remembered <I shall keep your need in mind> <out of sight, out of mind> or the power to remember <like . . . assorted autocrats since time out of mind, always referred to himself in the third person—Pynchon> Souvenir, which more commonly denotes a material memento, may sometimes replace memory <then she carefully restored them, her mind full of souvenirs newly awakened—Bennett> Ana *mind, intellect, soul, intelligence, brain, wit—remembering, minding, recalling, reminding (see REMEM BER): awareness, consciousness, cognizance (see CORRESPONDING ADJECTIVES AT AWARE) Ant oblivion menace vb *threaten Ana alarm, terrify, scare, *frighten: *intimidate, cow: pressage, portend, forebode, forecast (see FORETELL) mend vb Mend, repair, patch, rebuild are comparable when they mean to put into good or fitting order something that is injured, damaged, or defective. Mend basically implies a freeing from faults or defects <mend your manners> <the wound mended slowly> but in its most common use it specifically suggests a process of making whole or sound something that has been broken, torn, or injured (as by wear or use). In such use the term is especially applicable when the task calls for no extraordinary skill or unusual equipment; thus, one mends a dress by sewing up tears, darning holes, or reinforcing worn spots <mend a broken dish with glue> <mending the stone wall with cobbles from the field> <over here the roads were never mended unless a few of the farmers agreed to give so much labor—Glasgow> Often, and especially in extended use, mend stresses the resultant putting in order without much regard to the nature of the means of its attainment <he mended the fire while he was speaking and the glow fell over the darkened room—Roberts> <whenever civilization palled upon him, he learned to mend his soul by going to sea—Erskine> Repair is often interchangeable with mend in the sense of to make whole or sound, but typically it implies greater or more professional skill by the performer and usually correspondingly greater complexity both in the task involved and in the equipment used; thus, an old-time cobbler mended shoes so that they were good for further use but a modern specialist may repair them so well that his work cannot be detected; a boy may know how to repair a car but be unable to do so for lack of essential tools <mending refers to minor restoration, not involving the replacement of any material or the separation of book from cover . . . Repairing is the partial rehabilitation of a worn book, the amount of work done being less than the minimum involved in rebinding and more than the maximum involved in
**mendacious**—Library Jour.> In extended use, too, repair may be quite like mend (the plain fact is that peace—or what passed for peace before it was broken—cannot be mended, cannot be repaired, cannot be restored—MacLeish) but often it more specifically implies a making good or making up for something (reminds himself that he had not wept for the death of his mother a year or so earlier, and proceeds to repair the omission—Times Lit. Sup.) (although his range of reading was wide, he could not in some respects repair the lack of early education—Collis) Patch basically implies a mending by covering, filling in, or reinforcing such a defect as a hole, rent, or weak spot, typically with the same or a similar material (patch overalls worn thin at the knee) (patch holes in the road with asphalt) (patch an inner tube) Sometimes, often with up, it implies careless, hurried, clumsy, or temporary mending ($4,800,000 appropriated to start a new prison in New Jersey has been since diverted to patch up the 118-year-old penal slum at Trenton—O'Leary) and in much of its extended use this is the aspect stressed (he hastily tries to patch up his marriage and purify his politics—Beverly) (relations between the two men had to be patched up repeatedly—Ishbel Ross) Sometimes, often with together, patch implies a making from bits and pieces or odds and ends (patch a quilt) (patch a car together from pieces out of the junkyard) (his life must be patched together from scattered references in the contemporary colonial records—J. T. Adams) Rebuild, which normally means to build again something which has been razed or ruined, is often preferred in industry and business to repair because it implies a thoroughgoing repairing with addition of new parts when necessary that makes a thing like new (a rebuilt typewriter) (rebuild a carburetor) Ana *improve, better, ameliorate, help: emend, remedy, redress, *correct, rectify, reform: *renew, restore, reno- vate, rejuvenate, refurbish: fix, *adjust, regulate mendacious *dishonest, lying, untruthful, deceitful Ana *false, wrong: prevaricating, equivocating, paltering, fibbing (see lie vb) Ant veracious—Con *reliable, dependable, trustworthy: honest, *upright, just, scrupulous, conscientious, honorable menial servile, slavish, *subservient, obsequious Ana abject, *mean, sordid, ignoble: *base, low, vile: Ana refer, allude, advert: cite, *quote

**mental, intellectual, psychic, intelligent, cerebral** can mean of, relating to, or characteristic of that sum total of powers or functions called variously mind, intellect, soul, psyche, or brain (compare mind 2). In general mental applies directly to what has to do with the mind as a real or as a purely theoretical entity (his mental life) (a mental state) (mental diseases) (mental processes) (because every experience is constituted by interaction of self and world it is not itself either merely physical nor merely mental—Early) (even if he dreads no physical betrayal, he suffers . . . at every hint of mental estrangement—Sanatana) Intellectual differs from mental not only in its reference to the intellect, and therefore to such higher powers of the mind as the comprehension of the abstract or difficult and the ability to reason, but also because it is directly applicable to persons, their utterances, acts, and qualities (an intellectual person)

It often carries an implied contrast to emotional and suggests an attachment to study and reflection (all the intellectual qualities of the liberal mind—detachment, subtlety, complexity, understatement, irony—Lerner) (the detective story, as created by Poe, is something as specialized and as intellectual as a chess problem—T. S. Eliot) (it was only on her intellectual side that Elizabeth touched the England of her day. All its moral aspects were simply dead to her—J. R. Green) Psychic implies a relation to the inner self or psyche and guides the attention away from notions of the physical, physiological, or organic (you keep talking about maladies of the mind and soul. I don't accept the idea of psychic diseases analogous to mental diseases—Mackenzie) (the humorist was a type that pioneer society required in order to maintain its psychic equilibrium—Brooks) Intelligent (see also intelligent) implies such a degree of mental power in a person or animal as to make possible appraisal of a situation and formulation of sound or reasonable decisions; it is often contrasted with stupid or silly (men are intelligent beings) (some dogs are more intelligent than others) (intelligent self-interest) (friends, who were a little more intelligent and would understand—Hersey) Cerebral basically calls to mind the higher centers of the brain and may suggest intellectual activity or inclination especially as being coolly analytical and withdrawn from the sensuous and emotional aspects of the mental life (the musical expression is sufficiently cerebral not to inflame anyone's libido—Kolodin) (too cerebral a style, too baldly intellectual, to be wholly satisfactory—Brand Blanshard) (doubtful if he ever can become a popular hero. He is too detached, too cerebral, and too rigid—Gunther)

mention vb Mention, name, instance, specify are comparative when they mean to make clear or specific by referring to something explicitly. Mention indicates a calling attention to, usually by name where possible, sometimes by a brief, cursory, or incidental reference (I shall mention the accident which directed my curiosity originally into this channel—Lamb) (intellectuals are such puritanical devils, that they usually recoil with horror when prayer is mentioned—Forster) (usually the class is not directly mentioned in our statement; but there must be an implicit understanding, since otherwise the probability would be indeterminate—Eddington) (mentioning several minor figures in his lecture on Shakespeare) Name implies clear mention of a name and therefore may suggest greater explicitness (naming Doe and Roe in the report and implicating their associates) (he names golf, tennis, and music as his chief means of recreation—Current Biog.) Instant may indicate clear explicit reference or definite emphasis as a typical example or special case (examples can be instanced from the first to the twentieth century—LaTourrette) (is it unfair to instance Marlowe, who died young?—Quiller-Couch) (I have instanced his book because it was flagrant, not unique—Leech) Specify implies statement so explicit, detailed, and specific that misunderstanding is impossible (the standards specify the names under which these five varieties must be sold—Americana Annual) (as changes emerge from the storm of civil commotion, it is often just as hard to specify the exact day on which a government is born or dies—Jessup) (to specify the structure of a skeleton is to specify the bones of which it consists and their interrelations—Clement)

Ana *refer, allude, advert: cite, *quote mephitic toxic, *poisonous, venomous, virulent, pestilent, pestilential, miasmic, miasmatic, miasmal Ana *offensive, loathsome, revolting, repulsive, repugnant: fetid, noisome, putrid, *malodorous: noxious, *pernicious, baneful mercantile *commercial mercenary adj Mercenary, hireling, venal, hack are comparable though not closely synonymous terms when they are applied to persons, or their acts, services, or products with the meaning actuanted or motivated chiefly
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>merciful</strong></th>
<th><strong>mere</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Ant</strong> Merciful — <strong>Con</strong> clement, forbearing, tolerant, lenient, indulgent</td>
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<td>Mercenary stresses self-interest and often self-seeking as the guiding motive; it usually, except when applied to soldiers who serve a foreign power for a wage, applies to persons or services that should be prompted by altruism or by noble aims or should be characterized by unselfishness or selflessness. (The faithfulness of the heart; so rendered and so free from any mercenary taint—Dickens)</td>
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<td><strong>mercurial</strong> inconsistent, fickle, capricious, unstable</td>
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<td><strong>Ana</strong> volatile, effervescent, buoyant, expansive, *elastic, resilient: *changeable, changeful, variable, protean, mutable: mobile, *movable: *clever, adroit, cunning, ingenious</td>
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<td><strong>Ant</strong> saturnine</td>
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<td>Mercy, charity, grace, eleemosyn, lenity are comparable when meaning the disposition to show compassion or kindness in one's treatment of others, especially of those who offend one and who are in one's power to punish or rebuke. Mercy implies compassion so great as to enable one to forbear, even when justice demands punishment, or to give help or comfort even to the lowliest or most undeserving (earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice—Shak)</td>
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<td>&lt;Souls who God's forbearance try, and those that seek his help, and for his mercy sing—Wordsworth&gt; Charity stresses benevolence and goodwill, especially as it reveals itself not only in giving generously (for this sense see <strong>charity</strong> 2) but in giving unselfishly and without friendship or motive of personal reward (with malice toward none, with charity for all—Lincoln)</td>
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<td><strong>Ant</strong> merciless — <strong>Con</strong> grim, implacable, relentless, *grim</td>
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meretricious

suggests that the thing just escapes falling short of what it actually is (elected by a bare majority) <the short-lived Ukrainian Republic which lasted a bare four years before succumbing—Current History> <some must know higher mathematics, but the bare elements suffice for those to whom mathematics is distasteful—Russell>

meretricious *gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy

merry, blithe, jocund, jovial, jolly

*deserve, earn, rate

merit

metamorphosis

merge

*transform, transmute, convert, transmogrify, transfigure

meridian

*culmination, zenith, apogee, summit, peak, pinnacle, climax, apex, acme

merit n 1 *due, desert

metaphor simile, *analog

metaphrase *translation, version, paraphrase

meter *rhythm, cadence

method, mode, manner, way, fashion, system are comparable when they denote the means taken or the plan or procedure followed in doing a kind of work or in achieving an end. Method may denote either an abstraction or a concrete procedure, but in both cases it implies orderly, logical, and effective arrangements (as of one's ideas for an exposition or an argument, or of the steps to be followed in teaching, in investigation, in the treatment of a disease, or in any kind or piece of work); often, also, the term connotes regularity or formality in procedure <his teaching is too informal to be said to have method> <the inductive method of reasoning> <the crude methods of trial and error—Sazzalle> <the method of unfolding the course of a plot must in some ways be different in a play meant for acting and in a book meant for reading—Montague> <always committed the vowels in accordance with the Arabian method of orthography—Krutch> <surely not to leave to fitful chances the things that method and system and science should order and adjust—Cardozo>

Mode (see also fashion 2: state) is sometimes used interchangeably with method, but it seldom stresses orderly or logical arrangement; rather, it denotes an order or course pursued as the result of custom, tradition, or personal preference <the reasons given . . . do not seem very plausible to our modes of thought—Binyon> <a man to whom music was a necessary mode of expression—Read> <a study of fictional villains and the mode their villainy assumes—Austin Warren> Manner is often used in place of mode where the reference is to a personal or peculiar course or procedure, or to a method, whether pursued by a number of persons or not, that seems to be individual or distinctive <mark the manner of his teaching—Shak> <the mathematician . . . is not capable of giving a reason in the same manner as the dialectician—Jowett> <it is not consistent with his manner of writing Latin—Selley> Way (see also way 1), the most general of these terms, may be used in place of any of the rest and is found in many familiar idiomatic expressions where theoretically method, mode, or manner might be more explicit <religion implies not only a way of worship but a way of life> <it was the white man's way to assert himself in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian's way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather> <the century has brought us not only new things to see but new ways of seeing—Day Lewis> <Sally used to answer Robert's letters, sadly and patiently, and with no reproaches;—that was Sally's way—Deland> Fashion differs from way not so much in denotation as in connotation derived in part from its commoner sense of style or vogue (see fashion 2). The term often suggests an origin or source that is not so deep or a motivation that is not so abiding as those usually connoted by way; often also it is the idiomatic term in prepositional phrases introduced by after or in <he will, after his sour fashion, tell you—Shak> <subjects serious in themselves, but treated after my fashion, nonsensically—Lamb> <I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion—Dowson> <we hear them talking . . . in different fashions under different moods—even as you and I—Lowes> But fashion sometimes comes very close to mode when it means the way that is characteristic of

*See also explanatory notes facing page 1
methodical 538

or peculiar to a group or type (swim dog fashion) (a group of boys sprawl, teen-age fashion, on couches and chairs—The Lamp) System suggests a fully developed and often carefully formulated method (the mind can scarcely conceive a system for regulating commerce between nations which shall exclude all laws concerning navigation—John Marshall) (the system of classification used by botanists) (his manners, his speech and habits of thought all seemed so prescribed, so intricately connected to one another that they suggested a system of conduct—Cheever) As an abstraction, however, meaning orderliness or plan in arrangement or procedure, system is often preferred to method (housekeeping without system) (he follows no system in his reading) Ana process, procedure, proceeding: classification (see corresponding verb at assort): disposition, disposal

methodical * orderly, systematic, regular
Ana methodized, systematized, organized (see order vb): *careful,meticulous, scrupulous: *logical, analytical
Ant unmethodical: desultory—Con *random, haphazard, casual, hit-or-miss: *irregular, unnatural: confused, disordered, chaotic, jumbled (see corresponding nouns at confusion)

methodize *systematize, organize, *order, arrange, marshal Ana regulate, *adjust: *set, settle, fix, establish
meticulous *careful, scrupulous, punctilious, punctual
Ana fastidious, finicky, particular, fussy, pernickety, *nice: accurate, exact, precise, *correct
mettle *courage, spirit, resolution, tenacity
Ana *fortitude, backbone, sand, grit, pluck, guts: nerve, hardihood, *temerity, audacity: gallantry, valor, *heroism
mettleSome *spirited, high-spirited, spunky, fiery, peppy, g ingerly
Ana courageous, bold, audacious, intrepid, *brave: *impassioned, passionate, ardent, fervent: restive, *impatient, restless
miasmic, miasmic,iaismal *poisonous, toxic, venomous, virulent, pestilent, pestential, mephitic
Ana contagious, *infectious, catching: noxious, *pernicious, baneful, deleterious
microbe *germ, bacterium, bacillus, virus
microscopic minute, *small, little, diminutive, miniature, petite, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny
middle n *center, midst, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart
middling *medium, mediocre, second-rate, moderate, average, fair, indifferent
midget n manikin, pygmy, *dwarf, homunculus, runt
midst middle, *center, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart
mien demeanor, deportment, *bearing, port, presence
Ana air, *pose, affectation, mannerism: aspect, *appearance, semblance, look
might n strength, energy, *power, force, puissance
Ana vigorosus or vigorous, strenuousness, energeticness, lustiness (see corresponding adjectives at vigorous): potency, powerfulness, forcibleness, forcefulness (see corresponding adjectives at powerful)
mild gentle, smooth, lenient, bland, *soft, balmy
Ant harsh; fierce
milieu environment, setting, *background, mise-en-scène, backdrop
militant *aggressive, assertive, self-assertive, pushing, pushy
Ana bellicose, pugnacious, combative, contentious, *belligerent: combating, opposing, antagonizing or antagonistic (see corresponding verbs at resist): fighting, warring, contending, battling (see contend)

Con *pacific, pacifist, pacificistic, peaceful, peaceful: acquiescent, resigned, *compliant
military *martial, warlike
mime *actor, player, performer, mummer, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trooper
mimic n *actor, player, performer, mummer, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trooper
mimic vb *copy, imitate, ape, mock
Ana play, impersonate, *act: counterfeit, feign, simulate, sham, pretend, *assume
mind n 1 *memory, remembrance, recollection, reminiscence, souvenir

2 Mind, intellect, soul, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit are comparable when they mean the sum total of powers, often felt as a distinct entity, by means of which each individual knows and understands both his inner life and the external world and establishes effective relations between them and which are commonly felt as the distinctive possession of human beings. Mind indicates the complex of man's faculties involved in perceiving, remembering, considering, evaluating, and deciding; it contrasts variously with body, heart, soul, and spirit (the mind must have its share in deciding these important matters, not merely the emotions and desires—Rose Macaulay) Mind may indicate the peculiar complex of a particular individual as differing from all others (the mind of a dreamer joined to the temperament of a soldier—Buchan) Intellect, sometimes interchangeable with mind, may focus attention on the powers of knowing and thinking by which one may comprehend, consider, and conclude and especially the more coldly analytic powers, independent of and discrete from willing and feeling (the emotionalist sees himself or herself in luxurious feeling and pathetic imagination, which makes no severe call upon either the will or the intellect—Inge) (now the significance of Sir Thomas Browne lies in the fact that he was at once by intellect a force in the forward movement and by temperament a reactionary—More) Soul (see also soul 2), used with considerable variation in meaning and suggestion, may indicate that principle which vitalizes, directs, selects, or inspires in matters emotional and volitional as well as mental (my inner existence, that consciousness which is called the soul—Jeffries) (the soul is an intelligent, sensitive, and vital principle, a trinity which forms and moves the body predisposed to such action, as well as feels, thinks, and wills—Thilby) Psyche may refer to the totality of self composed of all attributes, powers, and activities not purely bodily or somatic but definitely including the unconscious or subconscious (by the psyche I understand the totality of all the psychic processes, both conscious as well as unconscious; whereas by soul, I understand a definitely demarcated function-complex that is best characterized as a "personality"—Baynes) Brain, often as the plural brains, may more forcefully than intellect focus attention on powers of individual comprehension or independent thought (it requires brains and education to follow the argument—Inge) (have I ever even felt inclined to write anything, until my emotions had been unduly excited, my brain immoderately stirred, my senses unusually quickened, or my spirit extravagantly roused?—Galsworthy) Intelligence is likely to imply specific ability to cope with problems and situations and may apply to exhibition of the play of powers of the intellect or comparable ones (had turned capable men into mere machines doing their work without intelligence—Shaw) (wild animals are not automata—they have intelligence if they lack intellect—Clarke) Wit, often as the plural wits, may refer to a mind marked by inborn capacity, strong common sense, bright perception, or ready intelligence (the un-
theatrical wit of savages—Shaw> (everyone had to be a jack-of-all-trades, everyone had to live by his wit—Brooks)

Analogous words: *analogy, homology, isomorphism, homologue, homologous

**Ant** *category, type, kind, class, sort, genus

Contrasted words: *minor, secondary, tertiary

Mirth, glee, jollity, hilarity are comparable when they mean the mood or temper of a person or a group of persons manifesting joy or high spirits especially in laughter, play, or merrymaking. Mirth often implies lightness of heart and a love of gaiety; it may, however, imply great amusement or cause for laughter (Darcy was not of a disposition in any mirth—Au • t en) > Hilarity fundamentally implies the exhilaration of spirits (as by wine, pleasurable excitement, or great amusement) (wine gives not light, gay, ideal h i l a r i t y, but tumultuous, noisy, clamorous merriment—Johnson) > Hilarity fundamentally implies the exhilaration of spirits (as by wine, pleasurable excitement, or great amusement) (wine gives not light, gay, ideal hilarity, but tumultuous, noisy, clamorous merriment—Johnson) > I t is haphazard, heterogeneous, aimless, and unity . . . . It is haphazard, heterogeneous, aimless, and amor phous—just as is nature—5. The best of constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing with glee and gusto to the temptations of power— Huxley > But glee may express the exultation of one who takes more or less malicious delight in another’s misfortunes or predicaments (in great glee over his friend’s embarrassment) > (with malicious glee they quoted a previous boast of the President’s—F. L. Allen) > (it betrayed the glee felt by the mean-spirited when they see people who do not deserve humiliation forced to suffer it—West) Glee, jollity, on the other hand, usually implies mirth in a group, a collection, or a mass, or to a group, collection, or mass. Micc t erial usually implies a mixture of many kinds, showing few signs of selection, and often suggesting dependence on chance (there is always a miscellaneous assemblage at the meetings of the association) > (there are always a miscellaneous lot of books often reveals, on closer inspection, an interesting pattern of interrelationships—Redman) > Assorted (see also assorted) and the related noun assortment also imply a mixture but not a haphazard one; they carry the implications of a selection including various kinds or involving consideration of various tastes or needs (a box of assorted candies) > (there were passable performances of assorted operas—Copland) > (none of these authors has published books of assorted essays—K. B. West) > (a case containing an assortment of tools) > Heterogeneous is applicable chiefly to masses or groups in which the individuals or the elements are in proximity or close relationship to each other by chance; it suggests not only variety or diversity in the individuals or the elements but also absence of uniformity or unity and little evidence of fusion (the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell) > (the family is heterogeneous enough to make quite good party in itself—Rose Macaulay) > (the heterogeneous structure of granite) > A photograph lacks organization and unity . . . . It is haphazard, heterogeneous, aimless, and amor phous—just as is nature—S. S. Van Dine) > Motley adds to heterogeneous the suggestion of discordance in the individuals or elements or their striking contrast to each other; perhaps from the notion of discordance it is more deprecative than the foregoing terms and is more likely
to qualify groups made up of elements felt as inferior or undesirable (one would enquire from whence this motley style did first our Roman purity defile—Dryden) (motley support drawn from Tammany Hall Irish, Wall Street bankers, and odds and ends of all factions—Parrington) (that motley aggregation of impudent and flattering crowd followers—Walker) Promiscuous may suggest haphazardness or the appearance of it, but it usually implies selection that is completely devoid of discrimination and that results in disorderly confusion; thus, a miscellaneous acquaintance may imply a catholicity of taste, but a promiscuous acquaintance ship implies an absence of taste and good judgment; from a description of a club's membership as heterogeneous one might infer its interesting diversity but from a description of it as promiscuous one can infer only a diversity that is distasteful and senseless from the point of view of the speaker or writer (a classless, promiscuous world where True Story and London's New Statesman and Nation share the same rickety table—Time) For this reason, promiscuous as applied specifically to people or their acts, emotions, and relations stresses not only lack of discrimination, but lack of restriction within bounds set (as by prudence, good sense, or sound morals); thus, promiscuous charityimplies licentious disregard of normal standards of conduct (safety involves some order and discrimination, rather than a miscellaneous acceptance of all our impulses as good—Cohen) (the dangers to civil freedom of a promiscuous and unprincipled attack on realism—Schlesinger b. 1917) Ana various, diverse, divergent, disparate, different: multifarious, divers, sundry, many Con similar, alike, like, identical, uniform mischance *misfortune, adversity, mishap Ana *accident, casualty, mishap: disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm mischief *injury, hurt, damage, harm Ana *perniciousness, detrimental or detriment, deleteriousness, noxiousness, banefulness or bane (see corresponding adjectives at PERNICIOUS): evil, ill: impairment, marring, spoiling (see corresponding verbs at INJURE) mischievous roguish, waggish, impish, playful, frolicsome, sportive Ana annoying, bothering or bothersome, vexing or vexatious, irking or irksome (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY): naughty, bad, evil, ill, wicked: tricky, foxy, insidious, artful, sly miscendent *villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, scamp, raspscallion Ana *criminal, malefactor, culprit, delinquent mise-en-scène *background, setting, environment, milieu, backdrop miserable, wretched both describe something (as a person's state of health or of mind, a state of affairs, a human being with reference to his condition or character, or a thing compared with others of its kind) that is deplorably or contemptibly bad or mean. A person is miserable if in misery or in a state either of extreme or acute distress of body or mind (Plato) would forbid any novelists to represent a good man as ever miserable—Ellis) (Gideon has been absolutely miserable, and gone about like a man half stunned, ever since it happened—Rose Macaulay) or of pitiable poverty or degradation (a miserable creature of a crazed aspect...shattered and made drunk by horror—Dickens) A thing is miserable when it is exceedingly mean or paltry, and provocative only of misery in the person affected or of strong distress or dislike in the observer (a miserable cold) (a miserable dinner) (the squallor of mean and miserable streets—Binyon) A person is wretched who is extremely unhappy or abjectly despondent (as from want, grief, oppression, affliction, or anxiety); a thing that relates closely to the happiness of a person is wretched if it produces such dejection or mental suffering (O cruel death! To those you are more kind than to the wretched mortals be left behind—Waller) (it was her unhappy lot to be made more wretched by the only affection which she could not suspect—Conrad) (she's “poor Ellen” certainly, because she had the bad luck to make a wretched marriage—Wharton) A thing, in general, is wretched if it is extremely or deplorably bad (a wretched French cabaret, smelling vilely—Meredith) (wretched crops) (it was the wretched truth, and not something I had conjured out of imagination—Deasy) Ana forlorn, hopeless, despairing, *despondent: pitiable, pitiful, pitiful, doleful, dolorous, melancholy Ant *comfortable miserly penurious, parsimonious, niggardly, tight, tight- fisted, *stingy, close, closefisted, cheeseeparing, penny-pinning Ana *avaricious, greedy, *covetous, grasping: mean, sor did, abject, ignoble Con *bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, *liberal, generous: benevolent, *charitable, altruistic misery *distress, suffering, agony, dolor, passion Ana adversity, *misfortune: affliction, visitation, *trial, tribulation: melancholy, dejection, *sadness, depression Ant *felicity, blessedness —Con *happiness, beatitude, bliss: comfort, ease, repose (see REST) misfortune, mischance, adversity, mishap are comparable when they denote bad luck or adverse fortune or an instance of this. Misfortune is both the most common and the most general term; it is applicable equally to the incident or conjunction of events that is the cause of an unhappy change of fortune (by misfortune he lost his job) or the ensuing state of distress (a crass and stupid person who had fallen through luck into losing prosperity). His every good fortune spattered others with misfortune (Malamud) and it may denote a particular unfortunate incident (they could by cooperation brave misfortunes and supplement each other's efforts in bettering the lot of the common man—Middle East Jour.) Mischance rarely applies to a state of distress but is otherwise very close to misfortune from which it differs chiefly in greater objectivity. While sometimes used to imply grave affliction or even death it is especially appropriate when the situation involves no more than slight inconvenience or minor annoyance (I threw a stone and hit a duck in the yard by mischance—Yea) (they proceeded on their journey without any mischance—Austen) Adversity, on the other hand, denotes the state or the instance but not the cause; it is distinctly the strongest of these words and in its typical use implies a state of grave and persistent misfortune (a wretched soul, bruised with adversity—Shak) (what fairy palaces we may build of sanity involves some order and discrimination, rather than a miscellaneous acceptance of all our impulses as good—Cohen) (the dangers to civil freedom of a promiscuous and unprincipled attack on realism—Schlesinger b. 1917)
misogynie
misanthropic, pessimistic, *cynical
delve, beguile, *deceive, betray, double-cross
mislead
* misplace
misleading,
delusive, delusory all mean having mishap 1 *misfortune, mischance, adversity 2 *accident, casualty
ana *misfortune, mischance: *disaster, calamity: *chance, fortune, hap, hazard
mislay *misplace
mislead delude, beguile, *deceive, betray, double-cross
ana entice, inveigle, *lure, tempt, seduce: *dupe, gull, hoodwink, hoax, bamboozle
misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory all mean having misrepresent, falsely, garble mean to present or represent something in a manner that is contrary to the truth. Misrepresent usually implies an intent to represent or portray falsely, and therefore may take as its subject not only a person or his utterance but also such things as an organization, a political platform, or a cartoon; it often carries a suggestion of deliberate lying, but it may suggest bias or prejudice or a desire to do injustice (misrepresent a candidate’s statement) (misrepresent the value of an article) (the account misrepresents not only his actions but his motives) False implies a perversion of the truth, either by deliberately altering the facts in whole or in part (false bookkeeping records) (falsified her account of the accident) or by giving something an appearance that does not accord with the truth or reality (false the meaning of a document by an incorrect translation) (good breeding has made the tongue false the heart—Steele) (a low-priced sunglass lens said to be completely effective without falsifying the colors seen through it—Newsweek) Belie implies an impression given that contradicts or is at variance with the truth or the facts; it usually takes as its subject an appearance, a manner, or a form of speech and lacks the implication of intent that is usually present in the preceding words (his confident words were belied by his anxious look) (a brusque manner that belies a real kindness of heart) (you are an Englishman . . . unless your physiognomy belies you—Kingsley) Garble implies a mutilation or distortion of statements, testimony, evidence, or messages that need not be deliberate but that creates a wrong impression of the original and frequently gravely alters its tone or implications (the newspapers have sadly garbled the account of his speech) (by the time the story had passed from mouth to mouth until it reached him again, it was so garbled that its original form was barely recognizable) (the manufacture and dissemination of propaganda literature, for the purpose of rousing the passions of the people by garbled statements—Inge) 
ana *disguise, disguise, cloak, mask, camouflage: simulate, counterfeit, feign (see assume): *lie, prevaricate, equivocate, palter
misrepresentation *lie, falsehood, untruth, fib, story
ana dishonesty, deceitfulness, mendaciousness or mendacity (see corresponding adjectives at dishonest): sophistication, doctoring, loading, weighting, adulteration (see corresponding verbs at adulterate): sophist, casuistry (see fallacy)
missive *letter, epistle, note, message, dispatch, report, memorandum

mistrust, distrust (see under distrust vb): suspicion, doubt, skepticism, *uncertainty: *fear, alarm, dread, fright

misrepresentation analogical words
ana analogous words ant antonyms con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
hopelessly that one cannot detect their differences or distinctions. Confound usually carries a stronger connotation of mental bewilderment or of a muddled mind than the preceding words and is accordingly often preferred when the differences are more or less obvious to a clearheaded or intelligent person—Russell—(the temptation to confound accumulated knowledge and experience with intrinsic progress is almost irresistible—Inge)

*mitigate n  *error, slip, lapse, blunder, faux pas, bull, hoe, borer

*relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage

*mistreat maltreat, ill-treat, misuse, *abuse, outrage

*mistrust

*error, slip, lapse, blunder, faux pas, bull, hoe, borer

*relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage

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*mistreat maltreat, ill-treat, misuse, *abuse, outrage

*mistrust

*error, slip, lapse, blunder, faux pas, bull, hoe, borer

*relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage

*mistreat maltreat, ill-treat, misuse, *abuse, outrage

*mistrust
pound of both—Scott] <rare compound of oddity, frolic, and fun—Goldsmith> In its technical senses compound is definitely restricted in application. In chemistry a compound is a distinct substance formed by a union of two or more elements or radicals in definite proportions by weight <water is a compound of oxygen and hydrogen>. As applied to words, a compound is a word or group of word elements which is formed of recognizable parts but has a distinct sense often not inferable from the meanings of its component parts. A compound may be written solid (as blackboard), hyphenated (as long-distance), or open (as all right). Composite is often interchangeable with compound in its general sense, but there is a tendency to prefer composite when the constituent parts are artificially or fortuitously combined <the American people is a composite of many races >the opinions of America are formed from the composite of the voices of America, official and unofficial, true and false—A. E. Stevenson> An amalgam is basically an alloy made by adding mercury to a metal; the term is particularly applicable to such alloys that are intended for use in dental restoration, usually contain several metals in addition to mercury, and set into a firm mass after a relatively brief period of time. In its extended use amalgam may draw on the notion of complexity of mixture <one's judgment is inevitably an amalgam of impressions of the work and impressions of the man—T. S. Eliot> or it may stress the hardening into final form <a mixture of affection and contempt, which later days hardened into an amalgam of generosity and sadism—Weeter> Ana joining, combining, uniting (see JOIN) moan n groan, sigh, sob (see under SIGH vb) moan vb groan, *sigh, sob Ana mourn, *grieve, sorrow: bemoan, bewailing (see DEPLORE) mob n *crowd, throng, press, crush, rout, horde Ana *multitude, army, host, legion mobile *movable, motive Ana fluid, *liquid: *changeable, changeful, protean, *trend, drift, *tendency, tenor: procedure, *process Ana counterfeit, feign, affect, simulate, *assume mode n 1 *state, condition, situation, posture, status 2 *method, manner, way, fashion, system Ana trend, drift, *tendency, tenor: procedure, *process mode n *fashion, style, vogue, fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, cry model n Model, example, pattern, exemplar, ideal, standard, exemplar, pattern, model is a better model for a child one year old . . . because the things it does are more what the younger child would wish to do—Russell] <served as model for most of the State capitol's built in the ensuing twenty-five years—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.> Often the term applies to a person or thing that is eminently or even preeminently worthy of imitation <there is no poet in any tongue . . . who stands so firmly as a model for all poets—T. S. Eliot> <the Saint whose name is given to a child serves as . . . an ideal model to be imitated—Nurnberg & Rosenblum> Example applies chiefly to a person (or his acts or conduct) that is or may be imitated by others; the term usually implies that the person, or the act, or the conduct, for some good reason is one that is likely to be imitated, whether good or bad, right or wrong <a father should set a good example to his children> <she always followed the example of her mother in her social behavior> <one of the immortal examples of a true man in a world of bounders, cowards, and squeaking specters—Sullivan> Sometimes, however, example applies to what is not intended to be imitated, but rather to serve as a warning <let it profit thee to have heard, by terrible example, the reward of disobedience—Milton> Example is also used in a highly abstract sense in antithesis to precept, then implying the setting of an example, usually but not necessarily a good example <the mistake of thinking that all can be done by precept, when . . . example is no less potent a force—Benson> Pattern applies either to the divine archetype of a thing or to a carefully worked out design or plan (as an architect's drawing) to be followed in fashioning a thing (according to an heavenly pattern . . . which He had fashioned in his wise foresight, He man did make—Spenser> <almost all the common things we use now . . . are made by machinery, and are copies of an original pattern—Jevons> In a more general sense (see also FIGURE 3) pattern applies to what merits or seems to merit imitation; it often differs from model in suggesting a more clearly worked out design, or a fuller presentation of details, or in connoting fixity or compelling power <a housewife in bed, at table a slattern; for all an example, for no one a pattern—Swift> <the ancient pattern of life had been woven continuously for so many centuries that even illiterate farmers knew how to be courtly and dignified—Blofeld> Exemplar often comes closer to pattern than to example because it usually applies to something set before one as worthy of imitation and, therefore, inherently good <Christ is the . . . exemplar that all preachers ought to follow—Latimer> <the reward of disobedience—Thackeray> Sometimes, however, exemplar is specifically applied to a person or thing that exhibits a quality, or sums up all the characteristics that distinguish a type, whether that quality or type be in itself good or bad <Sisyphus, the legendary exemplar of cunning—Thirlwall> <Stendhal's Julian Sorel . . . this exemplar of ruthless individualism—Huxley> Ideal may specifically imply existence not in the actual world but in the mind and therefore may suggest a remoteness from reality and especially perfection exceeding what is possible in reality <traditions grew up around his name, to be interpreted according to the hearers' own ideals of personality and education—D. E. Smith> But ideal also may apply to a real person or thing that is held before one as embodying or representing the perfection one hopes to realize or attain <the boy found his ideal in his father > <Livia] embodied in her life the ideal of the Roman matron—Buchan> Frequently ideal is almost indistinguishable from standard when it applies not to a person or object that serves as a pattern or exemplar, but to something (as a rule, a practice, an aim, or an established level of excellence) by which one seeks to maintain a high quality in a product or of performance <the ideal of general cultivation has been one of the standards in education—Elliot> <accuracy> is still a noble and inspiring ideal. It is the morality of the intellect: it prescribes what it ought to strive for—Ballard> <each generation . . . has its own ideals and its own standards of judgment—Crothers> But standard (see also STANDARD 2) is inter-
changeable with ideal only when it applies to what is
the test of perfection or of human perfection (the very art . . . incommensurable with any standard except that of
pure beauty—I refer of course to the art of music—
Dickinson) (with the spread of impressionism literature has lost standards and discipline, and at the same time
vitality and seriousness—Babbit) Beau ideal applies
to one and especially a person felt to be a fit model or ideal
because of high excellence (the beau ideal of all that was
romantic, exquisite, and passionate—Harrison Smith)
Mirror applies to something so exemplary of its kind
that it may serve as a model (no modern building could
act as a better mirror of functional needs . . . than this
seventeenth-century Spanish mission—Liturgical Arts)
Ana criterion, touchstone, gauge, *standard
modern adj 1 Modern, recent, late, though not close syn-
onyms, are subject to confusion when they are used to
date things or events which have taken place, come into
existence, or developed in times close to the present.
Modern (see also NEW) is the term of widest range of mean-
ing; it may date anything that is not medieval or ancient
(the ancient languages have now been superseded by the
modern languages in popular favor in high schools and
colleges) (the date of the discovery of America, 1492, is
often used arbitrarily as the beginning of modern history)
(the weed-caught wrecks of ancient galleys, medieval
shipwreck, and modern dreadnoughts—Beebe) or anything
that represents the marks of a period nearer in time than another
(modern surgical techniques) (the modern novel) (the
ornate mansions of a bygone era mingled with more modern
concepts of architecture—N. Y. Times) or less clearly
to anything that is new, fresh, or up-to-date (she is very
modern in her clothes and in her manners) (we all have to
remember that what is modern today and up-to-date, what
is efficient and practical, becomes obsolete and outworn to-
morrow—Roosevelt) In all these uses a change or contrast
in character or quality is to some extent implied by the term
modern. Recent is usually without such implication and
may simply indicate a date that approximates that of the
immediate past, though the time to which this term, too, re-er depends upon the thing that is qualified; thus, “recent
geological ages” designates those ages immediately pre-
ceding the present geological age, although, since each
age may represent millions of years, recent is obviously
used relatively; “Shakespeare is a more recent author than Chau-
er” implies only a comparative status, for Shakespeare
was born in the sixteenth century and Chau-
er in the fourteenth; “we have all the recent books”
implies an absolute relation to a time that may be described
as the immediate past (recent news) (recent rains)
(a recent purchase) (a recent issue of a magazine)
Late (see also TARDY, DEAD) implies a series or succession
of which the person or thing so described is the most
recent in time (the late war) (the servant’s late master
 testified as to his honesty) (moose which of late years
have been showing up around Stewartstown—Holbrook)
Sometimes the word carries an implication that is less
definite and equivalent to “not long ago holding the
position of or serving as” (the firm’s new director of
research was the late professor of applied chemistry at the
University)
2 modernistic, *new, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled,
original, fresh
Ana *contemporary, contemporaneous, coincident,
concomitant, concurrent: *prevailing, current, prevalent
Ant antique: ancient
modernistic *new, new-fashioned, newfangled, novel,
modern, original, fresh
Ant antiquated
modest 1 humble, meek, lowly
Ana *moderate, temperate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.


ant

modification
change, alteration, variation (see under change vb)

ana
transformation, metamorphosis, conversion, transfiguration (see under transform): qualification, tempering (see corresponding verbs at moderate)

modify
*change, alter, vary

ana
temper, *moderate, qualify: *transform, convert, metamorphose, transmogrify

modish
*stylish, fashionable, smart, chic, dashing

ant

antiquated

moist
*wet, damp, humid, dank

con
*dry, arid

molecule
atom, *particle, corpuscle

mollify
appease, placate, *pacify, propitiate, conciliate

ana
*relieve, allay, mitigate, lighten: *moderate, temper, qualify: abate, lessen, reduce, *decrease

ant

exasperate

mollycoddle
vb humor, pamper, *indulge, spoil, baby

molt
*discard, cast, shed, slough, scrap, junk

moment
1 *instant, minute, second, flash, jiffy, twinkling, split second
2 *importance, consequence, significance, import, weight

ana
value, *worth: advantage, profit, avail, *use

momentary
*transient, transitory, passing, ephemeral, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived

ant

growth

momentum
impetus, *speed, velocity, pace, headway

monastery
*cloister, convent, nunnery, abbey, priory

monetary
*financial, pecuniary, fiscal

money
money, cash, currency, legal tender, specie, coin, coinage are comparable when they mean pieces of stamped metal or their equivalents issued by a government, or by an authority recognized by the government, to serve as a medium of exchange in the country or section under the control of that government. Money applies to both coined gold, silver, copper, or other metal issued as a medium of exchange and to certificates or notes, often called specifically paper money, that sometimes promise payment in metal money, are issued by a government or governmentally recognized authority (as a bank), and pass like coined metal as a medium of exchange. Cash applies to money, sometimes specifically called ready money, actually in hand or immediate possession of an individual or a business or institution (the firm's supply of cash was very low because the larger part of the day's accumulation had just been deposited in the bank). Currency may apply to all of the money in circulation, as distinguished from that which is not in circulation for one reason or another (the first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency—Hemingway) but it may also apply to paper money as distinguished from coined metal. Legal tender applies specifically to the type of money which the law authorizes a debtor to offer and requires a creditor to receive as payment of money obligations and may or may not at any given time include all lawful money of a particular jurisdiction. Specie, coin (only in a collective sense), and coinage apply only to minted or coined money; they therefore imply an opposition to all forms of paper money (as treasury notes and bank notes) (payments were de-manded in specie, or in the coin of the realm) (we are far more concerned today with his debasement of the coinage—Shaw)

monk
*religious, friar, nun

ana
*recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cenobite

monkeyshine
*nprank, caper, antic, dodo

monograph

ana
article, paper, *essay

monopolize, engross, absorb, consume mean to take up completely. Monopolize, the general term, means to possess or control exclusively (monopolize the year's crop of cotton) (a child should not be allowed to monopolize the attention of his family) (every railroad monopolizes, in a popular sense, the trade of some area—Justice Holmes) (the party in power at Washington can organize the two houses of the Congress... but it cannot monopolize the business of lawmaking—Holcombe) (never attempted to monopolize or even dominate the discussion—J. G. Gray) Occasionally engross implies getting a physical control of (as by purchase of the available supply) (the process of engrossing the land which attended the ascent to power of the aristocracy—Becker) and this notion may persist in extended use (the sun engrossed the east, the day controlled the world—Emily Dickinson) but more often the verb takes an immaterial object and implies a preoccupying (political theory has long engrossed the Indian mind—Poleman) (the works manager who... is engrossed chiefly with the engineering problem of securing maximum output with minimum input—Huff) Absorb is frequently interchangeable with engross, but it is less often predicated of persons as conscious agents and more often of things that have an inherent capacity for monopolization (manual occupations do not engage the mind sufficiently... but composition, especially of verse, absorbs it wholly—Cowper) (it is arithmetically impossible for every child to absorb the whole time of an adult tutor—Russell) Consume comes into comparison with engross and absorb chiefly in an extended sense of each, implying monopolization of one's time, attention, or interest (Flané is determined that men and their convictions shall be given a true and proper evaluation. He is consumed with the idea of justice—Boyle) (the consuming anxiety of the ride still held him though the reason for it was gone—Wheelwright) (ana) possess, own, *have, hold; utilize, *use, employ; control, manage (see conduct vb)

monopoly
monopoly, corner, pool, syndicate, trust, cartel are comparable rather than synonymous terms when they apply to a means of controlling prices. Monopoly denotes the exclusive control of a service (as telephone or telegraph service) or traffic (as transportation of goods and passengers by railroad) or of a commodity (as wheat or petroleum) in a given market. Monopoly may imply exclusive control created by the state (as by franchise or patent or copyright). More frequently, however, the term is used to imply exclusive power to buy or sell a commodity or service in a given market, especially as a result of ownership or control of the sources of supply (as mines) or of the available stock of a commodity (in the reign of Edward III [German traders had a practical monopoly of the carrying trade—Pattison) In extended use monopoly also denotes the group or organization having such control (it might be that when a combination reached a certain size it might have attributed to it more of the character of a monopoly merely by virtue of its size than would be attributed to a smaller one—Justice Holmes) A temporary or local monopoly (as of a particular security on a stock exchange or of a particular commodity on a produce exchange)
contributes a corner, so called because it puts all those who are determined to buy into a corner, or position where they must pay the price asked <maintained his corner on wheat for three days> Pool in this relation applies primarily to a combination of property, or of interests of different persons or companies, by means of which a more or less permanent control or monopoly is acquired. Distinctively, however, pool implies a joint undertaking or end which cannot be attained unless the market is managed either by manipulating prices (as of a commodity or security) or by destroying the effects of competition (as through agreements concerning prices or rates, regulation of outputs, or division of earnings of each organization concerned). Syndicate is applied chiefly to a group of individuals, firms, or corporations (as banking houses) which organize for a limited time to accomplish a given purpose or more specifically such a group that is organized to market an issue of a security, makes its profit from the difference between the agreed-upon sum advanced to the issuing corporation for the securities and the fixed sale price at which they are marketed, assumes responsibility for absorbing any surplus securities not marketed, and dissolves when the marketing period is completed. Outside of the field of finance, the use of the term is extended in its application to any combination (as of newspapers, business concerns, or criminals) interested in a common project or enterprise, and often implies relation to a monopoly. Trust specifically applies to a merger in which stockholders in the merged corporations exchange their stock for trust certificates in the new corporation and surrender their rights to trustees who operate the combined corporations, but trust is often extended to any combination of business entities, especially when felt to represent a threat to healthy competition. Cartel implies an international combination for controlling production and sale of a product or group of products.

monotonous 1 Monstrous, prodigious, tremendous, stupendous, monumental are comparable especially in their extended more or less hyperbolical senses in which they mean astonishingly impressive. Monstrous commonly applies to something abnormal, usually in actual or relative size, but often also in shape or character; the term frequently carries suggestions of deformity, extreme ugliness, or fabulousness <the imagination turbid with monstrous fancies and misshapen dreams—Wilde> he seemed of monstrous bulk and significance—G. D. Brown> the monstrous way of living that mankind had made for itself out of the industrial revolution—Connolly> Prodigious usually implies a marvelousness that exceeds belief; it sometimes applies to something entirely out of proportion to what is the usual or usual best, greatest, or largest <the prodigious demand for steel in the First World War> men have always reverenced prodigious inborn gifts, and always will—Eliot> <a mind with such prodigious capacity of development as Shakespeare—T. S. Eliot> Tremendous may come closer to awe-inspiring or terrifying in its immensity than to gigantic or enormous, its common denotations in more literal use <must have made the animal life look very much like a crocodile and the bite must have been tremendous—Swinton> how shall we compare the cramped and limited vision of the universe which spread itself to the imagination of mankind in old time with the tremendous vistas opened out to us by modern science—Inge> the spell and tremendous incantation of the thought of death—L. P. Smith> [he] too, had his appointed or acquired limits. He could never be tremendous—Montague> Stupendous implies the power to stun or astound; it describes something that because of its size, its numbers, its complexity, or its greatness exceeds one's power to describe or explain <all are but parts of one stupendous whole, whose body Nature is, and God the soul—Pope> <a stupendous catastrophe that occurred in the constellation Hercules 1300 years ago—Kaempffert> Monumental in its extended sense (see also MASSIVE) applies to something as conspicuously impressive or as massively framed or constructed as such a monument as a great cathedral or an impressive memorial <his magnum opus...the five monumental volumes of his history of the writer in America—Trilling> the Mexicanpeon has a monumental reserve beside which the Englishman becomes an idle chatterer—Woodcock> 

mood, humor, temper, vein mean a temporary state or frame of mind in which one emotion or desire or one set of emotions gains the ascendancy. Mood is the comprehensive term for any such frame of mind, regardless of its particular cause, its particular character, its effect on others, or its length of existence <he indulged his moods. If he were surly, he did not bother to hide it—Mailer> Mood carries a stronger implication of perversiveness and of compelling power than the other terms; also, it may refer not only to the frame of mind <feel in a mood to work> <a sullen mood> but to its expression in a literary or artistic work (the language, the stresses, the very structure of the sentences are imposed upon the writer by the special mood of the piece—Cather) or to what is seen or heard in such a way as to evoke a mood or to harmonize with one's mood <the mood of the landscape, achieved by the beauty of the evening light—Kenneth Clark> <watching land and water, rocks and trees, and their ever-changing hues and moods—Semon> 

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Humor (see also WIT 2) applies chiefly to a mood which is the result of one's peculiar temperament or of one's physical or mental condition at the moment; it may be preferable to mood when the idea of capriciousness or of whimsicality is to be suggested <I am not in a humor to hear you further. Leave me, please—Hardy> <the women were horrified or admiring, as their humor moved them—Wharton> <victims of nature's cataclysmic humors—Julian Dana> 

Temper (see also DISPOSITION 2) applies to a mood dominated by a single strong emotion, often specifically that of great anger <"He is in a prodigious temper—Wharton>

"I never knew him so out of patience with them"—Kenneth Clark> "I never knew him so out of patience with them"—Wharton> When qualified by an adjective indicating the controlling emotion, temper may apply to any humor that manifests itself in a display of feeling (that meekness has done me more harm than the bitterest temper—Hardy) she was evidently now in a gay, frolicsome temper—Hudson

Vein (see also TOUCH) is often used in the sense of mood but with a stronger implication of transitoriness and seldom with any suggestion of a temperamentual or physical
moral
adj
*secure, anchor, rivet
moor
vb
*secure, anchor, rivet
Ana
*tie, bind: attach, *fasten, affix, fix: balance, steady, *stabilize, trim
moral
adj
Moral, ethical, virtuous, righteous, noble are comparable when they mean conforming to a standard of what is right and good. Moral is the most comprehensive term of the group; in all of its pertinent senses it implies a relationship to character or conduct viewed as good or bad or as right or wrong. Sometimes moral implies relationship to or concern with character or conduct as distinguished especially from intellectual or physical nature (<moral goodness may be distinguished from intellectual goodness or spiritual goodness>) (<the whole tendency of modern thought . . . is to extenuate the responsibility of human nature, not merely on the moral side, but equally on the spiritual side—Mackenzie>) (<we find ourselves confronted with a most disturbing moral problem . . . those situations, now of such frequent occurrence, in which good means have end results which turn out to be bad—Huxley>) Moral also applies to such things as literary works, works of art, and philosophies, or to writers, artists, and philosophers concerned with the determination or teaching of principles of right conduct or good living (<a moral tale> <moral essays> <paintings that convey a moral lesson> <tragedy . . . hath been ever held the gravest, mora lest, and most profitable of all other poems—Milton>) The term also applies to men or communities, to acts, or to conduct in the sense of conforming to the accepted standard of what is right and good, often specifically in sexual conduct, or of conforming to the customs or conventions of a people regarded as binding laws (<lead a moral life> <a man of high moral character> <the moral ideals of the community>) (<I had a character who was ambitious, yet in his own way, moral, and with such a character one could travel deep into the paradoxes of the time—Mailer>) (<his nature was purely sensuous, and she strove to make him moral, religious—D. H. Lawrence>) Ethical primarily implies a relationship to ethics, the branch of philosophy which deals with moral principles, or more specifically with the principles governing ideal human character and with the ideal ends of human action (<an ethical system> <an ethical code> <ethical person>) Although ethical is often used interchangeably with moral, it characteristically gives a slightly different impression owing to certain subtle connotations; thus, ethical principles may, according to the context, convey a strong suggestion of principles derived from a certain school of ethics, or of a formulated code behind them, or of an idealistic quality; an action is often described as ethical rather than moral when it accords with what the writer or speaker believes to be a higher or finer standard of morality than the one generally accepted, or when it is in keeping with the code of ethics governing a profession (especially law and medicine); the phrase "an ethical person" often differs from the phrase "a moral person," in suggesting an assent to ethical principles or an attention to the niceties of ethics or to the ideal ends suggested by a system or code of ethics (<meanwhile we hear . . . the ethical instinct of mankind asserting itself with splendid courage and patience—van Dyke>) Virtuous implies the possession or manifestation of moral excellence in character; in its most general sense it implies rectitude, justice, integrity, and all other virtues, but in more restrictive use and especially as applied to women, it often means little more than chasteness or perfect fidelity in marriage (<poor people . . . whether they be lazy or busy, drunken or sober, virtuous or vicious—Shaw>) (<her life had been virtuous, her dedication to innocence had been unswerving—Cheever>) (<a man might grind the faces of the poor; but so long as he refrained from caressing his neighbors' wives and daughters, he was regarded as virtuous—Huxley>) Righteous differs from virtuous chiefly in its stronger implication of freedom from guilt or blame; as applied to persons, it often implies justification, especially worthiness of salvation in the theological sense (<I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance—Mk 2:17> <what but thy malice moved thee to dismeed of righteous Job—Milton>) As applied to acts, conduct, and even displays of passion, it usually implies justifiability and often consciousness of rectitude (<righteous indignation>) But righteous is the one of these words that is freely used in a worsened sense to imply an invalid and sanctimonious assumption of the appearance of rectitude (<left most of the work to his assistants . . . and when he found that they were doing as they pleased, he was not righteous nor rebuking—Sinclair Lewis>) (<meets the resultant gossip, and the ruin of Lily's reputation, with a righteous indifference to either its unfairness or his share in it—Harper's Bazaar>) Noble (see also grand) applies to persons, their acts, utterances, careers, or lives, and implies the possession and exhibition of a conspicuously high character. Often the word carries no other clear implications and seems little more than a term of high praise implying moral or ethical eminence (<that noble passion for human rights and civil liberties possessed by . . . judicial libertinarians—Gressman>) (<a noble aim, faithfully kept, is as a noble deed—Wordsworth>) At other times the term suggests not only moral eminence but the absence of all taint of any such petty or dubious thing as self-seeking, self-interest, or concern for the world's standards; it then often suggests independence, or magnanimity, or high courage, or some other outstanding moral excellence (<this was the noblest Roman of them all. All the conspirators, save only he, did that they did in envy of great Caesar; he only, in a general honest thought and common good to all—Shak.>) (<the disinterested search for truth is certainly one of the highest and noblest careers that a man can choose—Inge>) And, right, *good: *upright, honest, just, honorable, scrupulous, conscientious: *chaste, pure, modest, decent: ideal, *abstract

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
morality 548 motion

self only to relation to others <troops noted for their discipline> <true discipline is intelligent obedience of each for the consequent effectiveness of all—Ageaton> <books . . . written by men who have subjected themselves in a superior degree to intellectual discipline and culture—Dewey> Esprit de corps especially applies to the spirit of loyalty that is manifest in a body (as a profession or a society) by jealous regard for the honor or the interests of the body as a whole or for fellow members as belonging to it; often esprit de corps implies a spirit that distinguishes one body and brings it into opposition to others <among the professions noted for their esprit de corps, that of physician ranks high> <esprit de corps . . . in each specialized part of the body politic, prompts measures to preserve the integrity of that part in opposition to other parts—Spencer> <though the development of a strong esprit de corps is most desirable, within a small and exclusive group it becomes dangerous . . . assumes the form of a closed club, the members of which can, in each other's eyes, do no wrong—Political Science Quarterly> <the inspired and faultless esprit de corps of her flesh and her bones and her blood; never were the features and the colors of a face in such serene and unassailable agreement, never had a skeleton been more singularly honored by the integument it wore—Stafford> Ana *vigor, spirit, drive: self-confidence, self-possession, assurance, *confidence: nerve, steeling (see ENCOURAGE) Con enravement (see corresponding verb at UNNERVE) morality *goodness, virtue, rectitude Ana integrity, probity, honor, *honesty: *excellence, perfection, virtue, merit morally *virtually, practically morbid *unwholesome, sickly, diseased, pathological Ana hypochondriac, atrabilia, *melancholic: gloomy, morose, saturnine (see SULLEN) Ant sound —Con *healthy, wholesome, well, hale, robust: *healthy, healthy, hygienic mordant *caustic, acrid, scathing Ana incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting, clear-cut, crisp: *pungent, poignant, piquant, racy, spicy, snappy: *sharp, keen, acute moreover besides, furthermore, likewise, *also, too moron imbecile, idiot, *fool, simpleton, natural morose glut, gloomy, saturnine, dour, *sullen, surly, sulky, crabbed Ana splenetic, choleric, *irascible, testy, cranky, cross: peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, *irritable: brusque, gruff (see BLUFF) mortal adj *deadly, fatal, lethal Ana destructive (see corresponding verb destroy): virulent, venomous, *poisonous: implacable, unrelenting, relentless (see GRIM) Ant uninvolved, neutral, passive mortified *ashamed, chagrined Ana harassed, harried, worried, annoyed (see WORRY vb): humiliated, humbled, abused (see ABASE): abashed, embarrassed, discomfited (see EMBARRASS) mortally *largely, greatly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally

snif n 1 device, design, pattern, *figure 2 *subject, matter, subject matter; argument, topic, text, theme, motive, leitmotiv motion n Motion, movement, move, locomotion, stir mean the act or an instance of moving. Motion is the appropriate term in abstract use for the act or process of moving, without regard to what moves or is moved; in philosophical and aesthetic use it is an especially comprehensive term, for it may apply to manifestation of change or of changing not only from place to place, but from condition to condition, or from step to step in a progression <the laws of motion> <this vicissitude of motion and rest, which we call life—Steele> <in all the arts the principle of motion prevails increasingly over the principle of repose—Babbitt> <movement is always to be preferred to inaction. In motion a man has a chance, his body is warm, his instincts are quick—Mailer> Ordinarily, however, the term implies discernible physical moving <the motion of the planets> <I was lying . . . injured, and incapable of motion—Hudson> <the restful motion of the sea> <every step and every motion in the old dances had meaning—Reginald & Gladys Laubin> Movement usually implies definite regulated motion; the term is used less often than motion to denote an abstraction, although it may be extended to denote a quality of representation in a work of art that suggests motion <movement is one of the most striking characteristics of the Elgin marbles and of the Winged Victory> <the new freedom and variety in the movements of the Apostles in the boat . . . are proofs of Giotto's rare power of invention—Fry> or a quality in literary work (as poetry) that suggests a definite rate of speed or progression (as in the meter, the rhythm, or the action) <no one will so well render Homer's swift flowing motion as he who has himself the swift-moving spirit of Homer—Arnold> In concrete use movement implies a passage, whether self-initiated or under guidance or compulsion, from place to place, from situation to situation, or from condition to condition; it may, in this sense, be used interchangeably with motion in the collective singular or in the plural <the movements of the planets> <the restful movement of the sea> <the movement of troops to the front was then in progress> <severe storms hindered the movement of trucks carrying supplies> <large regions in which, though earth movement has occurred rather recently, this has scarcely anywhere dislocated the land surface—C. A. Cotton> <there may be a complex double rhythm of annual movement; sowing in the north, extensive migration south in later winter, return for the harvest—W. B. Fisher> Movement also is frequently used for an instance of moving <a movement among the ferns attracted Adrian—Meredith> <every movement of the bird was watched by the cat> Move is particularly likely to denote a beginning of a movement <so shocked that no one made a move to leave> or to apply to a definite instance of moving or moving something from one place to another <make a move in a chess game> The word may stress the notion of change and then is particularly applicable to a changing of one's abode <planning a move to a new farm> or to a physical or figurative moving to attain an end or objective <viewed as a move to encourage . . . organized labor's full participation—Current Biog.> <the Turks would not be frightened into submission by any Russian move—Collier's Yr. Bk.> Locomotion usually suggests travel especially by artificial means (as by boat, train, airplane, or automobile) <every improvement of the means of locomotion benefits mankind morally and intellectually—Macaulay> but it may apply to natural means (as wings or legs) <esopodons and cilia are primitive organs of locomotion> Stir applies to a motion or movement, often without an implication of changes of place or condition or of progress, that involves a not necessarily displeasing disturbance especially of what has been quiet or at rest or free from excitement, bustle, or agitation <not a stir of child or mouse—Stevenson> <many persons find stir, and movement, and the presence of a crowd an agreeable stimulus—Benson> <it is an age of stir and change—Galsworthy> Ana impetus, momentum, *speed, velocity, pace, headway
motivate actuate, *activate

**Ana** stimulate, quicken, *provoke, excite: arouse, rouse, *stir: inspire, animate, fire, *inform

motive n 1 Motive, spring, impulse, incentive, inducement, spur, goad all denote a stimulus inciting or prompting a person to act or behave in a definite way. Motive applies chiefly to such an emotion as fear, anger, hatred, or love or to a desire (as for fame, wealth, knowledge, supremacy, or revenge) or to such a physical appetite as hunger or sexual desire which operates on the will and definitely moves it to activity (always seeking the motive of everyone’s speech or behavior—Brownell) whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing, it is always from the noblest motives—Wilde 1 could slay no living thing except from motives of hunger—Hudson even where some piece of knowledge is uninteresting in itself, a man can force himself to acquire it if he has an adequate motive for doing so—Russell Spring, often as the plural springs, is used in place of motive without much difference in meaning; however, it may refer to the underlying or basic motive which is often not fully recognized even by the person affected and is especially hidden from all but the most penetrating observers (it is difficult . . . to come at the true springs of action—Forrest) (the love of gold was the sordid spring of the most brilliant enterprises of the republic—Merivale) laying open to his view the springs of action in both parties—Peacock Impulse need not imply as motive and spring regularly imply, actual performance of an act or engagement in an activity; the term stresses impetus, or driving power, rather than its effect; thus, one may check, or restrain, or forgo, or dismiss an impulse. In its more general sense impulse is applicable to a powerful incitement or instigation to activity, especially one arising within oneself as the result of a native propensity, one’s peculiarity of temperament, or one’s intellectual or emotional constitution (he was not a man . . . to yield timidly to the impulses of others—Prescott) (in Brave New World . . . all are permitted to indulge their sexual impulses without let or hindrance—Huxley) men like the elder Cato, Varro, and the elder Pliny liked to record the curiosities of nature, but they had not the systematizing impulse, the restless passion for order, of the Greeks—Buchan) Specifically, impulse is applicable to a spontaneous and often unconsidered and nearly irresistible urge to do something (Dr. Lavendar . . . said to himself, chuckling, “If I’d followed my impulse, I’d have married them then and there, and made no bones of it”—Deland) the first impulse of a child in a garden is to pick every attractive flower—Russell) Gãrd suffered an odd impulse to get up and kick his chair over; but people don’t do those things. He kicked the back log instead—Mary Austin) Incentive applies chiefly to a cause which incites and encourages action or activity and especially to one for which the person affected is not himself responsible or which does not originate within himself (offer a bonus as an incentive to greater speed and efficiency in production) (with some pupils praise is not an incentive to study) money is not the only incentive to work, nor the strongest—Shaw) (the great incentive to effort, all through life, is experience of success after initial difficulties—Russell) people . . . cut off here without the influence of example or emulation, with no incentive but some natural yearning for order and security—Cather Inducement is narrower than incentive, for it consistently suggests an external influence and often an attempt to entice or allure to action or activity (the chief inducements to serve were the pension and the right of citizenship which awaited a soldier on his discharge—Buchan) his method of holding his followers together by culinary and bibulous inducements has often been described—L. M. Sears) Spur applies to an impetus to action which not only incites but stimulates the mind and increases its energy and ardor (fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise . . . to scorn delights and live laborious days—Milton) (fear or despair may be a temporary spur to action—Sat. Review) Goad applies to a stimulus to action or activity that keeps one going in spite of one’s will or desire (the daily goad urging him to the daily toil—Macaulay) (insecurity, considered by some management people as the indispensable goad for workers’ efficiency—Dun’s Review) Anza *cause, determinant, antecedent, reason: *desire, appetite, urge, passion, lust: *feeling, emotion, passion: purpose, intent, *intention, aim, end 2 *subject, matter, subject matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motif, leitmotiv motive adj *movable, mobile Anza *active, operative, dynamic: moving, driving, impelling or impulsive (see corresponding verbs at move) motley adj 1 *variegated, parti-colored, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked 2 heterogeneous, *miscellaneous, assorted, promiscuous Anza *different, diverse, divergent, disparate, various: discrepant, incompatible, uncongenial, incongruous (see INCONSONANT) Con uniform, parallel, akin, alike, identical (see LIKE) motor *machine, mechanism, machinery, apparatus, engine motorcade *procession, parade, cortege, cavalcade mottle vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle mottled spotted, spattered, sprinkled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb) motto proverb, adage, *saying, saw, maxim, epigram, aphorism, apostem mount n *mountain, peak, alp, volcano, mesa mount vb 1 ascend, soar, *rise, arise, tower, rocket, levitate, surge Ant drop 2 *ascend, climb, scale Ant dismount mountain, *mount, peak, alp, volcano, mesa denote a relatively steep and high elevation of land. Mountain, the ordinary and inclusive term, varies somewhat in meaning according to locality. In general it designates an elevation higher and steeper than a hill, rising more or less abruptly from its surrounding country, and standing out conspicuously when viewed from a distance. Mount is often used in proper names of mountains. Peak, when applied to a mountain, designates one that rises to a sharp point; it may be isolated or one of a range. Alp suggests a towering, dizzly, or unscaleable height (yet do I sometimes feel a languishment . . . to sit upon an alp as on a throne, and half forget what world or worldling meant—Keats) volcano designates a cone-shaped mountain formed chiefly of ejected molten rock or ash and topped, usually, by a crater. Mesa is used especially in the southwestern part of the United States to designate a flat-topped elevation, usually comparable to a hill in height, but more suggestive of a mountain because of its steep clifflike sides. Anza *height, altitude, elevation mountebank n *impostor, faker, charlatan, quack mourn sorrow, *grieve Anza lament, bewail, bemoan (see DEPLORE): weep, keen, wail, *cry Con rejoice, gladden, delight, *please movable, mobile, motive mean capable of moving or of
being moved. Movable applies not to what has independent power of motion but to what can be moved by men or machines (as by lifting, drawing, pushing, or driving) (a movable stem engine) (one's movable possessions) (some of these cabins were movable, and were carried on sledges from one part of the common to another —Macaulay) or to what is not fixed in position or date (printing from movable type) (a movable attachment for a machine) (movable feasts such as Easter and Whitsunday) Mobile stresses facility or ease in moving or, less often, in being moved. It often describes the quality of flowing which distinguishes a fluid from a solid (the mobile liquid passes into a compact rigid solid—T. H. Huxley) or which characterizes an electric current or charge (long-lasting circulation of the mobile charge, around and around the circuit—Darrow) or the character which distinguishes something or someone that moves or is equipped or able to move quickly and readily, or to go (as from place to place or from one condition to another), from what is slow-moving or unlikely to engage in major moves (a mobile army) (a mobile radio unit) (they attract the more ambitious, the more mobile young people—Amer. Jour. of Sociology) (American society, though highly mobile by European standards, is not classless—Times Lit. Sup.) But equally often mobile describes features, faces, expressions of face, or thoughts which respond quickly and obviously to changing emotions, mental states, or external stimuli, often at the same time connoting either fickleness or instability or flexibility and versatility (the gray restless eye, the thin mobile lips—J. R. Green) (you are as mobile as the veering air, and all your charms more changeful than the tide—Millay) (delicately sniffing the air to the left of him with his mobile nose end—Dahl) Motive implies a moving only in the transitive sense of driving, or causing movement, or impelling to action; the term is used chiefly with reference to power or energy or their sources (as fuel, steam, or electricity) viewed as agent in a process of moving (diesel engines supply the motive power for the new ship) (when horsepower and man power were alone employed, the motive agent was not bound up with the tool moved—Spencer) Even when the reference is to something which constitutes a motive for action, "motive power," "motive force," or "motive energy" is likely to be used (there was no motive power in experience. It was as little of an active cause as conscience itself—Wilde) (this new wave of motive energy began to penetrate the deep absorption in their own affairs of her husband and children—Dorothy Canfield) (his motive force is a blissful and naive faith—Rosten) Ana *changeable, changeful, variable, mutable Ant immovable: stationary —Con fixed, set, settled, established (see SET vb)

move vb 1 Move, actuate, drive, impel are comparable when they mean to set or keep going or in motion. Move is so general that the direction or nature of the motion can be gathered only from the context; it may imply an agent or an agency as the mover (when power or force moves the rotating earth?) (the mechanism that moves the locomotive) (vessels moved by wind, steam, or electricity) Actuate is more restricted in its reference than move, being used chiefly in connection with machinery and mechanisms; it stresses the communication of power to work or to set in action (a turbine is actuated by the force of a current of fluid under pressure) (most of the hydraulically operated items of equipment are actuated by pistons and cylinders—W. R. Sears) Drive implies forward and, usually, continuous rather than current motion; it often emphasizes the effect produced, as of speed, violence, or show of power, rather more than the impetus given (a ship driven by wind and tide) (the washing machine is driven by electricity) (the heart drives the blood through the arteries) (air and petrol vapor . . . produce explosions powerful enough to drive the engine of a motorcar—Toynbee) Impel, when used of physical motion, adds to drive the implication of great force in the impetus (imitated the action of a man's being impelled forward by the butt ends of muskets—Dickens)

These words also are synonymous when they mean to excite or provoke a person to a given act or action or to given conduct or behavior. Move may imply an agent, an external influence, or an inner spring or motive as the mover (if kingdom move thee not, let move thee zeal and duty—Milton) (he was, through the years, a hard man to move—Malamud) Actuate presupposes such an inner stimulus as a desire, a feeling, or a motive (it used to be the thing for parents to represent themselves as Olympians, immune from human passions and always actuated by pure reason—Russell) (would deny with indignation that they are actuated in their esteem for science by its material serviceability—Dewey) Drive presupposes a compelling force, sometimes outer, sometimes inner, which affects the freedom of the will (it was the crass materialism of America . . . that drove him to exasperation—Parrington) (what had I ever done to you that would drive you to such a step?—Mary Austin) Impel, like actuate, implies an inner prompting, but it suggests greater urgency in the desire or motive and more headlong action (a life of adventure . . . was that to which his nature irresistibly impelled him—Arnold) (she was a prey to shoddy, facile emotions . . . none of which had power to impel her to any action—Rose Macaulay) Ana *activate, actuate, motivate: *provoke, excite, quicken, stimulate: *induce, persuade, prevail, get

2 Move, remove, shift, transfer are comparable when they mean to change or to cause to change from one place to another. All of these terms are general in that they do not in themselves and apart from the context imply a definite kind of agent or agency or a definite means of conveyance or transportation or give an indication of the extent of distance covered. Move is by far the most comprehensive term and is chiefly used when nothing more than the motion or activity involved in a change of place is to be indicated (move a table from a corner to the center of the room) (moved his family from New York City to Chicago) (move a house across the street to a larger lot) (he will not move from that chair until he is called to dinner) Remove adds to move the implication that the person or thing that changes or is changed from one place to another is moved from or quits a place which is his or its normal or original location, station, position, or occupation for which there is no new or temporary (remove the cover from a platter) (remove the dishes from the table) When the idea of getting rid or eradicating is stressed, remove is appropriate (remove a person from office) (they removed the cause of the epidemic of typhoid fever when they put the typhoid carrier under close surveil- lance) Shift is reserved for a change in location or direction that the implications of voluntary or guided motion or activity are seldom apparent; therefore the term is often preferred when unrest or uncertainty or instability is to be suggested (the cargo shifted in the storm) (the wind will shift during the night to due east) (shifting his weight from one foot to another) However, shift also is used when a mere change in position is implied (shifted his quid of tobacco to the other side of his mouth before answering) (decided to shift his desk
moving, impressive, poignant, affecting, touching, pathetic

Something deprived of their rights—

I regret that I cannot put into more of admiration, awe, wonder, or conviction) scenery . . .

Moving, impression, poignant, affecting, touching, pathetic are comparable when they mean having the power to excite or the effect of exciting deep and usually saddening and solemn emotion. Moving, the most general of these words, can be used in place of any of the others; the rest, though not mutually exclusive in their implications, can be used very specifically. Something moving stirs one deeply or evokes a strong emotional response (as by thrilling, entrancing, agitating, or saddening) (a moving scene is a play) (a moving appeal for help) (a modern version of the hero who for the good of mankind exposed himself to the agonies of the damned. It is always a moving subject—Maugham) (a moving revelation of child life in an orphanage—MacColl) Something impressive imposes itself forcibly on the mind and compels a response (as of admiration, awe, wonder, or conviction) (scene . . . majestic without severity, impressive without showiness—Hardy) (ordinary men cannot produce really impressive artworks—Shaw) (i regret that I cannot put into more impressive words my belief that . . . the defendants were deprived of their rights—Justice Holmes) Something poignant produces so painfully sharp an impression that it pierces one's heart or keenly affects one's sensitivities (it was warm and yet fresh; blindfold, one could have mistaken it for a morning in early May: but this kind of loveliness in autumn than in spring, because it was a receding footfall, a waning moon—Binyon) (the scenes of disappointment are quite affecting—Whitman) Something touching arouses tenderness or compassion or melts the heart (a clean sober little maid, with a very upright look of trust—Galsworthy) (touching not in the sense of pathos . . . but in the sense of sweetness, warmth, and gaiety—Mannes) (most men's touching illusion as to the fragility of human and their spiritual frailty—Conrad) Something pathetic moves one to pity. Sometimes the word suggests pity induced by compassion for one in sorrow or distress (a lonely old man . . . . Rather pathetic!—Archibald Marshall) (pathetic gropings after the fragments of a shattered faith—Day Lewis) Sometimes it suggests pity mixed with contempt for what is weak, inadequate, or futile 

Binyon) (a pathetic attempt to make a virtue of necessity—Huxley) Something pathetic, stimulating, quickening, provoking (see provoke) (thrilling, electrifying (see thrill): stirring, arousing, rousing, awakening, rallying (see stir)

muddle vb *confuse, addle, fuddle, befuddle

Anu *puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewilder, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound: faze, rattle, discomfit, *embarrass: fluster, flurry, upset, agitate, *discompose

Ant enlighten

muddle n *confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, jumble, clutter, snarl

muddy *turbid, roily

Ana murky, gloomy, obscure, *dark: confused, muddled, addle (see confuse): *dirty, filthy, foul, nasty, squalid

Con *clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, limpid

muff vb *botch, bungle, fumble, cobble

mug n *face, countenance, visage, physiognomy, puss

mulct *penalize, fine, amerce

Ana exact, require, *demand, claim

mulish *obstinate, dogged, stubborn, pertinacious, stiff-necked, pigheaded, bullheaded

Ana headstrong, intrinsically recalcitrant, refractory, ungovernable, *unruly: fixed, set (see set)

multifarious divers, numerous, various, *many, several, sundry

Ana disparate, diverse, divergent, *different: incongruous, incompatible, uncongenial, discrepant, discordant, *inconsonant, inconsistent

multiply *increase, augment, enlarge

Ana propagate, reproduce, breed. *generate: expand, spread, stretch (see corresponding nouns at expande)

Con *decrease, diminish, lessen, reduce, abate

multitude, army, host, legion mean, both in the singular and plural, a very large number of persons or things. They do not (as do the words compared at crowd) necessarily imply assemblage, but all of them can be used with that implication. Multitude stresses numerosness with respect to what is the standard for or the test of numerosness in the thing referred to; thus, in “that child always asks a multitude of questions” and “I never saw such a multitude of books before in one house” multitude obviously refers to a much smaller number in the first than in the second illustration (we must not . . . expect systematic education to produce multitudes of highly cultivated and symptomatically developed persons—Eliot)

When applied to a group of persons taken as a whole, multitude suggests an assemblage of a large number of persons (moved his arms with large pawing gestures, as though he were distributing lay blessings to a kneeling multitude—Wharton) but multitude with a definite article suggests the masses of ordinary people or the populace (speeches that sway the multitude) (a book that appeals to the multitude) (both scorn and seeks the understanding and approbation of the multitude—Knut)

Army usually adds to multitude the implications of orderly arrangement without a suggestion of crowding and often, especially in clearly figurative use, a progressive advance without any suggestion of halting or gathering (they were served by a vast army of waiters) (an army of locusts) (we have considered science as a steadily advancing army of ascertained facts—Ingpe) (he discovered around him . . . a world whose existence he had neither known nor suspected, the army of persons who know no routine labor—Purdy) Host has for its primary implication numerous. It may mean nothing more (she has a host of admirers) (he knows hosts of people) (the burning of hosts of unfortunate old women—and sometimes young ones—as witches—Cobban) but it may suggest more

move 551

multitude
strongly than any of the other words a concentration in
great numbers of the thing referred to; in such cases it
often connotes an impressive or striking array (a clear,
cold night and a host of stars in the sky) (I saw a crowd,
a host, of golden daffodils—Wordsworth) (a host of
equisite creations, the expression of a great artist’s
subtle vision and faultless technique—Read) (a very
uneasy division, giving rise to a host of perplexities whose
consideration has occupied the intervening centuries—
Whitehead) Legion in general use retains little suggestion
of its basic application to the chief unit of the Roman army
and but little more of its scriptural uses; typically it applies
to an indefinitely or incalculably large number (the
windy arguments of this legion of aberrants—McComas) (the
legion of animal owners is also rising fast—Investor’s
Reader) (a legion of friends hastened to his support—
W. B. Parker) (armies of angels that soar, legions of
demons that lurk—Browning)
Ana

museum, library, gallery, archives, treasury are comparable
but not synonymous terms when they mean a place serving
as a repository for monuments (see DOCUMENT 1 for this
sense) of the past. Museum is the most general of these
terms; it usually implies the intention both to preserve and
to exhibit for the education of the public. A museum may
be an institution concerned with the preservation and
exhibition of objects of historical or scientific interest,
especially such as illustrate the development of human
civilization or the evolution of species, or it may be one
providing for the preservation and exhibition of works of
fine art (as paintings and sculptures), or it may combine
both purposes. Consequently, the term is usually qualified
in proper names or in general designation (the Museum of
Fine Arts) (the Museum of Natural History) (an art
museum) Library is applicable to a place (as a room,
buidling, or institution) which houses a collection of
books not for sale but available for use by specified persons
or sometimes the general public. But library is applicable
also to a collection of literary material and as such may
vary in scope from a handful of books making up a personal
collection to a usually public collection consisting of a vast
store of books of all kinds and of all ages, manuscripts,
records, documents, files of journals, and often, in addition,
works of art and serving primarily to preserve works of
literature and of reference and documents in all fields of
research and to make them available to scholars. Gallery
(often art gallery) is used for a room, a suite, or a building
housing and exhibiting works of art and especially paint-
tings and pieces of sculpture. The term is used of a place
housing a private as well as a public collection and (espe-
cially in the plural, galleries) of a place where works of
art are exhibited for sale. Archives, when the term desig-
nates the place where a collection of old records, old
documents, old files, and similar papers are kept rather
than the collection itself (see DOCUMENT 1), may refer
to a building or, as is more common, to a part of a building
(as of a library or museum) where such a collection is
housed (the archives of the city hall) (the archives of
the department of state) (place a manuscript in the
archives of the Royal Society) Treasury is used to desig-
nate a place, often a room, where possessions of intrinsic
value and often historical significance are stored and in
some instances displayed to visitors (in the treasury of
the cathedral . . . there is a fine, whole, uncut chasuble—
Rock) The term is often extended to things or places that
are or are felt to be storehouses of precious things
(forests whose treasury of bird and beast and insect
secrets had been only skimmed by collectors—Beebee)
mushy

- sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy

muster

- summon, summons, call, cite, convocate, convene

Analogous words: 
- collect, congregate, assemble, gather: marshal, organize, arrange, 
- order: align, line, line up, range, array

mystic, *malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid

Ana

- dirty, filthy, foul, nasty, squalid: sloppy, slipshod, unkempt, slovenly

mutable

- changeable, changeful, variable, protean

Analogous words: 
- unstable, *inconstant, fickle: fluctuating, wavering, swinging, swaying (see swing)
- immutable: —Con *steady, even, constant, uniform: *stable

Mutation

- *change, permutation, vicissitude, alternation

Analogous words: 
- shifting or shift, moving or move, removing or remove (see move): variation, modification, alteration

musty

- fusty, *malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, *dirty, filthy, foul, nasty, squalid: sloppy, slipshod, unstable, *inconstant, fickle: fluctuating, wavering, swinging, swaying (see swing)

mushy

- sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy

mysterious

- mysterious, inscrutable, arcane mean beyond one's power to discover, understand, or explain. Something mysterious excites wonder, curiosity, or surmise yet baffles all attempts to explain it (e.g., nature equals produce, in Man they join to some effect his wonders to perform, <God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform>)

mystery

- problem, enigma, riddle, puzzle, conundrum are comparable when they denote something which baffles or perplexes and challenges one's power to solve it. Mystery may, especially in theological use, imply the thing's incapacity for comprehension by the human reason, but it is also applicable to any of the facts of the world about us which defy all attempts to explain their cause or nature (e.g., this mystery of growth and life—Jeffries) (we must be humble, for we are compassed by mysteries, and our spiritual faculties are poor and dull—Inge)

The term is also used to denote something which is guarded by secrecy or is in itself or by design mystifying while at the same time so intriguing as to compel speculation (he always makes a mystery of his intentions) (it's a mystery to me how he can keep going?)

Mystery solves the problem, and the labels are employed as a type of rhetorical question to demand of the person on whom the mystery rests how to find healthy, happy leisure for all the working millions who are now being liberated by machines—L. P. Smith (if a great hate and a great determination could solve the problem, Kelley would solve it—Theodore Sturgeon)

Enigma applies to whatever hides its meaning under obscure or ambiguous allusions so that one can only guess at its significance (a metaphor should not be farfetched, for then it becomes an enigma) (the ancient oracles usually spoke in enigmas) The term can be extended to whatever is inscrutable or beyond the range of unaided understanding (Leonardo . . . worked so slowly, he left so much unfinished, he seemed to make it possible and unstable. He was an enigma to which they never secured the key—Ellis) (the enigmas of history, of man's freedom and responsibility and of his guilt, cannot be solved as easily as modern culture assumed—Niebuhr)

The term can be extended to any problem which is difficult because of its inherent contradictions (he tried to read the riddle of this girl's future—Galsworthy) (the riddle of Actium is not in the details of the fighting but in the minds of the combatants—Buchan) Puzzle applies to a problem or enigma which tests one's ingenuity or skill in solution or which is peculiarly baffling (hoary old puzzles of Ethics and Philosophy—L. P. Smith) (there are few things in the world so difficult to explain as real change; it appears to me that most scientists are far from realizing the complexity of this metaphysical puzzle—Inge)

Conundrum specifically applies to a riddle phrased as a question as a question the answer to which involves a paradox or a pun or an equivocal use of words (they roused him with jam and judicious advice: they set him conundrums to guess—Lewis Car-

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
The term can be extended to unsolved or unsolvable problems which provoke speculation rather than serious attempts at solution. "Do you think life is long enough to let me speculate on conundrums like that?—Black"

"To fail to touch on the political conundrums involved, particularly the problem of how the richer areas of the South can be made to subsidize the poorer—Cater"

**mystic** adj *mystical, anagogic, cabalistic*

_Ana_ occult, esoteric, *recondite, abstruse: *mysterious, inscrutable: visionary, quixotic, *imaginary*

**mystical** n *ascetic*

**mystical, mystic, anagogic, cabalistic** are comparable when they denote having a meaning or character hidden from all except those who enjoy profound spiritual insight or are spiritually initiated. _Mystical_ and _mystic_, though often interchangeable, can be distinguished in use. In general, _mystical_ suggests comprehension of something beyond the range of the perceptive or ratiocinative powers; its use therefore often implies belief in the possibility of such comprehension and the word variously connotes penetration into sacred mysteries, holiness of life, idealism, detachment from material concerns, ecstatic contemplation, or spiritual rapture (_the mystical philosophy of Plotinus_, _mystical_ religions such as Buddhism). _The mystical poetry of William Blake_ (there is something _mystical_ in this doctrine, this faith, as of Keats, that "what the Imagination seizes as Beauty must be Truth"

—L. P. Smith_ Mystical_ is appropriately used when one wishes to avoid these special implications of _mystical_ or to suggest others more in keeping with a rationalistic or skeptical point of view. Therefore _mystic_ often imputes to the thing it describes: (1) an occult, esoteric, or visionary character (_mystic ceremonies_), (2) a mysterious, enigmatic, or sometimes nebulous quality (_words of mystical import—Shelley_), (3) a connection with magic or the arts of magic (_mystic numbers_), (4) each silver vase in _mystic_ order laid—Pope_ Often its basic denotation is completely obscured and it means merely unintelligible, unfathomable, or incomprehensible. _The mystic gulf from God to man—Emerson_ _Anagogic_ refers basically to an ultimate underlying meaning, especially in the Bible, perceptible only to those of profound spiritual insight (_when Dante . . . describes his poetry—Barnham_) _Looming in the distance, there was the final or anagogic meaning_ that transformed the symbolic object into a spiritual truth—Malcolm Cowley_ _Cabalistic_ in its primary meaning applies to a secret interpretation of Scriptures (_Cabala_) held to have been revealed to Moses and handed down orally through a line of chosen Jewish rabbis. The system came to be used by medieval magicians and _occult_ analysis before followings and often requiring _confound, dumbfound_ _Anagog_ evil, perplex, *puzzle, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound_ _Mysticism_ asceticism (see under _ascetic_ n)

**mystify** bewilder, perplex, *puzzle, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound*

**myth** 1 _Myth, legend, saga_ all mean a story which has come down from the past, which ostensibly relates a historical event or legends, and of which the origin has been lost or forgotten. _Myth_ varies considerably in its denotation and connotation depending on the persuasion of the user. Often the word is used to designate a usually fanciful and imaginative story that explains a natural phenomenon or a social practice, institution, or belief (the old _myth_, imported hazily from the East, which represented the cat-moon devouring the gray mice of twilight—Reppplier)

It is also used to designate a story, belief, or notion commonly held to be true but utterly without factual basis (_the doubts that women have about themselves are made, and most women are so enslaved to the myths of their own inferiority they are unable to see the truth for the myths—Ashley Montagu_). The word may be used with wide comprehensiveness in general writing or with narrow exclusiveness and specificity in more limited use ( _myths_ may be subdivided into such classifications as origin _myths_, ritual _myths_, incidents involving the lives of the gods, stories of culture heroes, trickster tales, journeys to the other world, human and animal marriages, adaptations of old world _myths_, and retellings of biblical stories—L. J. Davidson_). _Myths_ are said to be expressions or objectifications of "collective wishes" which are personified in the "leader" who is endowed by a given society with powers of social magic to fulfill the collective wish—Kroeber_ _Legend_ is likewise used with latitude, but in its most typical use it is likely to apply to a story, incident, or notion attached to a particular person or place that purports to be historical and often has or seems to have a basis in historical reality although as a whole it is either incredible or unverifiable ( _the medieval legends of the saints_). _The wrecking of the Palatine which, according to legend, did not sink but rose flaming into the sky—Zimmer_ _The violent deaths of several slaves quartered in them gave rise to a legend that this part of the house is haunted—Amer. Guide Series: Md._ _Saga_ may refer to a long, continued, heroic story that is action-packed but not especially romantic, that deals with a person or group, and that is historical or legendary or both ( _the Saga of Burnt Njål_). _The building of the railroad in the Northwest was one of the great sagas of man's enterprise—Le Sueur_ _Myth_ *fiction, fable, fabrication, figment: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at _invent_) 2 *allegory, parable, fable_ _Mythical* *fictitious, fabulous, legendary, apocryphal_ _Mystical_ *imaginary, visionary, fanciful, fantastic: invented, created (see _invent_)_

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
naive

naive unsophisticated, artless, ingenuous, *natural, simple

Ana *sincere, unfeigned: *spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive: fresh, original (see NEW)

naked *bare, nude, bald, barren

Ana revealed, disclosed, discovered (see REVEAL): *evident, manifest, palpable, obvious: uncolored, *colorless: *pure, simple, sheer

name n Name, designation, denomination, appellation, title, style mean the word or combination of words by which something is called and by means of which it can be distinguished or identified. Name is so general that it can be used of any such word or combination whether it distinguishes a person or an object, an individual or a class, a particular or a universal, a thing having distinct existence in fact or a thing having distinct existence only in thought (all nouns are names) *love is the name of an emotion (the child's name is John Joseph Brown) Sometimes name is thought of as something apart from the real character of the thing to which it is attached (what's in a name? that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet—Shak.) (for sixty years he had been a name, not a figure—Bennett) More often, however, the term connotes identification of the word with the thing or, especially, the person it names, so that what affects one the other (Oxford) home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties!—Arnold *if I discovered the worst, and it had to be exposed, I must see that Jane's name was kept entirely out of it—Rose Macaulay) This common feeling of a mutual and almost inevitable relation between the name and the thing named is what distinguishes name from designation, denomination, appellation, all of which are thought of as given and therefore as having an artificial association with the thing and a utilitarian purpose such as description or identification. A designation is a name given primarily for the sake of distinguishing one thing, whether an individual or a class, from other things of the same general description (the French revolutionists changed the traditional designations of days and months) *recognizing that this parasite was new, [he] . . . gave it the designation Aphytis A.—Jour. of Economic Entomology (Madame Curie chose polonium as the designation of the newly discovered radio element in honor of her native Poland) Denomination (see also RELIGION) is the name given especially to a class, to a category, or to a closely knit group (as of persons); the idea of a class name is so deeply rooted in the word that in extended use it often means the kind or group distinguished by a particular name (most of George Eliot's works come under the denomination of novel) A roll of bills containing notes of every denomination) *in the classic word of antiquity they called outsiders, indiscriminately, barbarians—a denomination which took on an increasingly depreciative sense—Ellis) Appellation is the name by which a thing or person is known or called; the term implies actual use and differs from designation and denomination in precluding the idea, but not necessarily the fact, of self-choice (James Tubbington Brown, a boy better known to his fellows by the appellation Stinky) the government of the United States has been emphatically termed a government of laws, and not of men. It will certainly cease to deserve this high appellation, if the laws furnish no remedy for the violation of a vested right—John Marshall) A title is either a distinctive name given to a work (as a book, a picture, a play, or a musical composition) or an honorary appellation coming to a person by virtue of his rank, office, dignity, or descent or given to him as a mark of respect (the head of the state must have a title—Buchan) When used without reference to a particular work of art or person title is sometimes preferred to denomination because it connotes distinction and dignity (any admixture of logical, of "prose" meaning detracts from the value of a poem, if it does not disqualify it for the title of poetry altogether—Day Lewis) When used abstractly in preference to name or designation it often connotes the lack of an essential relation between the name and the thing it names (things change their titles, as our manners turn—Pope Style is used to emphasize the exact form of a name and is applicable chiefly to such legal and formal titles as the legal name of a firm or corporation or the complete, formal designation of a royal or other exalted personage as used in documents or in ceremonial address (a business incorporated under the style of the Globe Manufacturing Co.) Thrones and Imperial Powers, offsprings of Heaven, ethereal virtues! or these titles now must we renounce, and, changing style, be called Princes of Hell?—Milton) name vb 1 *designate, nominate, elect, appoint

Ana *choose, select, prefer, elect, opt: *declare, announce, publish, advertise 2 *mention, instance, specify

Ana *refer, allude, advert: *designate: identify, recognize (see corresponding nouns at RECOGNITION): cite, *quote

nap vb catnap, doze, drowse, snooze, *sleep, slumber

narcotic *anodyne, opiate, nepenthe

narrate *relate, rehearse, recite, recount, describe, state, report

Ana tell, *reveal, disclose, discover: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant

narrative *story, tale, anecdote, yarn

Ana chronicle, *account, report, story, version: *fiction, fabrication, figment, fable

narrow, narrow-minded *iliberal, intolerant, bigoted, hidebound


Ant broad, broad-minded—Con *liberal, progressive, advanced, radical: tolerant, *forbearing, indulgent, lenient

narrow, small—Con same (opposed to foreign, alien)

nasty *dirty, filthy, squalid, foul

Ana *coarse, gross, vulgar, obscene, ribald: tainted, contaminated, polluted, defiled (see CONTAMINATE): indiscrete, indecent, unseemly, improper, *indecorous

nation *race, people

national n *citizen, subject

native adj Native, indigenous, endemic, aboriginal, autochthonous all mean belonging to or associated with a particular place by birth or origin. A person or thing is native (opposed to foreign, alien) that has had his or its birth or origin in the place in question (a native American) a native New Yorker a native tradition (native artists left the state and studied abroad—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) a one-story structure of native stone—S. S. King) A person or thing is indigenous (opposed to naturalized, exotic) that is not only native but also has not been introduced from elsewhere into the place indicated (maize is indigenous to America) Southern Rhodesia at present

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natural

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employs about half a million Africans, of whom half are
indigenous and half are migrants from neighboring
territories—Peter Scott) <no written flora anywhere in
the world admits as indigenous that lusty weed . . . called
Good-King-Henry—Peattie) Indigenous is applied usually to kinds (as species or races) rather than to individuals
and often implies reference to a larger area than native
(as to a country, or to a region characterized by a particular type of climate). A thing is endemic (opposed to
exotic and in medicine to pandemic) which not only is
indigenous but is also peculiar to, or in the case of a
disease, prevalent in, a restricted region because of special
conditions favoring its growth or existence <edelweiss
is endemic in the Alps> <that complacency which is an
endemic disease of academic groups—Conant) A person
or thing is aboriginal that belongs to the earliest known
race inhabiting a country or to the people found there (as
by explorers, colonists, and invaders); the term usually
implies the lack of a known predecessor and often connotes a primitive culture <Indians are the aboriginal
Americans) < America must turn again to catch the spirit
of her own dark, aboriginal continent—D. H. Lawrence)
<the Kooboos, a primitive aboriginal race in the southeast of Sumatra—Frazer) Aboriginal is more rarely
applied to the earliest ascertainable native plants and
animals. Something is autochthonous which has its origin
in the place in which it is found (autochthonous rocks)
<an autochthonous flora) When applied to races of men
or their achievements, it implies purity of stock or freedom from all external influences <as long as the States
continue to . . . be dominated by the poetry of the Old
World, and remain unsupplied with autochthonous song
. . . so long will they stop short of first-class nationality
— Whitman)
Ant alien, foreign

natural

thing at all except his collection of modern paintings
—Dahl) <she was so simple and trustful that I always
thought it would be as wicked to hurt her as to hurt a
babe in swaddling clothes— Webb) Ingenuous stresses
inability to disguise or to conceal one's thoughts or
feelings; it usually implies frankness or candor, lack of
reserve, or freedom from dissimulation, often with a hint
of childlike simplicity < Father had set a dog on him. A
less ingenuous character would be silent about such
passages . . . but that is not his quality—H. G. Wells)
<to post-Freudian ears this kind of language seems touchingly quaint and ingenuous—Huxley) Naïve implies freedom from all that is artificial, conventional, or acquired;
in early use and still often, especially in its derivative
noun naivete, it suggests freshness, spontaneity, and
genuine expression of a nature untouched by worldly
influences and without affectation or artifices <by contrast
with the poetry of Vergil, that of Homer seems strikingly
naïve) <a delightfully naïve personality) <he claimed to
himself to be innocent or naïve, but his pretense was the
thinnest—Cheever) But it may sometimes become a term
of derogation and then often implies lack of worldly
wisdom <Sophia, the naïve ninny, had actually supposed
that her walking along a hundred yards of pavement with
a god by her side was not going to excite remark!—
Bennett) <one does not ask favors, if it can be avoided,
of persons one genuinely respects; one puts such burdens
upon the naïve and colorless, upon what are called the
good-natured—Mencken) Equally often, especially in
learned use, it suggests the point of view of the untutored
or unenlightened person or of one whose judgments are
not corrected by advanced scientific or philosophical
knowledge and who therefore supposes that things are
what they seem to be <the naïve science of an earlier
day merely took it for granted that space and time existed
in their own right—Jeans) <that naïve patriotism which
leads every race to regard itself as evidently superior to
every other—Krutch) Unsophisticated also stresses lack
of wisdom, especially worldly wisdom. It does not, however, emphasize native simplicity as strongly as naïve;
rather, it suggests lack of the experience or training necessary for worldly success or, more specifically, for graceful
and adroit social relations <she's not the type of the
moment, not elegant or artificial, too much the unsophisticated child of nature—Rose Macaulay)
<Italian
civilization had, in short, everything to dazzle the imagination of unsophisticated northerners emerging into a period
of prosperity— T. S. Eliot) Artless lays the stress on the
absence of design; it suggests naturalness that is the result
of indifference to, or unawareness of, the effect or impression one is producing (overflowing with . . . artless
maternal gratitude—Austen) <almost every turn in the
artless little maid's prattle touched a new mood in him
—Meredith) <he hated to seem heavy or profound or
anything but artless and spontaneous to Cecily—H. G.
Wells) Unaffected centers the attention on the absence
of affectation, but it usually implies both naturalness
and simplicity without any hint of childishness, unworldliness, guilelessness, or indifference <a well-bred, unaffected girl) <he was extremely simple and unaffected
in his attitude, and readily approachable—MacCallum)
<gratified by his young guest's unaffected admiration for
this treasure— Wylie)

natural adj 1 * regular, normal, typical
Ana ordinary, *common, familiar: *usual, customary,
habitual, accustomed, wonted
Ant unnatural: artificial: adventitious
2 Natural, simple, ingenuous, naïve, unsophisticated, artless, unaffected are applied to persons, their acts, and their
utterances, in the sense of wholly free from pretension or
calculation. Natural implies, on the one hand, freedom
from every sign of artificiality, effort, constraint, or
affectation and, on the other hand, an ease, a spontaneousness, or a flexibility that suggests nature rather than
art; the term often implies opposition to whatever is
labored, stiff, formal, or artificial <set him to write poetry,
he is limited, artificial, and impotent; set him to write
prose, he is free, natural, and effective— Arnold) <it is
of the essence of such talk that it should be natural
and attractive, not professional or didactic—Benson)
<she was so friendly and so natural that it was nice to
talk to her about what was interesting him—Archibald
Marshall) <the fact is that a poetic language which
appears natural to one age will appear unnatural or artificial to another—Day Lewis) Simple stresses complete
freedom from everything that might suggest unconscious
or conscious duplicity. It usually implies lack of confusion
of aims, desires, interests, or values and therefore may
carry one or the other of connotations as divergent as
mental immaturity and intellectual ripeness, as the lack
of experience characteristic of the child and the fullness
of wisdom characteristic of the sage, or as the transparency Ana *spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive: ingrained,
of those who do not know how to conceal their nature or constitutional, * inherent
motives and that of those who have nothing to conceal Con formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial:
<nothing is more simple than greatness; indeed, to be sim- pretentious, ostentatious, *showy: affected, assumed,
ple is to be great—Emerson)
<a man of mild and simple counterfeited, feigned (see ASSUME)
character who up to then had shown no interest in any- natural n *fool, idiot, imbecile, moron, simpleton
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.


nearly, almost, approximately, well-nigh are comparable
neat, tidy, trim, snug, shipshape, spick-and-span mean

next, nearest are both superlative forms of near, but they are not always interchangeable. Nearest may be used wherever the intent is merely to indicate the highest degree of propinquity (as in space, time, or kinship) the nearest house is five miles distant their nearest neighbor lives two miles away her nearest relatives are her father and mother

next off a neat place, with its piles of magazines and newspapers stacked in orderly fashion MacInnes or the clearness that is indicated in simplicity and freedom from what clutters, complicates, or confuses or that indicates orderliness, deftness, or adroitness neat workmanship a neat style neat minds, who prefer things in their proper places, ticketed and pigeonholed Dixon a neat rector

Trim commonly suggests a pleasing neatness and order diligently maintained he's always tidy without being smart; his coat is old and his trousers are uncreased, but they're both clean, and nothing's loose or torn Richard Harrison

As distinguished from neat, tidy throws the stress on orderliness, careful arrangement, or a place for everything, rather than on cleanliness or simplicity a tidy desk a tidy sewing basket once upon a time the universe was all tidy, with everything in its proper place, and... ever since then it has been growing more and more disorderly Russell (they have an unfailing instinct for doing things in a tidy way—their busy airports handle passengers with remarkable smoothness Rolo Trim implies both neatness and tidiness; it stresses, however, such smartness or spruceness in appearance as is given by clean line and excellent proportions trim clipper ship a trim figure his shoes and buckles, too, though plain, were trim Dickens a crisscross of trim... paths Lowet Trim, though close to trim, tends to carry a stronger implication of compactness, of neatness, and of jauntiness of appearance and is especially applicable to persons or their clothes she has a trig new tailored suit his hair was hardly even gray, and he stood as straight and trig as a fence post Hersey a wonderfully trig beret, wide and flat New Yorker Snug (see also comfortable) in the present relation applies basically to ships and suggests a fine trimness of line and construction a snug little ship or adequate and orderly preparation for a voyage and especially for riding out a storm soon all was snug aloft, and we were allowed to go below Dana In other applications the term may imply a neat, compact, ordered state that affords security or sheltered ease everything on this snug property was bright, thriving, and well kept Hardy snug little shops that once offered Cornhill the best soups and jellies West Shipshape is often used in place of snug to describe not only ships where tidiness and trimness prevail but whatever depends for its success or well-being upon habits of tidiness and orderliness his affairs are in shipshape condition look to the babes, and till I come again keep everything shipshape Tennyson everything from rifles to shoeboxes got a complete going over. It was my job to see that all was perfect. Finally, I felt confident everything was shipshape H. V. Keltenborn

Spick-and-span, which stresses the brightness and freshness of something new, is applicable also to what by care and cleanliness has been kept new in appearance or made to look like new spick-and-span white shoes the kitchen was spick-and-span spick-and-span machinery no spots came on his clothes. No sloppy habits crept upon him. He was always spick-and-span—White

Ana clean, cleanly fastidious, nice, dainty, finicky exact, precise, correct, accurate Ant filthy —Con unkempt, disheveled, slovenly, slipshod, sloppy slack, lax, remiss, negligent confused, mulled, addled (see confuse)

necessary 1 needful, requisite, indispensable, essential Ana compelling or compulsory, obliging or obligatory, constraining (see corresponding verbs at force) important, significant, momentous (see corresponding nouns at importance) cardinal, vital, essential, fundamental

neat, tidy, trim, trig, snug, shipshape, spick-and-span mean manufacturing care and orderliness. Neat through all its variations in sense keeps as its basic implication clearness, such as the clearness from dirt or soil that is manifest chiefly in perfect cleanliness her house is as neat as a pin the cat is the neatest of domestic animals he was remarkably neat in his dress Johnson it was
need

2 *certain, inevitable
Ana unavoidable, unescapable, inescapable, ineluctable,
*invariably: *infallible, inerrable, inerrant, unerring
necessitous *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken
Ana impoverished, drained, depleted, exhausted, bankrupt (see DEPRETE)
Con *rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent

necessity *need, exigency
Ana compelling or compulsion, constraining or constraint, obliging or obligation, coercing or coercion (see corresponding verbs at FORCE): indispensables, requisites or requisition, needfulness (see corresponding adjectives at NEEDFUL)

need n
Need, necessity, exigency may all denote either a state or condition requiring something as essential or indispensable or dispensable or the thing required. Need implies pressure and urgency arising either from external or internal causes or forces; it may merely suggest the call of an appetite or demand for emotional or intellectual satisfaction <he is in need of food> <children have a need for affection> <he felt the need of an education> or it may imply circumstances (as a breakdown or interruption of activity, poverty, a storm, or a threat of war) that expose a lack of or create a demand for something indispensable (as to the well-being, protection, security, success, or functioning of those or the one concerned) <the need of a city for an adequate water supply> <provide food and lodging for those in need> <the need of a city for an adequate water supply> <the need of a city for an adequate water supply>
needful <of a city> <for a need of a city for an adequate water supply>

necessity rather than charity was responsible for the United Nations—Fuerer

<necessity> rather than charity was responsible for the United Nations—Fuerer

needful

need vb
*lack, want, require
Ana *demand, require, claim, exact: *long, hanker, pine, yearn, hunger, thirst: crave, covet, *desire, wish
needful, necessary, requisite, indispensable, essential are comparable when meaning urgently required. Needful carries the weakest suggestion of urgency, but it applies to something that is required to supply a want or to fulfill a need (forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings—U. S. Constitution) <tradesmen carrying what was needful to British ports—Reppler> <a sensitive, flexible, resourceful adaptation to objective facts is especially needful—Muller>

Necessary implies more pressing need or urgent constraint but, except where the compulsion of necessity in the sense of an inherent, logically compelling principle <a necessary consequence> <a necessary conclusion> <patience ... is a necessary mark of the liberal mind—Dewey> is suggested, the word need not connote that the thing so qualified cannot be done without but more often indicates it to be infinitely desirable rather than absolutely required; thus, tires are necessary to proper management of an automobile, but in a sufficient emergency one might drive without them <his personal return was most required and necessary—Shak>

(it was nineteen-thirty-five and honeymoon in Europe were not considered necessary by anyone—Flood) <made himself so necessary to the company that by 1849 he was general superintendent of the road—Harlow> <always finding a more necessary article for which a less necessary had to be discarded—Cather> <of all the bitter and heavy things in this old world, the not being necessary is the bitterest and heaviest—Deland>

Requisite differs from necessary chiefly in being applied to something that is specifically required by the nature of a thing, the end that is in view, or the purpose to be fulfilled; usually the adjective suggests an imposed requirement rather than an inner need and so suggests constraint from without or, often, from official sources <complete the subjects requisite for college entrance> <the vigor requisite to success—Grandgent> <the requisite quorum of forty members was not present—Schuyler>

Indispensable not only carries a stronger implication of urgency than the preceding terms, but it also distinctly implies that the thing so qualified cannot be done without, especially if the implied or expressed end cannot be attained <there is no such thing as an indispensable person, though many persons have made themselves virtually indispensable> <the jury is the indispensable element in the popular vindication of the criminal law—Frankfurter> <rigid truthfulness in adults towards children is absolutely indispensable if children are not to learn lying—Russell>

Essential (see also ESSENTIAL 2, INHERENT) is often used in place of indispensable as implying no less urgency but as being less extravagant in its suggestion; it usually also implies inherent necessity from the point of view of what a thing is or must be by its very nature or end <knowledge of one’s subject is essential to successful teaching> <essential raw materials> <you are essential to her perfect happiness—Dickens> <the builders must have begun with the central pier and the choir, because the choir was the essential part of the church—Henry Adams> <the construction of the pier was desirable for the more convenient repair of warships, but it was not essential—Justice Holmes>

Ana wanted, needed, required, lacked (see LACK vb): vital, cardinal, *essential, fundamental

needy adj
*poor, indigent, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous

Ana & Con see those at NECESSITOUS

nefarious injurious, flagitious, infamous, corrupt, de-
negate  

*nullify, annul, abrogate, invalidate  

negative *neutral, indifferent  

Ant affirmative  

negative vb 1 *deny, gainsay, traverse, contradict, impugn, contravene  
2 *neutralize, counteract  

Ana *nullify, negate, annul, abrogate, invalidate  

neglect vb *Neglect, omit, disregard, ignore, overlook, slight, Ana usually carries a suggestion of willful ignoring or of a threat, insulted, made ill ... but I am justified—Gather)  
full value—(disregard neglect of good nature to the faults which have already, of care or attention <he was changing into his dress clothes .... He had neglected to hang them up the night before, and for once they were bedraggled—Mailer)  
<a>he asked Mr. Powell with some brusqueness if the chief mate had neglected to instruct him that the captain was to be found on the port side—Conrad  
<neglect his family> <omitting a leaving out of something; <it was—well, until yesterday—all but draggled—Con> (omit two stanzas of a hymn) <got up late and omitted breakfast> or a neglecting entirely through oversight, inattention, or absorption of an important detail, opportunity, or aspect <Constance remembered small possessions of her own which she had omitted remove from the cutting-out room—Bennett>  
Disregard usually implies voluntary, sometimes deliberate, inattention; the term may or may not imply justifiable neglect <disregard petty annoyances> <disregard an unimportant piece of evidence> <she persists in disregarding the wishes of her mother> <nearly all the humane alleviations of brutal violence, introduced and practised in the days when professional armies fought for a dynasty or for a point of honor, were disregarded—inge> <floating convention and disregarding his own clerical position—Handlin>  
Ignore usually implies either an intention to disregard or a failure to regard something more or less obvious; it may even suggest a deliberate closing of the eyes to what one does not wish to recognize <to those who agree with me I am uttering commonplaces and to those who disagree I am ignoring the necessary foundations of thought—Justice Holmes> <its mathematics approaches mysticism and its theory contains certain impossibilities which are ignored in practice—Theodore Sturgeon>  
by tacit agreement they ignored the remarks and insinuations of their acquaintances—D. H. Lawrence  
Overlook implies an omitting or disregarding, sometimes through intention but more often through haste, or lack of care <overlook an item in an account> <it is the practice of good nature to overlook the faults which have already, by the consequences, punished the delinquent—Johnson> <winced when he heard so young a man call him by nickname, but he overlooked this also in light of what had happened—Purdy> Slight may imply neglect, omission, or disregard, but it also usually implies a contemptuous or an arrogant attitude that makes one undervalue a thing's importance, treat a person disdainfully, or be negligent in performance of a task or duty <nothing in the service was slighted, every phrase and gesture had its full value—Cather> <I have been slighted, tricked, threatened, insulted, made ill .... but I am justified—H. G. Wells>  
Forget (compare FORGETFUL) often retains in this relation the implication of losing the memory of something or someone, so that when it implies neglect, it usually carries a suggestion of willful ignoring or of a failure to impress the thing neglected upon one's mind <I shall not be surprised to be neglected and forgot—Nelson> <still, he told Hannah to get the boy better clothes—though he forgot to give her any money for the purpose—Deland> <it was—well, until yesterday—all but forgotten—put out of mind, I mean—de la Mare>  
Ant cherish —Con *appreciate, value, prize, treasure: *nurse, nurture, foster, cultivate  

neglect n 1 *failure, default, miscarriage, dereliction  
Ana omitting or omission, disregarding or disregard, ignoring, slighting, forgetting, overlooking (see corresponding verbs at NEGLECT): forgetfulness, obliviousness (see adjectives at FORGETFUL)  
2 *negligence  

Ana neglecting, omitting or omission, disregarding or disregard, ignoring, slighting, forgetting, overlooking (see corresponding verbs at NEGLECT)  

neglectful *negligent, lax, slack, remiss  
Ana *careless, heedless, thoughtless  
Ant attentive —Con *thoughtful, considerate  

negligence, neglect are not always clearly distinguished in use, even though the lines between them may be drawn with some clearness. Negligence stresses the quality or fact of being negligent or careless either as shown in a lack of care in the performance of a task, a duty, or a piece of work or in the operation or handling of a dangerous machine or mechanism which requires effort or close attention <the amazing negligence of some house-keepers> <an act of criminal negligence> <no one has done more through negligence to corrupt the language—Byron> <most of these are involved in accidents through their own negligence—Theodore Sturgeon> or as shown in a temperamental or assumed indifference to small niceties (as in dress, manners, or style) that gives an impression of casualness, artlessness, or lack of artificiality <spoke with conviction, yet with a gentlemanly lightness, almost a negligence, as though to cancel any tone of dogmatism ... in his words—Wouky> <his companion wore well-cut tweeds with a sort of aggressive negligence, as though he hated them—I. A. R. Wylie>  
Neglect, on the other hand, applies either to the act or fact of leaving undone or carelessly, or imperfectly done something which it is one's business or duty to do <convicted of neglect of duty> <we made a nice tidy cleanup .... If I hadn't done it I ought either to have been shot for neglect or dismissed for incapacity—H. G. Wells>  
<in dealing with the infant ... there is need of a delicate balance between neglect and indulgence—Russell> or to the state or fact of being neglected, slighted, ignored, or forgotten <rescue my poor remains from vile neglect—Prior> <a ... motive for reading it ... [that] ensured poetry against neglect—Day Lewis> <destined either to constantly inadequate execution or to complete neglect—Virgil Thomson>  
For these reasons the phrase "the negligence of a person" always refers to a quality of character of the person as an agent or to its outward manifestation (as in an act, a piece of work, or an accident) while "the neglect of a person" refers to the act of another who neglects, slight, ignores, or forgets the person, thereby making the latter his victim.  
Ana laxness, slackness, remissness (see corresponding adjectives at NEGLIGENCE): indifference, unconcernedness or unconcern, incuriousness (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)  

Ant attention: solicitude —Con *care, concern, anxiety, worry: diligence, assiduity, sedulousness (see corresponding adjectives at BUSY)  

negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss are comparable when applied to persons, their ways of working or acting,
and the results of their work or activities with the meaning culpably careless or manifesting such carelessness. Negligent implies such culpable inattentiveness as is likely to result in imperfection, incompleteness, slovenliness, or danger or damage to others (his family knew him to be ... a most negligent and dilatory correspondent—Austen) (so negligent in his poetical style ... so slovenly, slipshod, and infelicitous—Arnold) (a careless workman, negligent of detail—Edith Hamilton) Neglectful is usually more derogatory or censorious than negligent, for it carries a stronger connotation of laziness or deliberate and blameworthy inattention (parents neglectful of their children’s health) (a government at once insatiable and negligent—Mill) (show no trace of shame, and ... are utterly neglectful of what we consider the first requirements of decency—Westermarck) (see also loose) loose implies a usually blameworthy lack of necessary strictness, sharpness, or precision; the term applies chiefly to persons who do not satisfy the rigorous demands made upon them by their work or duties or to work or an activity performed or carried on within the close attention, constant care, or strict adherence to law or custom that is necessary (a lax parent) (a lax discipline) (lax morals) (lax execution^) (scandalously lax in restraining drunkards from annoying the sober—Trevylyan) (we do not intend to leave things so lax that loopholes will be left for cheaters—Roosevelt) slack (see also loose) stresses the want of proper or necessary diligence and expedition as well as of care; the term usually also implies indolence or sluggishness or indifference (a slack worker) (we keep our wits slack—H. G. Wells) When applied to what is accomplished by a slack worker, the term usually suggests neglect of important details necessary to the completeness, finish, or perfection of the work (a three-quarters figure of admirable design, though of rather lax execution—Stobart) (a fine nose for what was slack in the play or insufficiently developed—Mailer) Remiss implies culpable carelessness that shows itself in slackness and forgetfulness or in negligence; it is applied chiefly to something lax in performance or maintenance, but may be applied to a person who is unduly careless or lax in the performance of his duties (remit housekeeping) (a remiss police officer) (it certainly had been very remiss of him, as Mayor ... to call no meeting ere this—Hardy) (so remiss did they become in their attentions that we could no longer rely upon their bringing us the daily supply of food—Melville) Ana careless, heedless, thoughtless, inadvertent: indifferent, unconcerned, incurious; slipshod, slovenly Con rigid, strict, rigorous: thoughtful, considerate, attentive

negotiate 1 parley, treat, confer, commune, consult, advise

2 Negotiate, arrange, concert are comparable when they mean to bring about or accomplish by mutual agreement especially after discussion or parley. Negotiate and arrange both imply prior exchange of views and wishes and, sometimes, settlement by bargaining or compromise. Negotiate, however, is somewhat more formal and is especially appropriate when the dealings are carried on by diplomatic, business, or legal agencies, while arrange (see also order) may retain some notion of its basic idea of putting in order and is especially applicable to dealings tending to the establishment or restoration of order or to those carried on by private persons or their representatives (negotiate a treaty) (arrange a marriage) (negotiate a monetary understanding with the British government—Current Digest) (arrange the settlement of a case out of court) (a peace with the native chiefs was arranged and the crisis passed—McPherson) Concert implies a planning together and especially a settling upon a joint course of action through conference and negotiation (a conference of Commonwealth finance ministers ... to discuss the balance-of-payments crisis in the sterling area and to concert action to deal with it—Americana Annual) (within another generation there will be another world war if the nations of the world do not concert the method by which to prevent it—Woodrow Wilson)

neighborhood *locality, district, vicinity

neighborly friendly, amicable

Ana peaceful, peaceable, pacific: social, hospitable, gregarious, cooperative: cordial, sociable, gracious

Ant unneighborly: ill-disposed—Con antagonistic, adverse

neophyte *novice, novitiate, probationer, postulant, apprentice

neoplasm *tumor, malignancy, cancer

nepenthe *narcotic, opiate, narcotic, abortifacient

neptic *aquatic, marine, oceanic, thalassic, pelagic, abyssal, lacustrine, fluvial, fluvialite

nerve *effrontery, temerity, audacity, hardihood, cheek, gall

Ana boldness, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives at brave): fortitude, grit, pluck, sand, guts: foolhardiness, recklessness (see corresponding adjectives at aportentous)

nerve vb encourage, inspire, hearten, embolden, cheer, steel

Ana strengthen, invigorate, fortify, energize: rally, stir, rouse, arouse: renew, restore, refresh

Ant unnerve—Con enervate, unman, emasculate (see unnerve): discourage, dishearten, dispirit, deject

nervous 1 vigorous, lusty, energetic, strenuous

Ana forceful, forcible, potent, powerful: spirited, mettlesome: virile, manly (see male) 2 impatient, restless, restive, unquiet, uneasy, fidgety, jumpy, jittery

Ana excited or excitabile, stimulated, provoked or provocative (see corresponding verbs at provoke): inconstant, unstable, mercurial

Ant steady—Con constant, even, equable, uniform (see steady)

nettle provoke, exasperate, irritate, aggravate, rile, peev

Ana annoy, irk, bother, vex: disturb, perturb, agitate, upset, *discompose: fret, chafe, gall (see abrade)

network *system, scheme, complex, organism, economy

neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst are comparable though not synonymous terms that denote a specialist in mental disorders. A neurologist is a physician skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous system, that is, of diseases (as epilepsy or locomotor ataxia) that involve structural or functional disorder of nervous tissue. Psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist all designate a physician who devotes himself to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the mind or emotions and especially, as distinguished from neurologist, of disorders (as neurasthenia, hysteria, and paranoia) not demonstrably of physical origin. Psychiatrist is the general term, applicable to any such physician, while alienist is the preferred term in medical jurisprudence and may especially suggest skill in detection of mental derangements or of insanity, and psychopathologist may specifically apply to a physician specializing in emotional disorders and dealing largely with the dynamic factors (as defects of personality or unfavorable environment) underlying such disorders. A psychotherapist may be either a physician or a layman (as...
a psychologist, social worker, or clergyman) who treats mental or emotional disorder or maladjustment by psychological means and especially those involving verbal communication. A psychoanalyst is a psychotherapist and usually a physician (nonmedical psychoanalysts being often distinguished as lay analysts) who employs a form of psychotherapy, especially in the treatment of psychoneuroses, that is designed to bring unconscious and preconscious material into consciousness and involves largely the analysis of resistance and the establishment and analysis of a transference neurosis.

neutral adj Neutral, negative, indifferent are comparable when they mean lacking decisiveness or distinctiveness in character, quality, action, or effect. Neutral, in one of its earliest and still common senses, applies to states, governments, parties, or persons who refuse to take sides with either of two or any of several contesting parties. The term need not imply an attitude of impartiality, but it usually implies either indecision or a refraining from positive action (his family connections kept him neutral, and the household was never drawn into the war—Buchan) or to states, governments, or parties (neutral with the English—Ghent) or to an alliance with the English—Ghent. Neutral implies an annulling, a contradicting, a making futile, useless, or ineffective, or a vitiating by an opposing force, effect, or result (as if the wind might blow it over, thus negating the idea of solidity—Bennett). It is only in literature that the paradoxical and even mutually negating anecdotes in the history of a human heart can be juxtaposed and annealed by art into verisimilitude and credibility—Faulkner.

Ana offset, countervail, counterbalance, counterpoise (see COMPENSATE): defeat, overcome, subdue, conquer

new adj New, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modern, modernistic, original, fresh can all mean having very recently come into existence or use or into a connection, a position, or a state (as of being recognized). A thing is new that has never before the time of its advent been known, thought of, manufactured, or experienced, or that is just ready for use, sale, or circulation, or that has just been acquired (new books) (new ideas) (a new washing machine) (no man putteth new wine into old bottles—Mk 2:22) (a new way of dressing her hair) A person is new if he has just been taken into a military, business, social, or other group (a new soldier) (a new stenographer) (three new members) or if he has received his first experience (he was . . . frightened, being new to the sight—Dickens) or if he has been renewed in spirit or in mind or in body (the quiet hills which I am now seeing again, with a new and contented eye—O'Connor) (the hot food made a new man of him) A thing is novel which is not only new but so out of the ordinary course as to strike one as strange, unusual, or unfamiliar (novel forms of government, like those of Russia and Italy—Frankfurter) (novel schemes of salvation—L. P. Smith) (sermons . . . bold in thought and novel in language—Wharton) A thing is new-fashioned which is so different in form, shape, style, or character from what was previously known that it challenges curiosity or has only recently met general acceptance (new-fashioned modes of painting) (new-fashioned hats for women are regarded as absurd by many men) (the type of old-fashioned scholarship) (the type of new-fashioned criticism—S. E. Hymans) A thing is new-fashioned which strikes one as unnecessarily or as ingeniously novel; often, however, the term differs little from new except in suggesting disparagement (newfangled toys) (newfangled theories of art) (a newfangled nomenclature—Hamilton) quite a modern hostelry for its time. It had such newfangled doodads as mechanical dishwashers and potato peelers

American—A. E. Stevenson
Con biased, disposed, predisposed (see INCLINE vb); positive, *affirmative; *decided, decisive

neutralize, counteract, negative are comparable when they mean to make something inoperative or ineffective usually by means of an opposite force, influence, or effect. Neutralize implies an equalizing, making ineffectual or inoperative, or nullifying by an opposing force, power, agency, or effect (a quinine that can neutralize his venom; it is called courage—Davis) (neutralize the effects of propaganda with counterpropaganda so as to render the international environment favorable—Latham) (our esteem for facts has not neutralized in us all religiousness—James) Counteract may imply merely neutralizing or counterbalancing; it is often used in situations in which the good and bad or the beneficial and deleterious are opposed (these two principles have often sufficed, even when counteracted by great public calamities and by bad institutions, to carry civilization rapidly forward—Macaulay) (frequently visited the Choctaws, in an effort to counteract the influence of the French and to win them to an alliance with the English—Ghent) Negative implies an annulling, a contradicting, a making futile, useless, or ineffective, or a vitiating by an opposing force, effect, or result (as if the wind might blow it over, thus negating the idea of solidity—Bennett) (it is only in literature that the paradoxical and even mutually negating anecdotes in the history of a human heart can be juxtaposed and annealed by art into verisimilitude and credibility—Faulkner).
newfangled  

A person or thing is modern that belongs to the present time or is especially characteristic of it; the term often implies up-to-dateness and novelty or a contrast with what has been long accepted and still is the choice of the conservative: in this special sense modernistic may be preferred to modern, but more often modernistic carries a contumacious suggestion of the ephemeral novel. When I refer to modern music, I do not mean necessarily modernistic music, much of which is a pale afterglow of the great and original modernism of yesteryear—Virgil Thomson

Modern, however, is always preferred to modernistic when contemporaneity only is implied (in modern art atmosphere counts for so much—Wilde) this strange disease of modern life, with its sick hurry, its divided aims, its heads o’ertaxed, its palsied hearts—Arnold

But modern is also applicable to things of more remote origin than any of the other terms; as supposedly ancient and medieval it usually implies reference to the centuries beginning with the full Renaissance up to the present (modern languages) (modern civilizations)

Often, however, the dividing line between what is modern and what is too far distant in time to be called modern has to be supplied by the context (the Victorian era gave way to the modern age of machinery) (most modern well-to-do Englishmen and Americans, if they were transported by magic into the age of Elizabeth, would wish themselves back in the modern world—Russell)

A person or thing is original that is or produces something new or novel and, at the same time, the first of its kind (that he would be successful in an original way, or that he would go to the dogs in an original way, seemed equally probable—Hardy) (they contain no new ideas . . . [he] was anything but an original thinker—R. A. Hall) (some areas were occupied by savages, in others there were brilliant and original civilizations—Poole)

A thing is fresh that is or seems so new that it has not had time to lose the signs of newness, such as liveliness, energy, brightness, or virginal quality (fresh footsteps) (receive a fresh impetus) (make a fresh start) (this was a new voice falling upon the attentive ears of youth—a fresh challenge to its native and impetuous generosity—Repple) (a great shouting at the coal works because a fresh vein of coal had been discovered—Woolf)

Ant

old

newfangled  *new, novel, new-fashioned, modernistic, modern, original, fresh

cornerstones (see also CARTOON) implies the desirability or the practical value of the information rather than its freshness (their visits to Mrs. Philips were now productive of the most interesting intelligence—Austen) In specific military use intelligence suggests clandestine methods of gathering information (as by secret agents). It is therefore applied not only to the information gathered but to the branch of the service commissioned to gather it (an enemy superior in numbers, who possessed also the advantage in armament, position, and more accurate intelligence—Buchan)

In comparison with intelligence, which often suggests the gathering of important information, advice stresses the transmission of information and implies the immediacy of its value. It, or its plural advices, is often applied to the means (as letters, telegrams, or messengers) by which this information is communicated (no doubt he had advices that Casale was sufficiently provisioned to last for many months, perhaps a year—Bulloch) (beginning their advice with the revelation that a rich potential for future prosperity and happiness had been discovered in atomic energy—Burlingame)


newspaper  *journal, periodical, magazine, review, organ

next *nearest

nib *bill, beak, neb

nice 1 Nice, dainty, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical,

particularly, fussy, squeamish, persnickety, persnickety can all mean exacting or displaying exacting standards (as in selection, judgment, or workmanship). Nice (see also CORRECT, DECOROUS) implies fineness of discrimination and power to distinguish the very good from the merely good; the term may connote more of intellectual quality than the other words can

appetite for knowledge (therefore to be nice—Johnson) (he had a nice taste in literature and had edited Crashaw with conspicuous taste and much perception—Mackenzie)

Nice is also applicable to questions or problems which require such powers of discrimination and subtlety or delicacy in handling if the solution is to be found (a nice experiment) (the situation raises a nice question) (it is a nice point in ethics whether it is dishonest to rob one's own money-box—Lynd)

Dainty (see also CHOICE) usually implies a tendency to select carefully what does, or to reject with more or less disdain what does not, satisfy one's extremely delicate taste or sensibility; it usually connotes chairiness or a tendency to pick and choose, especially in eating (I have been silent—the hunger cannot be dainty—but it is useless to tell a pampered man this—M. W. Shelley) (no shape but his can please your dainty eye—Shak) (it's all right to be dainty about money when you've lots of it as you have—Behrman)

Fastidious implies a strong aversion to something that does not satisfy one's sense of what is right, proper, or in good taste; it may suggest the possession of ethical, artistic, social, or other standards that are so high that they impose a strain upon those who would meet them (it is . . . an advantage for an author to have two or three fastidious readers whom he can imagine sniffing at his pages—L. P. Smith) (he isn't always easy to work for, being fastidious in his standards and uncompromising in his demands—Wechaberg) or that cause suffering to the possessor when they are not satisfied (the disorder was almost more than his fastidious taste could bear—Cather) or that foster extreme care in selection from what is offered or available (why such a desperate orgy of literature? I thought you were of a more fastidious habit—not like Stanley, who insists on reading everything—Rose Macaulay) (he liked people, was . . . not too fastidious to get along with barkeeps and party toughs and sufficiently cultivated to get along with gentlemen—Commager)

Finicky and finicking as well as the less common finical imply an affected or overnice fastidiousness (his reserve,
his delicacy, his distaste for many of the persons and things surrounding him... have produced an impression of Gray as being a man falsely fastidious, finical, effeminate—Arnold> (his voice is too soft, his manners too precise. He is genial, yet he is finicky—Mailer> (finicking fishermen demand almost as many rods as there are varieties of fish—Monsanto Mag.) Particular implies an insistence that all details or circumstances must be exactly as one wishes them or that one's special or peculiar standards must be met. In contrast with fastidious, particular need not imply what others would call a high standard; the term usually suggests standards which the individual regards as high or exacting (she is particular about the way steak should be broiled) (every year it used to get a nice coat of paint—Papa was very particular about the paint—Hellman> (when it came to sharing his walks, Henry was rather particular.) Alcott served for a stroll, but the real art of walking was beyond him—Brooks) (as she approached, George Adams, who had a particular mother, rose, and Niel followed his example—Cather> Fussy is applicable not only to fastidious or particular persons and acts that manifest a disposition to be querulous or fidgety (she was not one of the trivially fussy domesticated women—Ellis> (men who are finicky and a bundle of nerves. Fussy about their food, too—Christie) (in this matter Augustus moved slowly and tactfully. He was no lawyer, and he had not the fussy interest of Claudius in the work of the courts—Buchan> (indenting each paragraph half the width of a page, in a finicky, old-maidish sort of way—Robert Lewis> but also to things that are especially difficult or complicated (he looked like a natural for the finicky bookkeeping routine of an orderly room—Binney> (a finny piece of work.) Squeamish implies a tendency to be easily nauseated by the sight, taste, smell, or hearing of something disagreeable (the starved stomach is not squeamish—Hudson) In its extended use it implies squeamishness or prudishness or scrupulousness (as to the nuditides... they might well have startled a not very squeamish eye—Hawthorne> (our nerves... are unduly delicate, and our tastes too squeamish—Stephen) (she came of vigorous stock, prone to consult its own will and speak its opinions with no squeamish concern for a neighbor's views—Parrington) (since the daughter may fascinate the duke, and he would feel squeamish about incest, the relationship must be kept secret—Times Lit. Sup.) Persnickety and persnickety convey the user's reaction of annoyance, exasperation, or disgust toward persons who are unduly finicky or finical, or tasks or problems that are so delicate or complicated as to impose severe strain on one's patience and good temper (approached native food and drink pretty much like a persnickety peacetime tourist—Pyle> (the grammarian, the purist, the persnickety stickler for trifles—Matthews> (new mechanical devices... may be all right for those persnickety fellows, the exact scientists or the social scientists, but the humanities get along well enough without them—H. M. Jones> 

**Ana** *careless, heedless, inadvertent* 3 proper, seemly, *decorous, decent* Ana fitting, *fit, appropriate, suitable, meet** niggardly parsimonious, penurious, miserly, *stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tightfisted, cheesepearing, penny-pinching* Ana *covetous, avaricious, grasping, greedy: *sparing, economical, frugal, thrifty: *mean, ignoble* Ant bountiful —Con *liberal, generous, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, handsome: *profuse, lavish, prodigal*  

**nightly adj & adv** *close, near, nearby* Ant far **nightly adj** *nightily, nocturnal*  

**nightly, nocturnal, night** all mean of, relating to, or associated with the night. Nightly, opposed to daily, may mean no more than this (all is quiet, no alarms; nothing fear of nightly harms—Housman> (the increase in body size may have been an important factor in releasing the early primates from their nightly or twilight feeding habits, by allowing them better to hold their own against aggressors—LaBarre> But nightly is the one of these terms that usually carries a strong implication of recurrence and is especially appropriate to convey the idea of happening night after night (there is only one novel this writer can recall which delves beneath the surface of the daily and nightly life and death of a great and influential newspaper—Harrison Smith> Nocturnal, opposed to diurnal, is often interchangeable with nightly, especially in its more general sense (the squares of light along the fifteen story story testified until midnight of their nocturnal industry—Auchincloss> (the changing beauty of nocturnal landscapes—Bennett> but distinctively it may mean active at night (shopping, working, theatergoing, and arguing hours in Barcelona never cease to amaze visitors from less nocturnal countries. Some shops stay open until well after midnight, and then are closed until the next noon—Wechsberg> (the eyes of most fish are adapted to the conditions of dim illumination associated with nocturnal feeding—Dowdeswell> Night in much of its use is interchangeable with nocturnal and may be preferred to the latter when a less formal term is required (night noises) (the night train) (a night ape) Distinctively, the term is used to describe persons who work at night (a night nurse) (ask the night clerk) and things that occur or are intended for use at night (night baseball) (a bank with a night depository) **Ant daily**  

**nightmare** dream, vision, *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, nightmare* or threatening or threat, menacing or menace (see corresponding verbs at THREATEN)  

**nimble** agile, brisk, spry  


**noblility** aristocracy, gentry, county, elite, society  

**noble** 1 stately, majestic, imposing, august, magnificent, *grand, grandiose* Ana glorious, *splendid, resplendent, superb, sublime: illustrious, eminent (see FAMOUS) Ant ignoble: cheap —Con despicable, *contemptible, sorry, scurvy, beggarly* 2 virtuous, righteous, *moral, ethical*
nocturnal *nightly
Ant diurnal
noise n *sound
Ana *din, uproar, babel, hubbub, clamor, racket, pandemonium
noisefull silent, quiet, *still, stilly
Ana *calm, tranquil, serene, placid
Con clamorous, vociferous, strident, boisterous
nonsense fetid, stinking, *malodorous, putrid, rank, rancid, fusty, musty
Ant balmy — Con *odorous, fragrant, aromatic, redolent
nomadic *itinerant, peripatetic, ambulatory, ambulant, vagrant
nom de guerre *pseudonym, alias, pen name, nom de plume, incognito
nom de plume pen name, nom de guerre, *pseudonym, alias, incognito
nominate *designate, name, elect, appoint
Ana propose, *intend, mean, purpose: present, tender, *offer, proffer
nominee *candidate, aspirant, applicant
nonage *infancy, minority
Ant age
nonchalant unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, *cool, composed, collected
Con concerned, solicitous, anxious, worried, careful
(see under CARE n)
non compos mentis *insane, mad, crazy, crazed, deranged, lunatic, maniac
nonconformist n dissenter, sectary, sectarian, *heretic, schismatic
nonesuch *paragon, apotheosis, nonpareil
nominal unmanual, amoral, *immoral
nonpareil *paragon, apotheosis, nonsuch
nonplus bewilder, distract, confound, dumbfound, mystify, perplex, *puzzle
Ana faze, rattle, *embarrass, discomfit, disconcert: *confuse, muddle: baffle, balk, *frustrate
nonreligious unreligious, *irreligious, ungodly, godless
Ana secular, *profane, lay, temporal
nonsense, twaddle, drivel, bunk, balderdash, poppycock, gobbledegook, trash, rot, bull are comparable when they mean something said or proposed which is senseless or absurd. Nonsense is the most general of these terms; it may be referred to action or behavior as well as to utterances or to proposals, and it may imply foolery or humbuggery as well as absurdity or senselessness (no throaty oratorical nonsense was there—White) she told them she would stand no more of their nonsense (then let Esther give up this nonsense of hers!—Deland) Twaddle applies to silly empty utterance and suggests the speech of persons who know nothing about a subject yet talk or write about it foolishly, verbosely, or artlessly (weary of the twaddle of theorists) (that reasoning was unadulterated twaddle—Roosevelt) Drivel implies a flow of such idle, inane, or commonplace talk as might befit an imbecile or an idiot; it is a highly contemptuous term for nonsensical spoken or written utterances (phrases which on the face of them may be patently idiotic to a degree approaching drivel—Montague) (writes endless narcissistic drivel in a stream-of-consciousness and disorganized manner—Deutsch) Bunk is an equivalent of nonsense and applies especially to an utterance (as a speech, an opinion, or a doctrine) which, though lacking in real worth or substance, either by intent or by the gullibility of those who listen or accept, hits the popular fancy because it is pretentious, plausible, or high-sounding (they denounced the scheme as bunk) Balderdash and poppycock may apply to confused, trite, complex utterances that lack or seem to lack sense (a vexing combination of high-flown balderdash . . . and threadbare clichés—Gibbs) (the Dissertations are a fascinating farrago of the soundest linguistic common sense and the most egregious poppycock—Pyles) but both words may imply an attempt to mislead or deceive by such utterances (repeats more than once the old and obvious balderdash that the court . . . eschews the deciding of "political questions"—Rodel) (psychology is the youngest of the sciences, and hence chiefly guesswork, empiricism, hocus-pocus, poppycock—Mencken) and both may suggest an unwillingness to see sense on the part of the one that uses them (Uncle William, who thinks your views are all poppycock—Glasgow) (nothing looks stronger or less in need of scrutiny than a commonplace, up to the moment when, having outlived its usefulness, it begins to be called poppycock—Gill) Gobbledygook is used of wordy unintelligible jargon especially when featuring the obscure or technical verbiage of some special field (the current law is a masterpiece of complexity and gobbledygook, and few will contend that the law is successful at all in distinguishing excess profits from ordinary profits—Magill) (the all-too-common passion for pseudo-scientific gobbledygook—one of the ill-begotten offspring of excessive specialization—Odegard) Trash, rot, and bull are applicable to utterances regarded as worthless or confusingly inaccurate or misleading. Trash may stress the empty worthlessness especially of written material (this book is utter trash . . . pure quackery and without scientific standing—Zirkle) and rot, the user's disbelief or disgust (you are just the sort of woman to believe in that kind of rot—Braddon) Bull in its more general use may apply to a grotesque or ludicrous blunder in language (in their most telling appearance they are, to make a bull of it, invisible—Liebling) but often it is a slang term denoting trivial, verbose, and commonly boastful or inaccurate utterance (have no fear of "essay exams," even if they seem to be called essays—an opinion, or a doctrine) which, though lacking in real worth or substance, either by intent or by the gullibility of those who listen or accept, hits the popular fancy because it is pretentious, plausible, or high-sounding (they denounced the scheme as bunk)
notice, remark, observation, comment, commentary, obiter dictum

Anna annotation, gloss (see under annotate): remembering, reminding or reminding, recalling (see corresponding verbs at remember)

notice noteworthy, notable, memorable mean having some quality that attracts one's attention. Noteworthy implies a quality and often a degree of excellence in a person or thing that justifies observation or remark (enough to make a philosopher noteworthy... not enough to make him great—Arnold) (the appearance of a book which formulates a distinct philosophy of life is a rare and noteworthy event—Cohen) Notable too stresses the power of a person or thing to attract attention, but often it distinctively connotes such a special feature as an excellence, a virtue, a value, or a significance that gives rise to its being noted or remembered (the clock kept time with notable accuracy and pertinacity—New Yorker) (it is a symbol of the abnormality of our days that it should be notable when anyone dares stand up and criticize what is happening in America—Bliven b. 1889) Elizabethan and Jacobean poetry... had this and that notable quality, but, when we wish to admit that it had defects, it is rhetorical—T. S. Eliot

Remarkable stresses the power of a person or thing not only of attracting attention but of being worthy to be remembered; it sometimes implies a personal reason for remembrance (a girl with long black hair and a memorable figure—Gibbs) (for the Irresistible Lyovochka this first venture into the great world beyond the towered gates was a memorable event—Simmons) (this extravagant temperament endeared him and his work to the public, and it let him write and draw with memorable vividness—Devoe) (this very occasional compliments, steeped in vinegar though they always were, seem more memorable than those of others—Osbert Sitwell)

Notice *noticeable, remarkable, prominent, conspicuous: patent, manifest, *evident

Notice vb remark, observe, note, perceive, discern, *see, behold, deseryl, esp, view, survey, contemplate

Anna recognize, *acknowledge: *refer, advert, allude

Con ignore, slight, overlook, disregard, *neglect

Noticeable, remarkable, prominent, outstanding, conspicuous, salient, signal, striking, arresting can all mean attracting or compelling notice or attention. Noticeable implies that the thing so described is unlikely to escape observation (a noticeable aversion to his company) (so slight a movement it was barely noticeable—a tiny pushing forward of the hand—Dahl) Remarkable adds to noticeable the further implication of inviting comment or of demanding a call to others' attention; it commonly imputes to the thing so described an extraordinary or exceptional character (he has a remarkable gift for making friends) (far too much has been written and said about ghosts and ghouls... and they're remarkable enough, but have you ever realized that things that are remarkable are by definition rare?—Theodore Sturgeon) Prominent seldom loses its basic implication of protuberance or projection above a level or beyond a surface; it is applied appropriately to things that noticeably protrude from their background (a prominent nose) (fleecle gleams... served to render sufficiently distinct the more prominent objects around—Poe) In extended use it is applied to persons or things that stand out so clearly from their surroundings that they are often in evidence, are generally known or recognized, or are frequently pointed out; in such use it typically attributes superiority or importance to what it describes (the church occupies a prominent position in the community) (the second prominent fault in our reading and thinking is that we have not learned to fix our attention discriminatingly—Mott) (with regard to ill fortune... fate is given the most prominent part—Linton) Outstanding, although it implies prominence, is applicable only to what rises above or beyond others of the same kind and is remarkable by comparison with them (stories of outstanding legislators who had to resign simply because they couldn't afford to serve any longer—Armbrister)

Conspicuous is applicable chiefly to what is so obvious or patent that the eye or the mind cannot miss it (conspicuous merit) (conspicuous bravery) (there was also some Yankee shrewdness here, for to be conspicuous—to be a hero—might entail some untoward financial responsibilities—Cheever) It is also used to describe what strikes the eye or the mind, often unpleasantly, through its singularity (wear conspicuous clothes) (made himself conspicuous by his affectations) (his distinction are conspicuous by their absence) (against spending money for cement sidewalks, which he considered conspicuous waste—E. W. Smith) Salient stresses emphatic quality and is applied to what demands the attention or impresses itself insistently upon the mind; it imputes significance more often than obtrusiveness to the thing so described (there are days rich in salient news and days far rich from it—Montague) (pick the salient details out of dull verbiage—Marquand) Signal suggests such distinction from what is ordinary or usual that the so described is in itself remarkable or memorable (a signal mark of esteem) (such an appointment is a signal distinction though its value is mainly honorific—Manoukian) Emily Dickinson is a signal illustration of this assertion. The imagination of this spinner... was constantly aware that the universe surrounded every detail of life—Thornton Wilder

Striking is applicable to what impresses itself powerfully and deeply upon the observer's mind or vision (one easily remembers the striking scenes in a play) (give a striking example of loyalty) (a woman of striking beauty) (one of the most striking and fearful figures in our early fiction—Parrington) Arresting adds to striking the suggestion of capturing attention or of being of more than passing interest (an arresting personality) (an arresting story) (the slight, steel-colored figure with steel-colored hair, was more arresting in its immobility than all the vociferations and gestures of the mob—Galsworthy)

Anna *evident, manifest, obvious, palpable, patent notify apprise, advise, acquaint, *inform

Anna announce, *declare, proclaim, publish, promulgate, broadcast: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge, tell

Notion *idea, concept, conception, thought, impression

Anna *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment

Notoriety reputation, repute, éclat, *fame, celebrity, renown, honor, glory

Anna *publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

Notwithstanding, in spite of, despite are often interchangeable prepositions. Notwithstanding, the least emphatic, merely implies the presence of an obstacle; in spite of, the most emphatic, suggests active opposition or strongly adverse considerations to be encountered; despite is somewhat lighter in its emphasis than in spite of and otherwise is closer to notwithstanding than to in spite of notwithstanding the rain, I shall go (I shall go in spite of all your efforts to prevent me) (despite his assurances, I doubted him)

Nourish *feed, pasture, graze

Anna *nurse, nurture, foster, cultivate

Nourishment *nutrient, sustenance, *food, aliment, pubu-
noxious, baneful, *pernicious, deleterious, detrimental

novice, novitiate, apprentice, probationer, postulant, neophyte are comparable when applied to one who is a beginner, especially in a trade, a profession, a career, or a sphere of life. Novice and the less common novitiate may be applied to anyone who comes under this description, since inexperience is their chief distinguishing implication. A novice in writing, a novice in mountain climbing had better not start with Mount Everest—Guérard (accounts the novice with the manuscripts about which the experts talk—Monaghan). (show the Communist novitiate as a human being with idealistic impulses—Daniel Bell) Novitates to the druidic priesthood required twenty years' training in the mysteries—C. W. Ferguson. Novice is specifically applied to a new member of a religious order who is undergoing training before taking first and usually not the final vows. Apprentice is applicable to a beginner who is serving under another as his master or teacher. A graduate assistant would begin as an apprentice to a full-time staff member—H. R. Bowen. The breathless, the frustrating adoration of a young apprentice in the atelier of some great master of the Renaissance—Brooks. In such applications it emphasizes subjection to supervision and discipline rather than inexperience. It often denotes a young person who is starting his working career as a beginner at a skilled trade under an arrangement involving both work and on-the-job tuition and often a planned schedule of supplementary study or applies to an enlisted man in the United States Navy (usually called in full apprentice seaman) who is receiving instruction in seamanship, gunnery, and the rudiments of a general education. Probationer designates a beginner who is on trial for a period of time and must prove his aptitude for the work or life. The young ones who are seeking recognition and establishment—the graduate students and the instructors—in general, the probationers in the field—R. M. Weaver. The brevity and vanity of this life, in which we are but probationers—Richardson. Postulant implies candidacy for admission (as into a religious order); it may also imply acceptance for a period of probation. The Essenes had books of their own which the postulant for admission to their sect had to swear to preserve—Jeffery. Words... often answering to calls too subtle for analysis, are constantly presenting themselves as postulants for recognition—Fitzedward Hall. Neophyte usually suggests initiation, and is applicable to one who is learning the ways, methods, or principles of something (as an art, a science, a society, a club, or a religious faith) with which he is newly connected. Such an encounter usually perplexes the neophyte at first—M. C. Cooke. It often carries connotations of innocence and youthful eagerness derived from its association with a newly baptized person or convert to Christianity, the old philosopher of Monticello was more than pleased with this ardent neophyte. Not since his own years abroad had Jefferson seen such an eager student—Brooks.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
nurse

*Nurse, nurture, foster, cherish, cultivate are com-

nuptial

*nmarriage, matrimony, wedlock, wedding, espousal

*nthe numerals on the boys' sweaters indicate their

class by telling the year when they will graduate> Figure

applies to the character representing a numerical value,

and usually suggests use of Arabic notation. The term

is frequently employed in the plural implying the use of

these characters in expressing a number <write all your

numbers in figures> <the cost went into four figures>

<legally, when there is a discrepancy in a document be-

tween numbers written out and expressed in figures,

those written out are accepted> Digit may refer to any of

the whole numbers from one through nine or the numerals

that denote these, or it may expressively refer to any one of

the ten Arabic numerals (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) by which

all numbers can be expressed <the nine digits in arithmetic

—Priestley> <the numbers in arithmetic are expressed by the

. . . ten digits—Charles Hutton> Integer is a mathe-

matical term for a number (whole number) that is not

or does not contain a fraction <11 2/3 is not an integer>

<express your answers in integers, omitting all fractional

parts

number vb *count, tell, enumerate

Ana *calculate, compute, estimate, reckon

numeral n *number, figure, digit, integer

numerous *many, several, sundry, various, divers, multi-

farious

Ana *large, great, big: abundant, *plentiful, plentiful

nun *religious, monk, friar

nuncio legate, internuncio, chargé d'affaires, *ambassador,

minister, envoy

nunnery *cloister, monastery, convent, abbey, priory

nuptial adj *matrimonial, conjugal, connubial, hymeneal,

marital

nuptial n *marriage, matrimony, wedlock, wedding, espousal

nurse vb Nurse, nurture, foster, cherish, cultivate are com-

parable especially when they mean to give the care neces-

sary to the growth, development, or continued welfare

or existence of someone or something. Nurse basically

implies close care of and attention to someone (as an

infant or a sick person) unable to care for himself with the

idea of helping that one to grow strong and self-sufficient

<he was slowly nursed back to health> In extended use

the term implies similar sedulous attentions that feed

or nourish and thereby strengthen what was at first weak,

indefinite, or tentative <when I would muse in boyhood

. . . and nurse resolves and fancies—Housman> (we sat

very quiet, not speaking at all, each nursing his own

fears and anxieties—Dahl> <they sulkily avoid his eye,

and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw> Nurture

stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination

of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will

follow <by solemn vision, and bright silver dream, his

infancy was nurtured—Shelley> <reverence for age and

authority, even for law, has disappeared; and in the train

of these have gone the virtues they engendered and nur-

tured—Dickinson> Foster implies encouragement or

promotion of the growth or increase of something <age,

I find, fosters the finer feelings—L. P. Smith> <every-

thing . . . had fostered in the princess a like conviction—

Henry James> <the teaching that fosters these ends suc-

ceds; the teaching which neglects them fails—Suzzallo>

<governments have deliberately fostered nationalistic

davior to serve their own political purposes—Huxley>

Cherish stresses loving, protective care (as of a nurse or

a parent for a child, or of a husband for a wife) <to love and

to cherish, till death do us part—Anglican Marriage Ser-

vice: Book of Common Prayer> In its extended use it

is not always distinguishable from nurse, but it may retain

its implications of holding dear or as a thing of value, and

stress prizing and preserving rather than brooding over

or causing to increase in strength <tablecloths and napkins

. . . washed and ironed again and again, mended and cher-

ished—Shirley Jackson> <from the first, separately and

together, she and I had cherished ideals of freedom and

independence . . . and cast contempt on the narrow self-

absorption of domestic love—Ellis> <Julius was a bold

iconoclast about republican forms which had survived

their usefulness; Augustus sought to cherish whatever

of these forms could be made to work—Buchan> Cultivate

basically implies the care and attention given to land in

order to increase its fertility or to plants in order to

improve their condition. In its extended use it implies

comparable and equally sedulous attentions to the im-

provement or growth of some usually desirable thing

<his sense of personal initiative is cultivated instead of

being diminished—Russell> <we shall do well to foster

the studies most conducive to the habits we wish to culti-

vate—Grandgent> <bred to patience—a barmaid since

age thirteen—she had cultivated and perfected a vast

cowlike calm which served her now in good stead—

Pynchon> Ana *feed, nourish: promote, *advance, further, forward:

*indulge, pamper, humor

nurture vb foster, *nurse, cherish, cultivate

Ana raise, rear (see LIFT): train, educate, school, dis-

cipline (see TEACH): *support, uphold, back

Con *neglect, overlook, disregard, ignore

nutriment n nourishment, sustenance, *food, aliment,
pabulum, pap

Ana maintenance, support, keep, bread and butter,

*living

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>obdurate</strong></th>
<th>inexorable, inflexible, adamant, adamantine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> hardening, indurated, callous: obstinate, stubborn, mushy, stiff-necked: immovable, immobile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Con</strong> tender, compassionate: yielding, submitting, succumbing, relenting (see <em>yield</em>)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>obedient</strong></th>
<th>docile, tractable, amenable, biddable</th>
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**Notes:**
- Submission to the will, guidance, or control of another is implied, whether by compulsion or movement in accordance with natural law.
- *Obedient* implies due compliance with the commands or requests of a person or power whose authority one recognizes or accepts.
- *Obedient* to the law implies compulsion by a superior force or movement in accordance with natural law.
- Applied chiefly to persons; sometimes extended to things.

### Examples:

- *Obedient* child (Maugham): When applied to things, it implies compulsion by a superior force or movement in accordance with natural law.
- *Obedient* to the law: He seemed to have lost all power of will;
- *Obedient* to the stream: If he offers her any more, she would not be able to refuse, since all her instinct at this moment was *comply*.
- *Comply* with their wishes: He often uses this word in the sense of *bequeath*.
- *Comply* with the call of what was felt as "truth": Comply, often with, usually carries a stronger suggestion than obeying without yielding to a person's desires or expressed requests.

### Synonyms:

- Submissive, compliant, acquiescent, resigned (see corresponding nouns at HONOR)
- *Insubordinate*, rebellious
- *Compliance*, servility
- *Obedience*, servitude

### Antonyms:

- Noncompliance, rebellion
- *Nonconformity*, nonconformity
- *Nonobediency*, nonobediency

### Related Words:

- *Tractable*, which is nearly as often applied to things as to persons and animals; sometimes extended to things.

### Definitions:

- *Tractable*, which is nearly as often applied to things as to persons and animals, suggests success or ease in handling or managing.
- *Comply* with, yield, defer, bow, succumb: accede, acquiesce, subscribe, agree, assent

### Etymology:

- From the Latin *obduratus* meaning "hardened screenshot from book page: obdurately: in a stiff, unyielding manner, stubbornly, inflexibly.

### Usage:

- "The obstinate child refused to obey his father's command."
nude; artists do it all the time. But our silly husbands have a way of objecting to that sort of thing—Dahl

Protest (see also ASSERT 1) implies strong opposition and usually the presentation of objections in speech or in writing against the thing to which one objects (the residents of the district unanimously protested against the granting of the license) (swearing and protesting against every delay in the work—Anderson) (she marched with the pickets, protesting atmospheric testing—Kleiner)

Remonstrate implies protestation but it carries so much stronger an implication of an attempt to convince or persuade than protest carries that it is especially appropriate when the objection is to something being done by a child, a friend, or a relative, rather than by an official or an impersonal agent, or when reproof is also implied (now and then a well-meaning friend of Sir Austin’s ventured to remonstrate on the dangerous trial he was making in modelling any new plan of education for a youth—Meredith) (“Father Joseph,” he remonstrated, “you will never be able to take all these things back to Denver”—Cather)

Expostulate differs little from remonstrate, but it usually carries a heightened implication of firmness, earnest, but friendly reasoning or insistence on the merits of one’s arguments (the priestly brotherhood . . . prompt to persuade, expostulate, and warn—Cowper) (lost his temper when reporters at his press conference expostulated against playing favorites—New Republic)

Kick implies strenuous protestation and, usually, an exhibition of recalcitrancy or defiance (wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering—1 Sam 2:29) (when the tax rate was raised for the fourth successive year, everybody kicked) (“I kicked at that and said that Asquith might be limited but he was honest—Laski)

Ana *demur, balk, scruple, jib, boggle, shy, stick, stickle: *criticize, denounce, reprove
Ant acquiesce —Con *assent, consent, agree, accede

Objectify externalize, materialize, incarnate, embody, *realize, actualize, hypostatize, reify

Objective adj 1 *material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, sensibl
Ana external, outside, *outer, outward: tangible, palpable, *perceptible
Ant subjective

2 impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, *fair, just, equitable

Ana & Ant see those at OBJECTIVE 1

Objective n object, end, goal, aim, design, purpose, *intention, intent

Objurgate *excommuniate, curse, damn, anathematize
Ana revile, vituperate (see SCOLD): condemn, denounce, reprehend, *criticize
Con applaud, *commend, compliment

Obligation 1 Obligation, duty are comparable when they denote what a person is bound to do or refrain from doing or for the performance or nonperformance of which he is held responsible. In ordinary usage obligation typically implies immediate constraint and a specific reference (he is under the obligation of supporting his aged mother) (the place in which folk assembled not only for worship but for the fulfillment of many other social obligations, civic, educational, and recreative—Raven) (it was plain that Greene was carrying out what he regarded as a fixed obligation—Basso) (the Ralstons fulfilled their obligations as rich and respected citizens—Wharton)

Duty, on the other hand, often suggests less compulsion from immediate circumstances but a greater impulse on moral or ethical grounds; thus, a person weighed down by a sense of duty is keenly aware of what in general he ought to do; one has a sense of obligation only in a particular case and for a particular reason (Stern Daughter of the Voice of God! O Duty! if that name thou love who art a light to guide, a rod to check the erring—Wordsworth) (the old statesman was now in a sad frame of mind, torn between duty and self-interest—Buchan) (Russell tries hard to find a place for duty in his system; he suggests that we “ought” to do the act that would through its consequences satisfy the widest range of human desires—Brand Blanshard)

Ana *compulsion, constraint, r-strain (see FORCE n): responsibility, accountability, answerability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)

2 *debt, indebtedness, liability, debt, arrear

Ana burden, *load: promising or promise, engagement, pledging or pledge (see corresponding verbs at PROMISE)

Oblige 1 *constraint, coerce, compel, *force
Ana *tie, bind

2 Oblige, accommodate, favor mean to do a service or courtesy. To oblige a person is to make him indebted by doing something that is pleasing to him (Punch was always anxious to oblige everybody—Kipling) (most hotels . . . will oblige if on a particular occasion you wish your meal served at a special time—Roetter)

It is commonly used as a conventional acknowledgment of small courtesies or offices (there is an oversight . . . which I shall be much obliged to you to correct—Macaulay)

Accommodate, when it is used of services, is often interchangeable with oblige. Sometimes, especially in the participial adjective, it implies gracious compliance (an accommodating host) or it may connote the intent to be of assistance (I was willing to accommodate you by undertaking to sell the horse—George Eliot)

But accommodate often suggests a business transaction rather than an act of kindness, and an obligation to pay or repay. In such use it usually implies a loan of money or acceptance as a paying guest (see also CONTAIN) (the bank accommodated him with a short-term loan) (the hotel could not accommodate the crowd)

To favor, by contrast, is to render an attention or a service out of goodwill and commonly without imposing an obligation on, or expecting a return from, the person favored (luck favored him in all his enterprises) (it was possible for one favored by the accidents of patronage to pass surreptitiously outside the narrow confines set by the prevailing race conceptions—Handlin)

Sometimes there is a suggestion of gratuitousness or a patronizing character in the action (favor a friend with advice) (the stupidity with which he was favored by nature—Austen)

Ana gratify, *please: *benefit, profit, avail: *help, aid, assist: *support, uphold, back

Ant disoblige —Con *inconvenience, incommodate, discommodate, trouble

Obilging good-natured, compliant, *amiable

Ana helping or helpful, aiding, assisting (see corresponding verbs at HELP): accommodating, favoring (see OBLIGE): *compliant, acquiescent: *thoughtful, considerate

Ant disobliging: incon siderate

Oblique *crooked, devious
Ana *awry, askance, askew: *indirect, circuitous, roundabout

Con *direct, immediate: *straightforward, forthright: downright, *forthright

Obilitrate efface, cancel, expunge, *erase, blot out, delete
Ana *abolish, annihilate, extinguish: *destroy, raze: annul, abrogate, negate, invalidate, *nullify

Oblivious *forgetful, unmindful
Ana disregarding, ignoring, forgetting, neglecting, overlooking (see NEGLECT vb)

Con *aware, conscious, cognizant: *thoughtful, attentive,
obscure

and obscure to a reader who does not bring to it the special theatrical imagination—Montague

<Ps 78:2> 2 dark hints of revenge—<Ps 78:2> 2 ʻPoison!ʻ he whispered. But he pronounced it p ye-zn, making it into a soft, dark, dangerous word—Dahly

Something is vague which is lacking in distinct outlines or in clear definition, either because it is too general or because it is so imperfectly conceived or thought out that it is incapable of clear formulation

〈managed to gain from Judith a vague half-promise that she would be ready as suggested—Gibbons〉 〈we shall never gain power from vague discourse about unknown or unassimilated facts—Grandgent〉

Something is enigmatic which puzzles, mystifies, and, often, baffles one seeking its true meaning or significance (the enigmatic announcement was an appropriate addition to the tangled story of this country’s oddest piece of real estate—Thuelsen) 〈here Shaw’s stage direction . . . has the additional advantage of being so enigmatic that even the reader cannot understand it without aid from other Shaw sources—Nethercot〉

〈puzzling out the threats, the enigmatic promise of a story yet—Pater〉

Something is cryptic which is stated or expressed darkly or enigmatically: the word often implies a definite intention to perplex or to challenge 〈you had to intercede, with your cryptic innuendoes and mysterious head-waggings—S. S. Van Dine〉

〈gave cryptic indications of his doubts but prudently refrained from open statements of them—Davies〉

Something is ambiguous which admits of more than one interpretation, largely because of the use of words having a dual or multiple meaning without giving an indication of which sense is intended (the title of this chapter is ambiguous. It promises a discussion of the end of the world, but it does not say which end—Eddington) 〈we are here not far from the ambiguous doctrine that art is “expression,” for “expression” may be too easily confused with “communication”—Ellis〉

Something is equivocal which permits a wrong or false impression, thereby admitting uncertainty and confusion or fostering error. As applied to use of words, equivocal is distinguishable from ambiguous in that it may suggest intent to deceive or evade 〈nor could he find much pleasure in the subtle, ambiguous utterances of Solomon—Omni-book〉

〈veil the matter with utterances capable of more equivocal meaning—H. O. Taylor〉

In extended use equivocal is applied to something such as an act or a mode of life that admits of two possible or plausible interpretations, one of which may be harmful or discreditable (equivocal conduct) 〈an equivocal gesture〉


Ant distinct, obvious: celebrated (as a person) —Con *clear, perspicuous, lucid: *evident, manifest, obvious: express, *explicit, definite

obscure adj 1 murky, gloomy, *dark, dim, dusky

Ana shady, shadowy, unobtrusive (see corresponding nouns at SHADE)

Con *clear, lucid: *bright, brilliant, luminous

2 Obscure, dark, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal are applied to language or expression (or less often to causes, motives, or thoughts) with the meaning not sufficiently intelligible or clearly understood. Something is obscure the true meaning of which is hidden or veiled, because of some fault or defect either in the thing itself or in the person trying to understand it (that decorum and orderliness without which all written speech must be indigestible and obscure—Ellis) 〈this sordid, often obscure book, without visible motive or meaning—Purdy〉 〈the mere text of the play will often look scrappy and disjointed

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
obsequious

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obstinate

austerity of line somewhat obscured by a comfortable porch—Amer. Guide Series: Vt. Dim and bedim stress the diminishing of light or of clarity, intensity, or luster or the consequent diminishing of capacity to see, distinguish, or comprehend <celestial tears bedimmed her large blue eyes—Byron> <the old patriotic glow began to dim its ineffectual fires—H. M. Jones> Darken, although like dim and bedim suggesting a diminishing of illumination, is much richer metaphorically in suggesting strongly the alteration of an object or the impairment of clear or normal vision or mental comprehension by reason of confusion, ignorance, or evil <the yearly migrations of passenger pigeons . . . literally darkening the sky—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.> <his intellect was indeed darkened by many superstitions and prejudices—Macaulay> <evils enough to darken all his goodness—Shak.> Eclipse may stand alone in suggesting the effect of an actual astronomical eclipse, the partial or total darkening or concealment of one object by another and, hence, the overshadowing or supplanting of one object by another <in the English field, Anglo-Saxon never eclipsed the study of Shakespeare or Milton—Guéroul> Cloud, becloud, fog, befog, and obfuscate all suggest the obstruction or impairment of vision by clouds, fog, or vapor or, in extended use, the making of the mental perception or object of that perception murky or confused. Cloud and becloud stress the obscuring of the object, or the murky view of the object, becloud being somewhat more literary than cloud <the beginnings of our physical universe are necessarily beclouded in the swirling mists of countless ages past—F. L. Whipple> <smoke clouding the prospect before us> <the actual issues clouded by prejudice and politics> <reasoning clouded by hysteria> Fog and befog are applied possibly more frequently than cloud and becloud to matters of the understanding or mental comprehension and usually suggest a greater obstruction or impairment of clear vision of eye and mind and, so, a greater and more unnecessary indistinctness, illogicality, or confusion; fog, however, occurs freely in both the basic sense and extended or metaphorical use while befog is uncommon in literal application <their breaths fogged the wind-shield—Hunter> <a time of . . . pressure for him and, if his memory fogged slightly, he was not alone—S. L. A. Marshall> <questions of . . . shaking hands or not befog many people—Miall> <the willfully created misunderstandings that so often befog the American political scene—Sandburg> Obfuscate, a somewhat pompous word, suggests strongly an avoidable, often willful, obscuring of an object or confusing of the mind by darkening or illogicality (the process, not of enlightening, but of obfuscating the mind—Thoreau)

Ana *hide, conceal, screen: *disguise, cloak, mask, camouflage: *misrepresent, belie, falsify

Ant illuminate, illumine

obsequious *subservient, servile, slavish, menial

Ana deferential, obeisant (see corresponding nouns at Ana Ant Ana) respect, esteem, regard (see under REGARD n): *revere, reverence, venerate

Ant violate —Con *neglect, ignore, overlook, disregard, slight

2 survey, view, contemplate, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern, *see, behold, descry, espys

Ana *scrutinize, examine, scan, inspect

observer *spectator, beholder, looker-on, onlooker, witness, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer

obsolete *old, antiquated, archaic, antique, ancient, venerable, antediluvian

Ant current

obstacle, obstruction, impediment, bar, snag denote something which seriously hampers action or progress. Obstacle, which is used of both material and immaterial things, applies to an object, condition, or situation which stands in one's way and must be removed or surmounted if one is to progress or attain one's ends <love seats especially constructed for ardent couples who find such devices as armrests an obstacle to affectionate hips and hands—Green Peyton> <they smash themselves against the obstacles of circumstance—Cloete> <as to other social advancement, his record was an obstacle—S. H. Adams> Obstruction may be used of immaterial things, but such use is often obviously figurative, for the word suggests a blocking of a way or passage <an intestinal obstruction> <any phrase repeated too often becomes an obstruction to the flow of thought and feeling. It forms a clot—Brothers> <a very much denser obstruction is in the process of being erected now by literary critics—Day Lewis> Impediment is applied to something material or immaterial which serves to hinder or delay action or progress until one is freed from it <the refugee's limited knowledge of English was for a long time an impediment to his progress in his profession> <I have made my way through more impediments than twenty times your stop—Shak.> <legal restriction is a less effective impediment than the general sentiment that respectable people do not discuss birth control—Petersen> Bar applies to something interposed, whether by nature or by man, which serves to prevent admission or escape as effectually as the bars of a cage or prison <long sentences are a bar to easy reading—Mott> Sometimes the word carries a strong suggestion of prohibition, especially when it applies to a law or condition that restrains <under the immigration laws, a criminal record, an infectious disease, and illiteracy are bars to admission to the United States> <he found his infirmity no bar to his success in his profession> <must I new bars to my own joy create?—Dryden> Snag, from its application to a stump of a tree with jagged points which lies hidden under water and proves a hazard to boats, is extended to an obstacle or impediment which is hidden from view and which one encounters suddenly and unexpectedly <might run into a snag on the question of whether federal aid should be extended—W. H. Lawrence> Sometimes snag suggests a mere temporary impediment <after an early snag . . . he was able to proceed with his work—The Irish Digest> Ana barrier, *bar: hindering or hindrance, blocking or block (see corresponding verbs at hinder)

obstinate, dogged, stubborn, pertinacious, mulish, stiff-necked, pigheaded, bullheaded are comparable when they mean fixed or unyielding by temperament or nature. Obstinate implies persistent adherence, especially against persuasion or attack, to an opinion, purpose, or course; when applied to persons or to their ideas or behavior the term often suggests unreasonableess or perversity rather than steadfastness (they will not be resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate—Burke) <so yielding doubtful points that he can be firm without seeming obstinate in essential ones—J. R. Lowell> she was—is—a damned obstinate old girl, and the more he swore it was Elsie, the more she swore it was Deacon—Sayers>
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
life of named or recognizable living persons—Yeats
Event is frequently regarded as arising from an antecedent state of things and is usually applied to a more or less important or noteworthy occurrence <events of the year> <the sequence of events that followed the declaration of war> <the course of human events—U.S. Declaration of Independence> <events acting upon us in an unexpected, abrupt, and violent way—Dewey> <<the flat, monotonous plains stretch away ... a single tree ... becomes an event—Moorehead> An incident (compare incidental under ACCIDENTAL) is commonly an occurrence of subordinate character or secondary importance, either a mere casual happening having little relation to major events or an occurrence that merely follows because of them <her tone implied that bedroom fires were a quite ordinary incident of daily life in a place like Bursley—Bennett> <very few individuals can be considered as more than occasional incidents in the life histories of the societies to which they belong—Linton> The term may, however, be used of a single event that stands out or is marked off clearly from the other events (as in a story, a play, or a history) in its nature or significance <the book narrates a series of thrilling incidents> <he was delighted and looked upon the incident as an adventure—Anderson> <and beat him she did—in just over 72 days—with only one dangerous incident. A "titled cad" tried to flirt with her—Sat. Review> or applied to a critical event that provokes a break in diplomatic relations between countries or suggests the possibility of war <border incidents> Episode (see also DREGRESSION) is often used in place of incident in the sense of a single or outstanding event, but the term usually carries a stronger implication of distinctiveness or apartness from the main course than does incident <a pretty little domestic episode occurred this morning—Meredith> <Clare would inevitably ... come to regret her passion for Oliver Hobart and its tragic sequel—Mailer> Circumstance is used as a synonym for incident only when the latter is thought of as a specific or significant detail <before closing his door for the night, [he] stood reflecting on the circumstances of the preceding hours—Hardy> The word is also occasionally used as a synonym for event in its more general sense <a life every circumstance of which is regulated after an unchangeable pattern—Wilde>

**ana** appearance, emergence (see corresponding verbs at APPEAR): *juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency: posture, situation, condition, *state

**oceanic** *aquatic, marine, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal, lacustrine, fluvial, fluvialite

**odd** queer, quaint, *strange, singular, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, outlandish, curious

**odious** hateful, abhorrent, abominable, detestable

**odor** smell, scent, aroma

**odorous** fragrance, perfume, redolence, incense, bouquet

**fragrant, redolent, aromatic, balmy** mean emitting and diffusing scent. Odorous applies to whatever has a strong, distinctive smell, whether it is pleasant or not

**offend, outrage, affront, insult** mean to cause vexation or resentment or damage to self-respect. One offends by displeasing another, by hurting his feelings, or by violating his sense of what is proper or fitting <if the First Amendment means anything, it means that a man cannot be sent to prison merely for distributing publications which offend a judge's esthetic sensibilities—Potter Stewart> <langless perceptions which will please the conservative power and delight the liberal power, offend no one—Mailer> <knew that he had offended his father but guilt would have been too exact a word for the pain and uneasiness he felt—Cheever> One outrages by offending another past endurace, or by offending his pride or his sense of justice or honor <her power to make him do things which outraged all his upbringing—Backville-West> <lead to the beginning of the break-up, to the shrill cries of the ladies and the outraged unbelieving exclamations of the men—Dahl> <"Grief of two years' standing is only a bad habit." Alice started, outraged. Her mother's grief was sacred to her—Shaw> One affronts who, either with an intent to offend or with deliberate indifference to civility or courtesy, humiliates or dishonors a person and arouses his deep resentment <a moral, sensible, and well-bred man will not affront me, and no other can—Cowper> One insults who wantonly and insolently offends another so as to cause him humiliation or shame <you can annoy, you can insult, you cannot move me—Meredith> <he would insult them flagrantly; he would fling his hands in the air

**ana** analogous words **ant** antonyms **con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
and thunder at their ignorance—Auchinloss

* Anony, vex, irk, bother: exasperate, nettle, *irritate: pique, *provoke, excite: chafe, fret, gall (see ABRADE)

** offens* 1 offensive, aggression, *attack

* Ana assault, *attack, onslaught, onset

2 Offense, resentment, umbrage, pique, dudgeon, huff are comparable when they mean a person's emotional reaction to what he regards as a slight, an affront, an insult, or an indignity. Offense implies an often extreme state of displeasure or of wounded feelings (he is so sensitive that he takes offense at any unintentional or seeming slight) <this tiny breath of genuine criticism had given deep offense—Forster>

Resentment implies more indignation than offense, more prolonged dwelling upon what one regards as a personal injury or grievance, and, often, more ill will to the person who has offended <as long as I am free from all resentment . . . I would be able to face the life with much more calm—Wilde> have no right to trifle with their lives merely to gratify an old man's resentment of skepticism—Anthony Boucher>

Umbrage, used chiefly in the phrase "to take umbrage," differs from offense in carrying a clearer implication of being slighted or unfairly ignored; the term therefore generally suggests ruffled pride: resentful suspicion of others' motives, or jealousy of those favored <he took such umbrage at Eliot—who had been delayed at his bank—arriving a few minutes late on the platform, that I doubt he ever forgave him—Osbert Sitwell>

Very often umbrage is not clearly distinguishable from offense <the instance of a Southern defender who took umbrage at our saying that the leader of the Confederacy was wonderfully dumb—N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Rev.>

Pique applies to the reaction of one who has taken offense or umbrage, but it distinctively suggests a petty cause and a transient mood and often connotes wounded vanity <when the wanna heroine chooses to . . . flirt with Sir Harry or the Captain, the hero, in a pique, goes off and makes love to somebody else—Thackeray> <had not for . . . years allowed his young green jealousy to show itself in words or pique—Buck>

Dudgeon applies chiefly to a fit of angry resentment or indignation provoked by opposition to one's views or a refusal of one's request <left the recent meeting in high dudgeon when compulsory purchase powers were eventually granted—Ian MacLennan>

*Sometimes the employer . . . will in a dudgeon refuse to sit in the same room with the union representatives—Bromley>

Huff, like dudgeon, applies to a fit of anger, but it comes closer to pique in suggesting pettiness of cause and transitoriness; distinctively it implies petulance and a sulky refusal to have more to do with those who have offended <at the first hint that we were tired of waiting and that we should like the show to begin, he was off in a huff—Henry James>

half of 'em will be disgusted, and go away in a huff—De Morgan>

Affron, insult, indignity: indignation, wrath, *anger

*Con *pleasure, delight, joy: gratifying or gratification, rejoicing (see corresponding verbs at PLEASE)

3 Offense, sin, vice, crime, scandal are comparable as general terms denoting a more or less serious or conspicuous infraction or transgression of law or custom. Offense is the term of widest application, being referable to a violation of any law, including the law of the state, the law of the church, natural law, moral law, or standards of propriety and taste set up (as by society or the arts). It is also applicable to any transgression regardless of its triviality or gravity or its voluntary or involuntary character, provided it injures or tends to injure the welfare or well-being or happiness of others <my offense is rank, it smells to heaven; it hath the primal eldest curse upon't, a broth-

er's murder—Shak.> <had been a strike leader, which, though not a crime, was certainly an offense in New England in 1920—Stong> <the greater the number of laws, the greater the number of offenses against them—Ellis>

Sin primarily applies to an offense against the moral law especially as laid down in the Ten Commandments and in laws derived from them. Theologically its essential character is disobedience of the divine will and willful opposition to the law of God; in somewhat wider use it implies a failure to live up to the moral ideals of one's time or environment or to the moral ideal one has set as the standard of one's own conduct <regarded stealing and lying as sins> <the sin of sacrilege> nonobservance of the Sabbath was the sin most abhorred by the settlers of that region <sin, remember, is a twofold enormity. It is a base consent to the promptings of our corrupt nature . . . and it is also a turning away from the counsel of our higher nature—Joyce> <it may not have been much of a culture, crude, bloodthirsty, harsh, and worst sin of all, different—Agnew>

Vice (see also FAULT 2), though frequently applied to any of the offenses that from the theological and religious points of view are called sins, often carries little direct suggestion of a violation of divine law: rather, it may uniformly imply that the person against whom it is suggested, has committed a moral depravity, corruption, or degradation; also, the term less often applies to single acts or single transgressions than to habits and practices that debase the character of a person or group of persons <spare then the person, and expose the vice—Pope> <treachery and cruelty, the most pernicious and most odious of all vices—Hume>

Papism smoking was, and still is, considered a gentleman's vice—Maurer & Vogel> 

*Our vices as well as our virtues have been imputed to bodily derangements till character has become identified with a chemical reaction—Cardozo>

Crime in its basic sense applies to an infraction of law, especially of common law or statute law, that is punishable by the state or by any power that constitutes itself as the guardian of such law: it is not a technical legal term, but it is often used in the courts and is sometimes defined in penal codes, usually as a general term applicable to any act or omission forbidden by law and punishable upon conviction. In such use the term comprehends many clearly distinguished types of offenses (as a misdemeanor, a felony, or an act of treason) <the reason for excluding evidence obtained by violating the Constitution seems to me logically to lead to excluding evidence obtained by a crime of the officers of the law—Justice Holmes>

*Offenses against marriage such as adultery, which is a crime punishable by death in Papua and only a sin in civilized society—Social Science Abstracts> <human society may punish us for crimes; human monitors reprove us for vices; but God alone can charge us upon the sin, which He alone is able to forgive—James Martineau>

Crime and, less often, sin may be applied to offenses that are of exceedingly grave nature; in fact, this implication is often found in crime, even in its original legal sense <the betrayal by a people of itself is the ultimate historical crime: the final and the most degrading suicide—MacLeish> <I've not been guilty of anything more than an indiscretion . . . I behaved foolishly, but that's not a crime—Mackenzie>

Scandal (see also DISGRACE) applies to an offense against a law that is also an offense in another sense of that word—that of an act, a condition, or a practice which offends the public conscience or which puts a stumbling block in the way of those who should obey the law or should be trained to obey it; unlike the words sin, vice, and crime, scandal carries no implication of probable or certain punishment or retribution but emphasizes the distressing effect it has on others or the discredit
offensive adj 1 attacking, aggressive (see under ATTACK adj)

Ant 1 repugnant, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious

Con 1 analogous words

Ana 1 offensive, nauseating, disgusting

Contrasted words 1 nauseating, disgusting

See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
her hand preferred the bowl—Pope} (I don’t prefer any claim to being the soul of romance—Dickens)

Ana *give, present, bestow, confer: adduce, advance: propose, design, purpose, *intend

Con accept, take, *receive: reject, refuse, *decline

offset *extemporaneous, extempore, extemporary, improvised, impromptu, unpremeditated

Ana casual, desultory, *random: abrupt, hasty, sudden, *precipitate, impetuous: brusque, curt, blunt (see BLUFF)

Con studied, advised, considered, *deliberate

office *function, duty, province

Ana *work, business, calling: task, job, chore, stint

officious meddlesome, intrusive, obtrusive, *impertinent

Ana meddling, interfering, intermeddling, tampering (see MEDDLE): annoying, vexing, irking, bothering (see ANNOY): pushing, assertive, *aggressive

offset countervail, balance, *compensate, counterbalance, counterpoise

Ana *neutralize, negative, counteract: *nullify, negate: redeem, reclaim, save, *rescue

offspring, young, progeny, issue, descendant, posterity are comparable when they mean those who follow in direct parental line. Offspring applies to those who are by birth immediately related to a parent; the term does not necessarily apply to human beings, for it may refer to animals or sometimes to plants {at each farrow the sow produces many offspring} {the son endeavoring to appear the worthy offspring of such a father—Steele} Young is used most often of the offspring of animals {a bear surrounded by its young} {turtles bury their eggs in beaches and the young dig their way out when they hatch} Progeny usually applies to the offspring of a father or a mother or of both; the term more often refers to those of human parentage, but it is used occasionally of the offspring of animals and plants {from this union sprang many offspring} {the son endeavoring to appear the worthy offspring of such a father—Hawthorne} In comparison with offspring, however, it has somewhat extended use, being sometimes applied to those who trace their ancestry more remotely or to those who are the spiritual or intellectual successors of a great man {all the progeny of David} {the intellectual progeny of Plato} Issue, chiefly a legal term, is more abstract than the preceding terms and is used merely to call attention to the fact that a union has or has not reproduced its kind {die without issue} {in the event of issue, the estate will pass to the children who are born of this union} Descendant, on the other hand, applies to anyone who has or, in the plural, to all who have a right to claim relationship with a person as an ancestor in direct line; the degree of nearness does not matter, but the relationship of each as child, grandchild, great-grandchild, and so on must exist {they are descendants of the first settlers of the town} {the claims of certain people to be descendants of George Washington are absurd, since he died without issue} Posternity differs from descendants only in connoting all the descendants of a common ancestor {the unnumbered posterity of William Bradford} The term is also often used of the generations that come after a person, a race, or a people {his fame will live to all posterity} {we are leaving many problems for posterity to solve}

oft *often, frequently, oftentimes

often, frequently, oft, oftentimes may be used with little or no distinction to mean again and again in more or less close succession. But often stresses the number of times a thing occurs, without regard to the interval of recurrence; frequently usually stresses repetition, especially at short intervals {he came often} {he called frequently} {the disease is often fatal} {I frequently examined the color of the snow—Tyndall} {you will often find this to be true}

unless you write me more frequently I shall feel out of touch with you} Oft and oftentimes differ little from often; oft, however, is used chiefly in compound adjectives {the oft-told tale of her hairbreadth escape—Cerf} {an oft quoted statement} or occasionally in formal discourse {seemingly trifling events oft carry in their train great consequences—Coolidge} and oftentimes is occasionally preferred for intonational reasons {a sense of humor which was sometimes loud, oftentimes lewed, but never deliberately unlike—Metalious}

oftentimes *often, frequently, oft

oil vb Oil, grease, lubricate, anoint, cream all mean to smear or treat with an oily, fatty, or greasy substance, but they vary greatly in their implications of the substance used and the purpose for which it is employed and in their idiomatic applications. One oils the parts of a machine or mechanism subject to friction, typically by drops or squirts of a liquid substance, usually a mineral oil. Also, one oils a fabric (as cloth, silk, or paper) when one impregnates it with oil so as to make it waterproof. One greases a thing when one rubs on or in a thick fatty substance, often an animal fat or oil, for some purpose such as to increase speed by reducing friction {grease axles} or as a medicinal application {grease the chest with lard and turpentine} or as a preventive of cohesion {grease a baking dish} One lubricates when one oils, or greases, or provides for the feeding of a lubricant (as oil or grease or graphite or a silicone) to contiguous surfaces in a machine or mechanism to make them slippery, thereby reducing friction, eliminating roughness, and preventing cohesion. Lubricate stresses the effect intended or produced; oil and grease, the substance used or the method of its application. One anoints the body or a part of the body when one smears it with, or rubs into it an oily or fatty substance for some purpose (as a protection from the sun or an aid in massage). Anoint, however, is especially employed in reference to ceremonial uses of oil. In the application of oily or fatty cosmetics, especially those which are called creams, cream is the customary term.

oily unctuous, oleaginous, *foul, sicken, soap

Ana hypocritical, pharsial, sanctimonious (see under HYPOCRISY): bland, politic, diplomatic, smooth (see SUAVE)

old 1 *aged, elderly, superannuated

Ana *weak, feeble, infirm, decrepit

Ant young

2 Old, ancient, venerable, antique, antiquated, antediluvian, archaic, obsolete all denote having come into existence or use in the more or less distant past. Old, opposed to young or new (see also AGED), applies to what has lived or existed long or has been long in use or has stood for a long time in a particular relation to something; ancient, opposed especially to modern, to what lived, existed, or happened long ago or has existed or come down from remote antiquity {old wine} {old friends} {old as the hills} {O heavens, if you do love old men ... if yourselves are old—Shak.} {this new exception condemns an advertising technique as old as history—W. O. Douglas} {from the ancient world those giants came—Milton} {some illustrious line so ancient that it has no beginning—Gibbon}

Venerable suggests the hoariness and dignity of age {venerable as Anglo-Saxon is, and worthy to be studied as the mother of our vernacular speech—Quiller-Couch} {green ropes and leafy ladders hung down from the high limbs of a venerable tree—Bemelmans} {Antique applies to what has come down from former, ancient, or classical times or is in some way related to them; with regard to articles (as furnishings, implements, or bric-a-brac) the term suggests an old-fashioned type characteristic of an earlier period {an antique highboy that had
belonged to his great-grandmother (even a Leonardo
regretted his failure to recover the antique symmetry,
but he at least imitated the ancients vitally—Babbitt
<refreshing our minds with a savoir of the antique, primeval
world and the earliest hopes and victories of mankind—
Binyon> Something antiquated has gone out of vogue or
fashion or has been for some time discredited; the word
often implies some degree of contempt (is it true that
antiquated legal ideas prevent government from respond-
ing effectively to the demands which modern society
makes upon it?—Frankfurter) (this very lack of manner
keeps him from becoming antiquated. His style does not
"date," like that of many of his contemporaries—
Tinker) (cherished still their old rage against the northern
invaders, a stout and defiant loyalty to their antiquated
limitations—Edmund Wilson) Something antediluvian
is so antiquated and outmoded that it might have come
from Noah's ark (the whole system of traveling accommo-
dations was barbarous and antediluvian—De Quincey)
(those were antediluvian times. Unions were weak or
nonexistent; employers were backed by the courts, the
police, and the federal government—Dwight Macdonald)
Something archaic has the characteristics of an earlier,
sometimes of a primitive, period; with regard to words,
specifically, archaic applies to what is not in use in
ordinary modern language but retained in special context
or for special uses (as in biblical, ecclesiastical, and
legal expressions and in poetry) (we visited Medinum, a
town so archaic and unreal in its architecture that it was
difficult to believe that it was actually inhabited by the
human race—Hoffman) (much of the remote past is con-
served in the husk of convention, and archaic usages
govern his conduct toward all the crucial issues of life—
Norman Lewis) (to those who do not learn to read Shake-
speare as a school text his archaic language presents
formidable difficulties—Bottrall) Something obsolete
has gone out of use or has been or needs to be replaced
by something newer, better, or more efficient that has
subsequently come into being (obsolete as the feudal
baron—Snaith) (a scientific textbook is obsolete in a
decade or less—Lowes) (it was she who had raised a fund
for the granite horse trough . . . and who, when the horse
trough became obsolete, had had it planted with geraniums
—Cheever) (charged that United States Navy ships were
equipped with obsolete torpedoes—Current Biog.)

ant new

oleaginous oily, unctuous, *fulsome, slick, soapy
See those at oily

oligarchy, aristocracy, plutocracy are comparable when
they mean government by, or a state governed by, the
few. The terms are often applied to governments or states
that are ostensibly monarchies or republics but are, in
the opinion of the user, actually governed by a clique.
Oligarchy is the most inclusive term referred to a govern-
ment or state where the power is openly or virtually
in the hands of a few men (democracy and oligarchy shade
into each other and are chiefly distinguished by the degree
of the citizens' participation in government—McKeon)
Aristocracy basically and historically suggests the rule
of the best citizens (true aristocracy is just this, the
government of the best, of a ruling class dedicated to the
common well-being—F. G. Wilson) but it retains this
implication chiefly when it is used in distinction from
oligarchy and the latter connotes power seized or held
for selfish or corrupt reasons (it ceased to be, in the
Greek sense, an aristocracy; it became a faction, an
oligarchy—Thirwall) Its more common implication is power
vested in a privileged class, especially in a nobility
that is regarded as superior by birth and breeding and that
by owning or controlling much of the land exercises direct
control over a large portion of the population; in this sense
Great Britain was until recent generations an aristocracy
(Clay was right . . . revolution was abroad among the
people, shifting the basis of our government from aris-
tocracy to democracy without destroying its essential
republicanism—Rossiter) Plutocracy, unlike the other
terms, is usually derogatory; as a rule it implies concen-
tration of power in the hands of the wealthy and, in conse-
quence, a withholding of power from those to whom it
properly belongs, either the people or their representatives
(Ward held that we must differentiate three types of
democracy . . . the second plutocracy, or the control of
the state by organized and predatory wealth—H. E.
Barnes) (Cartilage was a plutocracy and the real power
of the state lay in the hands of a dozen big shipowners
and mineowners and merchants—van Loon)

omen a augury, portent, *foretoken, presage, prognostic
Ana *sign, mark, token, badge, note, symptom: foreboding,
*apprehension, presentiment, misgiving

ominous, portentous, fateful, inauspicious, unpromising
basically mean having a menacing or threatening character
or quality. What is ominous has or seems to have the
character of an omen, especially of an omen forecasting
evil; the term commonly suggests a frightening or alarming
quality that bodes no good, and it may imply impending
disaster (there was something ominous about it, and
in intangible ways one was made to feel that the worst was
about to come—London) (my ears were startled by the
. . . uproar of yelling and shouting. It sounded ominous,
but . . . I had to go on—Heiser) What is portentous
has or seems to have the character of a portent; portentous,
however, less often than ominous suggests a threatening
character; it usually means little more than prodigious,
monstrous, or almost frighteningly marvelous, solemn,
or impressive (his gravity was unusual, portentous, and
immeasurable—Dickens) (the assertion that children of
six are "mighty prophets, seers blessed," . . . seemed to
him portentous nonsense—Babbitt) (it is portentous . . .
that here at midnight, in our little town a mourning figure
walks, and will not rest—Lindsay) What is fateful has
or seems to have the quality, character, or importance
decreed for it by fate or suggests inevitability (the fateful
conference that brought on war) (to meet a Persian, any
Persian, in New York seemed a fateful coincidence—
Mehevi) but the term often means little more than
timorous or appallingly decisive (the great cases that
make the work of the United States Supreme Court of
fateful significance—Cohen) What is inauspicious (com-
pare auspicious under FAVORABLE) is or seems to be
attended by signs that are distinctly unfavorable (an
inauspicious horoscope) But inauspicious usually means
nothing more than unlucky, unfortunate, or unlikely to
succeed (an inauspicious beginning of a great project)
(you come at a singularly inauspicious moment, when I
need all my strength to forget the world—Sabatin) What
is unpromising (compare propitious under FAVORABLE)
carries or seems to carry no sign of favoring one's ends
or intentions (unpromising omens) In its more common
extended sense the term means merely unfavorable, dis-
couraging, or harmful (made a by-election necessary at
a time highly unpromising for the Government—Cockburn)
(sleep and exercise are unpropitious under FAVORABLE)

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Con *remember, recollect, recall: *tend, attend, mind, watch

omnipresent, ubiquitous mean present or existent everywhere. Though they carry this as a basic meaning, they are often used hyperbolically. Something omnipresent is present everywhere at the same time. Though basically applicable to the Supreme Being (omnipresent Deity) the term is often, especially in a weakened sense, applied to something that is or is felt to be always present or existent (as in a class or a type wherever it may be found or in an area to which it belongs) (can omnipresent sense of social obligation—Elliot) (the creeping, silent atmosphere of omnipresent fear that I have sensed in the capitals of the satellite countries—Wechsberg) (the mechanization of entertainment through . . . the omnipresent radio—Millett) Something ubiquitous is found everywhere and, often, at the time or in the situation specified or implied (electronics being so numerous and so ubiquitous—Darlow) (the big public services will have to be made practically ubiquitous—Shaw) Ubiquitous is applicable to a type or an individual, often with the specific implication that one cannot escape him or it wherever one goes (the ubiquitous American tourist) (the sad, ubiquitous spinster, left behind . . . by the stampede of the young men westward—Brooks)

on 1 *at, in
2 *at, in

onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting are comparable

inexorable, burdensome, oppressive, exacting are comparable when they mean imposing severe trouble, labor, or hardships. All of these terms are applicable to a state of life, its duties or obligations, or to conditions imposed upon a person by that life or by another person; oppressive and exacting are applicable also to persons or agents responsible for these difficulties. Onerous stresses laboriousness and heaviness but often also implies irksomeness or distastefulness (the tyranny of a majority might be more onerous than that of a despot—Whitehead) (“What were the conditions?” “Oh, they were not onerous: just to sit at the head of his table now and then”—Wharton) Burdensome usually implies mental as well as physical strain and often emphasizes the former (a burdensome tax) (burdensome Government regulations which are a nuisance to everyone—Roosevelt) (the burdensome and invidious job of a formal application to the Board of Trade—Economist) Oppressive adds to burdensome the implication of extreme harshness or severity; it therefore usually connotes the unendurableness of what is imposed or inflicted, whether by nature or circumstances or by man, or cruelty or tyranny in the one responsible for the impositions or inflictions (oppressive heat) (oppressive rulers) (there are more ways of coercing a man than by pointing a gun at his head. A pacifist society may be unjust and oppressive—Inge) (the women are . . . kind and they mean very well, but sometimes they get very oppressive—Cheever) Exacting, like oppressive, implies severity of demands, but otherwise it differs because it commonly suggests rigor, sternness, or extreme fastidiousness rather than tyranny in the one who demands, or the tremendous care or pains required of the one who satisfies these demands (an exacting technique) (an exacting employer) (the exacting life of the sea has this advantage over the life of the earth, that its claims are simple and cannot be evaded—Conrad) (the pity of it was that even the least exacting husband should so often desire something more piquant than goodness—Glasgow)

Ana *heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumber-some, hefty: arduous, *hard, difficult

only adj & adv Only, alone are often used interchangeably (though alone is not found in the attributive position), but seldom without a slight change in meaning or emphasis. Only is especially appropriate when restriction to what is specified or asserted is implied and the term is equivalent to sole or solely: thus, “I want only this book” implies a wish for one and no more; “of all the family only John and Helen came,” that is, the specified persons and no more (to distinguish . . . that which is established because it is right, from that which is right only because it is established—Johnson) Alone may be chosen when the idea of the elimination of all other possibilities is expressed and the term is the equivalent of exclusive or, more often, exclusively; thus, “I want this book alone” implies a wish for a particular one and no other; “of all the family John alone came,” that is, John and none of the others (man shall not live by bread alone—Mt 4:4)

onset *attack, assault, onslaught

A aggression, offensive, offense, *attack: storming, bombarding, assailing (see attack vb): *invasion, raid, incursion

onslaught *attack, assault, onset

Ana see the other at ONSET

onward, forward, forth are comparable when they mean in the act of advancing or getting ahead (as in a movement, progression, series, or sequence). They are frequently used with little or no distinction, but onward often suggests progress or advance toward a definite goal, end, or place (half a league onward . . . rode the six hundred—Tennyson) (onward into future lives—Hawkrorde) Forward, opposed to backward, has more specific reference to movement or advance with reference to what lies before rather than back in place (see forward under BEFORE) or in time (his skill in reconciling conflicting points of view and his forward-looking spirit—Dean) (from this time forward Webster’s bête noire was party spirit—Warfel) or in a succession (as of incidents in a narrative or of steps in a process) (the center has not yet been rebuilt, though they are . . . getting forward with it—Rowse) Forth is often interchangeable with forward without loss (expeditions went forth into the interior—P. E. James) (from that day forth) but in certain idioms it may be quite distinctive and imply a making known, present, available, or real something previously unknown, lacking, unavailable, or hidden; thus, one brings forth from or as if from a place of concealment (bring forth a precious jewel) and one sets forth by providing (set forth an ample supper) or by making simple and clear (in his charge to the grand jury . . . he set forth the democratic basis of the new state government—Meriwether)

opaque, opalescent, opalin iridescent, *prismatic

open adj 1 exposed, subject, prone, susceptible, sensitive, *liable

Ant closed

2 plain, candid, *frank

Ana *straightforward, aboveboard, forthright: *natural, simple, ingenuous, naive, unsophisticated: *fair, equitable, impartial

Ant close, closedmouthed, close-lipped: clandestine

openhanded bountiful, bounteous, *liberal, generous, munificent, handsome

Ant closedfisted, tightfisted —Con *stingy, niggardly, close, penurious

operate *act, behave, work, function, react

operative adj *active, dynamic, live

Ana *effective, effectual, efficacious, efficient: *fertile, fecund, fruitful

Ant abeyant

operative n mechanic, artisan, hand, workman, working-
opiate

man, *worker, laborer, craftsman, handicraftsman, roust-about
opiate *analogy, narcotic, nepenthe
opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment are comparable when they mean a more or less clearly formulated idea or judgment which one holds as true or valid. An opinion is a more or less carefully thought-out conclusion concerning something that is or may be questioned. The word not only does not exclude the suggestion of consideration of all the evidence and of arguments on both sides, but it sometimes implies such consideration. <seek an expert opinion on the authenticity of a painting> (the word opinion . . . should be restricted to views entertained on subjects that admit of doubt and are open to controversy . . . Matters that are not debatable are not open to opinion—Corry) (the attending physician said he would like the opinion of a consulting physician) However, the term more consistently suggests even in the preceding instances a personal element in the judgment, the possibility of its being in error, and the strong probability that it will be disputed <books . . . are a public expression of a man's opinions, and consequently they are submitted to the world for criticism—Benson> (the tolerant but untrained . . . will rarely know the difference between their tastes and their opinions—Virgil Thomson) A view is an opinion more or less colored by the feeling, sentiment, or bias of the individual <fond of airing his views in public> (each member was asked to state his views on the proposed change in the constitution) must take the main view, which is that the failure of the western democracies . . . is due to the failings of the democratic peoples—Lippmann> (in the fourth century . . . adopted the view that deceit and lying were virtues if in the interests of the Church—Cohen)> A belief differs from an opinion or view in that it is not necessarily formulated by the individual who holds it, but may have been proposed to him for acceptance (as in the form of a doctrine, a dogma, a proposition, or an authoritative opinion). The emphasis in belief is placed on intellectual assent or assurance of truth (the belief that the whole system of nature is calculable in terms of mathematics and mechanics—Inge) (just one single example of real unreason is enough to shake our belief in everything—Theodore Sturgeon)> A conviction is a belief which one holds firmly and unshakably because one is undisturbed by doubt of its truth (if any one had asked him the reason of this conviction he could not have told them; but convictions do not imply reasons—Deland) (the teacher should learn not to take sides, even if he or she has strong convictions—Russell) (he had overlooked this fact, borne along on his conviction of the abundance of life—Cheever)> A persuasion is usually at once an opinion and a belief. The term often implies that one's assurance of its truth is induced by one's feelings or wishes, rather than by argument or evidence (it was the avowed opinion and persuasion of Calimachus . . . that Homer was very imperfectly understood even in his day—Cowper) (his strong interest in good government and the proper solution of social problems threw him more and more toward the Democratic persuasion—Michener)> Sentiment (see also FEELING 2) is becoming uncommon in this sense except in a few idiomatic phrases (those are my sentiments) The term applies to a more or less settled opinion, often with reference to something which involves one's feelings or which is formulated so as to suggest the stimulus of emotion (there is no expression in the constitution, no sentiment delivered by its contemporaneous exponents, which would justify us—John Marshall) (it is the actions of men and not their sentiments which make history—Mailer)> (he would inform Miss Graves of his sentiments and she would translate them into a polite and brief answer—Bemelmans)> Ana thought, notion, impression, *idea, concept, conception: inference, deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under INFER): deciding or decision, determining or determination, settling or settlement (see corresponding verbs at DECIDE)
opponent, antagonist, adversary all denote one who expresses or manifests opposition. Unlike enemy they do not necessarily imply personal animosity or hostility. An opponent is one who is on the opposite side in a contest (as an argument, disputation, or election) or in a conflict (as of opinion) (since [in France] opposition is never considered to be legitimate, the Government has no opponents—only enemies—Revel) opponents of the desegregation decision have . . . largely founded their dissent on the principle that law cannot move faster than public opinion—Roche & Gordon)> Antagonist implies sharper opposition, especially in a struggle or combat for supremacy or control (where you find your antagonist beginning to grow warm, put an end to the dispute by some genteel badinage—Chesterfield) (a swift voracious fish, a formidable antagonist for the angler—J. L. B. Smith)> Adversary ranges in connotation from the idea of mere opposition to that of active hostility (do as adversaries do in law, strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends—Shak) (your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour—I Pet 5:8)> Ana *enemy, foe: rival, competitor, emulator (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL)
opportunity *seasonable, timely, well-timed, pat Ana happy, felicitous, appropriate, fitting (see FIT adj): propitious, auspicious, *favorable: ready, prompt, *quick, apt Ant inopportune

opportunity, occasion, change, break, time are comparable when they mean a state of affairs or a combination of circumstances favorable to some end. Opportunity is perhaps the most common of these terms; it applies to a situation which provides an opening for doing something, especially in line with one's inclinations, ambitions, purposes, or desires (the suspect had both motive and opportunity for the murder) (to keep in the rear of opportunity in matters of indifference is as valuable a habit as to keep abreast of opportunity in matters of enterprise—Hardy) (on the whole an infant's desire to learn is so strong that parents need only provide opportunity—Russell) (to strike out in search of new opportunities in new surroundings—Truman)> Occasion (see also CAUSE 1) carries the basic denotation characteristic of its leading senses—a definite moment or juncture, but it applies only to a moment that provides an opportunity or that calls for or prompts action of a definite kind or nature (had occasion to prove the seaworthiness of this type of lifeboat in a gale—N. B. Marshall)> (he took the occasion to satisfy his desire for revenge)> Occasion may suggest more strongly than opportunity a juncture that provokes or evokes action (with great things charged he shall not hold aloof till great occasion rise—Kipling)> (so long as a child is with adults, it has no occasion for the exercise of a number of . . . virtues . . . required by the strong in dealing with the weak—Russell)> (it has also produced and spread occasions for diseases and weaknesses—Dewey)> Chance applies chiefly to an opportunity that comes seemingly by luck or accident (they had no chance to escape) (it was war that gave Lenin his chance. He might have died in angry exile in Switzerland—Brogan)>
oppose 580 oppressive

Sometimes the word means little more than a fair or a normal opportunity, especially in negative expressions (the feeling that the system under which we live deprives the majority of the chance of a decent life—Day Lewis).

Break applies to the occasion of a stroke of fortune that is usually good unless the term is qualified (as by an adjective indicating the kind of chance or suggesting its outcome) (had been haunting . . . the tryouts, for two years: and this was her first break—Wouk) (ascribe his fortunes to luck, to getting the breaks—Cozzens) (she always did have a bad break if it was possible to get one—Nevil Shute) (shady folk . . . are generally given a fine break—Lancaster).

Time denotes a juncture that is well-timed or opportune (as for the execution of one’s end or purpose) (the time and tide await no man for no man knows when his hour will come)—Towster y time (time) has come to sift and synthesize the findings (this is the time to buy stocks).

Ana *juncture, pass, contingency, emergency: posture, situation, condition, *state

oppose contest, fight, conflict, antagonize, *resist, withstand

Ana *contend, fight, battle, war: *attack, assail, assault, storm, bombard: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard

opposite n contradictory, contrary, antithesis, antipode, antonym (see under opposite a)

opposite adj Opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithetical, antipodal, antipodean, antonymous are comparable chiefly as applied to abstractions and as meaning so far apart as to be or to seem irreconcilable with each other.

The same differences in applications and implications are found in their corresponding nouns, opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithesis, antipode, antonym, when they mean one of two things which are opposite or contradictory. Opposite is the inclusive term; it may be used interchangeably with any of the others, though few of the others are interchangeable in precise use. Opposite may be used to describe the relation of either of two abstract elements (as ideas, terms, statements, qualities, or forces) to the other when they are set against each other so as to bring out sharply the contrast, conflict, or antagonism between them (opposite views) (attraction and repulsion are opposite forces) (the plant does two opposite things at once. It is making sugar from carbon dioxide . . . and at the same time burning a little sugar—Michael Graham) (his private thesis that correction . . . entails entail to a diatomic opposite rather than any reasonable search for a golden mean—Pynchon) Contradictory, though often used as an equivalent of opposite, may retain its fundamental implication of denial, and therefore, especially when it is applied to terms, propositions, and principles, may further imply that if one of the two opposites be true, the other must be false; or if one be false, the other must be true (contradictory predictions are being made, some gloomy, some optimistic—Farrell) Words, propositions, or principles that are contradictory in this strict sense are mutually exclusive and, therefore, admit no possibilities between; thus, “John is English” and “John is not English” are contradictory statements, one of which must be false if the other is true; alive and dead are contradictory terms because they cannot both be truly applied to the same thing (stamped with the mint of our contradictory popular culture (where sex is sin and yet sex is paradise)—Mailer)

Contrary (see also CONTRARY 2) as applied to intentions, motives, and opinions usually implies extreme divergence with no basis for agreement (take a contrary view of the situation) (from the center of capitalist and imperialistic America he seemed to diffuse a contrary purely humanitarian influence—Santayana)

(he maintained that the contrary was true) But especially as applied to terms and propositions contrary may imply diametrical opposition or the greatest conceivable or possible difference between the things opposed. Contraries are poles apart; unlike contradictories both may be false, for they represent extremes and do not mutually exclude every other possibility; thus, destitute and opulent are contrary terms as applicable to a person’s circumstances, but they may be inapplicable in a vast number of particular cases for they describe only the extremes; “John is parsimonious” and “John is prodigal” are contrary statements, but John in truth may be neither parsimonious nor prodigal, but merely close, or thrifty, or free, or liberal, in the expenditure of money (a theory for which neither physics nor common sense can offer confirmatory or contrary evidence—Clement)

Antithetical and especially antithesis (see also COMPARISON) imply an intent to set the thing under consideration against its opposite, usually its diametrical opposite, in order to emphasize its significance or to reveal or define sharply its true nature. Both words are applicable to persons and things regarded objectively as well as to ideas, qualities, and terms (antithetical symbolism of ice and flame—Rees) (that mystic faith in unseen powers which is the antithesis of materialism—Rose Macaulay) (the essential interests of men and women are eternally antithetical—Mencken) Although antipodal or antipodean and the corresponding noun, antipode, which often occurs as the plural antipodes with singular or plural construction, also imply diametrical opposition, they do not suggest a logical relation but rather emphasize the unlikeliness and the remoteness from each other of the things contrasted. So strong are these implications that often the things contrasted are only figuratively, not generally, opposites, and the contrast constitutes in a sense an inverse simile (the unspannable gulf between the two brothers is widened by their antipodal attitudes toward money—Behrman) (flashy, crude, essentially shallow, but nevertheless at the antipodes from villainy. He is good-hearted and generous—Walcott) (the very antipode of Gropius. Where the American is romantic, the German is rationalistic—Werner)

Antonymous and antonym are applicable only to a word or term which is so opposed to another in meaning that it, in effect, negates or nullifies every implication of it. Antonyms or antonymous words may be contradictory or contrary terms, as defined, or they may be terms which negate other terms by implying the undoing or reversing of what is denoted by them; thus, retain is the contradictory antonym of lose, but recover is the reverse antonym of lose.

Ana reverse, converse (see corresponding nouns at CONVERSE): antagonistic, *adverse, counter, counteractive

Con reconciling, conforming, adapting, adjusting (see ADAPT): consistent, compatible, congruous, congenial, *consonant

oppress I * depress, weigh

Ana *abuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat, outrage: *worry, annoy, harass, harry

2 *wrong, persecute, aggrieve

Ana *afflict, torment, torture: overcome, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overthrow (see CONQUER)

oppressive *onerous, burdensome, exacting

Ana extorting or extortionate, extracting (see corresponding verbs at EDUCE): compelling or compulsory, coercing or coercion, constraining, obliging or obligatory (see corresponding verbs at FORCE): despotic, tyrannical, *absolute, arbitrary
**opprobrious**

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*adjective*

humane, humanitarian (see CHARITABLE); compassion, *tender

**antonyms**

*abusive, vituperative, contumelious, scurrilous

*adjacent, *tender

**contrasted words**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

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**orderly**

Con humane, humanitarian (see CHARITABLE); compassion, *tender

**antonyms**

*disorderly, turbulent, disarray, chaos, confusion

*adjacent, *tender

**contrasted words**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

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**order, arrange, marshal, organize, systematize, order**

*dictate, prescribe, decree, impose

ordain

**orbit**

*range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, horizon, ken, purview

ordain

*dictate, prescribe, decree, impose

order n 1 *association, society, club

2 *command, injunction, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate

order n 1 *association, society, club

2 *command, injunction, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate

**order**

vb 1 Order, arrange, marshal, organize, systematize, methodize

are comparable when they mean to put (a number of persons or things) in proper place especially relatively or to bring about an orderly disposition of individuals, units, or elements that comprise (a thing). Order is somewhat outmoded when the idea of putting in a definite order is to be expressed; it more usually implies a straightening out and may connote either the elimination of friction or confusion, often with resulting peace or harmony, or the imposition of a fixed and rigid discipline ordered his affairs in expectation of death (it was a home strictly ordered, and he would have to conform to its ordering—Archibald Marshall) <the Greek states . . . were not well ordered; on the contrary, they were always on the verge, or in the act, of civil war—Dickinson> <a period of yearly relaxation in London, ordered and increasingly stately—Sackville-West>

**Arrange** is more often used than order where the idea of setting in proper sequence, relationship, or adjustment is uppermost. The word often implies a notion of what is orderly, fit, suitable, or right and a placing of things in accordance with this notion (they are the great organizers . . . the Germans classify, but the French arrange—Whethor) around the furniture in a room >arrange fruit for display (each of us arranges the world according to his own notion of the fitness of things—Conrad)

Often the term implies a determination of the way in which the things are disposed by an end in view and then suggests careful management or manipulation (we shall arrange matters so that you will not be inconvenienced) <arrange the details of a conference> <she arranged leave for a counselor whose mother was ill—Auchincloss> <political and economic life had been arranged in Utopian fashion—Henry Miller>

Marshall usually connotes generalship and implies assemblage and arrangement either for ease or advantage in management (as under stress) or for effectiveness in display or exhibition <marshal troops for battle> <paused to marshal his thoughts before beginning his address> <marshaled like soldiers in gay company, the tulips stand arrayed—Lowell> <thanks to Mr. Dawson’s erudition and his gift of marshaling facts, we begin to have a notion of what it is all about—Huxley>

Organize implies an arrangement in which all persons or things are so related to each other that they work as a unit, each individual having his or its proper function or duty (organize the supporters of a candidate for the presidency) <part of this service is organizing—cataloging, classifying, and arranging on shelves—the collected literature—Bercaw> <the traditional logic was a logic for clarifying and organizing that which was already known—Dewey>

Systematize implies arrangement according to a definite and planned scheme; thus, one systematizes one’s daily work when one reduces it to routine order (if grammar was to become a rational science, it had to systematize itself through principles of logic—H. O. Taylor) <how Philosophy . . . blindly spineth her geometric webs, testing and systematizing even her own disorders—Bridges>

Methodize differs from systematize in suggesting the imposition of orderly procedure rather than of a fixed scheme; thus, one can methodize one’s work without giving it the character of routine (that art of reasoning . . . which methodizes and facilitates our discourse—Shorthouse) <philosophical decisions are nothing but the reflections of common life, methodized and corrected—Thilly>

Anna *adjust, regulate: *line, line up, align, range, array

2 *command, bid, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge

Anna prohibit, *forbid, interdict, inhibit, ban

Con permit, allow, *let: license, *authorize, commission

** orderly adj** Orderly, methodical, systematic, regular are comparable when they mean following closely a set arrangement, design, or pattern. Orderly implies observance of due sequence or proper arrangement especially in the harmonious or careful disposition of persons or things (the guests passed in orderly groups into the ballroom) <an orderly placing of furniture> or in obedience to the rules of conduct or behavior that guide disciplined persons <an orderly group of children> <an orderly assem-
ordinance

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<td><em>armament, matériel, munitions, arms, artillery, ammunition</em></td>
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<td><strong>organize</strong></td>
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<td>*<em>systematize, methodize, <em>order, arrange, marshal</em></em></td>
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<td><strong>organism</strong></td>
<td><em>system, scheme, network, complex, economy</em></td>
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*b hollow of citizens* <an orderly election> or in keeping a place free from litter or confusion <his study is always orderly> <an orderly housekeeper> or in a scheme or system when all details stand in their proper relations, each playing its due part without interfering with that of any of the others <a process calculated to reduce the orderly life of our complicated societies to chaos—Huxley> <the difference seems to me rather the difference between the complete and the fragmentary, the adult and the immature, the orderly and the chaotic—T. S. Eliot> Methodical implies the observance of an order that has been carefully worked out so that the steps to be followed are exactly known or the pattern that is accepted seems logical or inevitable under the circumstances <make a methodical search for evidence> <give methodical instructions to a new employee> <begin a methodical study of the Bible> <a methodical performance of daily duties> Systematic comes close to methodical in ordinary use <needed a systematic brain, and a sympathetic nature—Andrew Buchanan> <composing is self-expression and that is hard and systematic work—Toch> but systematic, which always means some degree of complexity implied by the related noun (compare system), may be preferred when the stress is not upon the order followed but upon the integrated and ordered whole involved; thus, methodical study implies study pursued in regular increments according to a predetermined schedule while systematic study implies study pursued according to a scheme in which each increment leads logically to the next and the end result is exposure to an integrated block of information <the realization that all languages are systematic structures—A. A. Hill> <at the highest level, there stands . . . systematic theory, the conceptual framework within which a whole discipline is cast—Easton> Systematic also may be used to suggest order in occurrence, in progression, and especially in repetition, still with some notion of an underlying system; thus, a systematic error is one that is inherent in a system of measurement or calculation and recurs whenever that system is used <a systematic plan for world conquest> <they were not your gabbling, laughing eaters . . . they were quiet, systematic, devastating; they advanced steadily in good order from the first slice of ham to the last slice of chocolate cake—Priestley> <nowhere else in our literature can such a systematic and chill-blooded series of rendings, gorings, murders, suicides, and executions be found—Aldridge> Regular, with its basic implication of conformance to a rule (see also regular 1), may come very close to orderly <even the most ‘realistic’ work, if it is one of art, is not an imitative reproduction of the things we are so familiar, so regular, and so importunate that we call them real—Dewey> <the umbrageous trees, which rose tall in a regular line from either side—De Quincey> There remains the implied steadiness or uniformity (as in following a schedule) <regular meals> <the gentleness of their morality, their regular and industrious habits—de Tocqueville> or it may suggest occurrence and recurrence (as at fixed or stated intervals or in uniform amount) <the regular ebb and flow of the tides> <the revenue of government from the taxes was not regular but capricious and exceptional—Bellow> Ana tidy, *neat, trim, spick-and-span: formal, conventional, ceremonial (see CEREMONIAL): peaceable, *pacific, peaceful Ant disorderly: chaotic

**ordinance** canon, precept, *law, rule, regulation, statute

**ordinary** adj *common, familiar, popular, vulgar

**An** *usual, customary, habitual, wonted, accustomed

Ant extraordinary —Con *abnormal, atypical, aber-
deep and fundamental and that the thing itself is only an outward manifestation of its influence. Root therefore more often even than source applies to what is regarded as the first or final cause of a thing (the love of money is the root of all evil—1 Tim 6:10) (John Brown has loosened the roots of the slave system; it only breathes—it does not live—Phillips) Provenance and provenience are chiefly used to designate the place or, sometimes, the race or people from which a thing is derived or where by whom or among whom it originated or was invented or constructed (antiquities of doubtful provenance) (he would have some difficulty in guessing its provenance, and naming the race from which it was brought—Lang) (a fragment of a cast copper dagger had been discovered earlier, but its provenance is not certain—Daihoku) In mechanics the term specifically applies to the natural or mechanical power which sets a thing moving or in motion; it has been used in reference to wind (as in driving a sailing ship), steam (as in driving a steamship), a waterwheel, a windmill, or a steam or diesel engine. Ana beginning, commencement, initiation, starting (see corresponding verbs at begin): derivation, origination, rising or rise (see corresponding verbs at spring): *ancestral, lineage

original adj 1 *initial, primordial
Ana beginning,commencing,starting (see begin): *primary, primal, pristine, primeval: basic, *fundamental Con deriving or derived, stemming or stemmed, proceeding or proceeded (see spring): imitated or imitating, copied or copying (see copy): simulated or simulating (see assume)
2 *new, first, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modern, modernistic
Ant dependent: banal: trite

originate rise, derive, arise, *spring, flow, issue, emanate, proceed, stem
Ana *begin, commence, start

ornament *adorn, decorate, embellish, beautify, deck, bedeck, garnish
Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify

ornate, rococo, baroque, flamboyant, florid can all mean elaborately and often pretentiously decorated or designed. Ornate is applicable to anything heavily adorned or ornamented or conspicuously embellished (an ornate style of architecture) (the room's communicating door, heavily ornate with late Renaissance panels and tarnished silver handles—Machinnes) (in the fiacre were Gerald and a woman. Gerald... was talking eagerly to his ornate companion—Bennett) (introduced the direct and colloquial manner upon the American public platform, as distinguished from the highly elaborated and often ornate style which had been established—Higgins) Rococo basically applies to a French architectural style originating in the eighteenth century and characterized chiefly by the extravagant and often fantastic use of curves, shellwork, and fanciful excescence. The term therefore implies the ornateness of design characteristic of this decorative style especially as evident in architectural details, in furniture, and in mirror and picture frames.

It is often extended to describe a style (as in painting or writing) that seems tastelessly or meaninglessly ornate or overdressed (decided instead to have the wedding, rococo excess and all—Wouk) (doesn't mind getting caught out with a rococo phrase or an overstuffed image—Los Angeles Times) Baroque, which is sometimes interchanged with rococo, basically applies to a style of art and architecture which prevailed from the latter part of the sixteenth century to nearly the end of the eighteenth century and which emphasized energy in conception, amplitude in design, the use of dynamic contrasts, extremely high relief, and the employment of curved and often contorted forms (I entered this baroque interior, with its twisted columns and volutes and high-piled, hideous tombs, adorned with skeletons and allegorical figures and angels blowing trumpets—L. P. Smith) In its extended sense baroque may suggest more grotesqueness and extravagance and less fancifulness than rococo, although it too may imply tasteless ornamentation (baroque poetry with its frigid vehemence, its exhibitionistic forcefulness and false dynamism, its arbitrary twisting and distortions—H. L. Davis) (their literature, their modern painting and architecture, their music—it's all baroque. It gesticulates rhythmically, it struts across stages, it sobs and bawls in its efforts to show you how passionate it is—Huxley) Flamboyant basically applies to a late French Gothic architectural style characterized by curves that suggest ascending flames (as in the tracery of windows). In its more general application flamboyant can suggest ornateness but more often stresses such elements as excess of color, conspicous vigor and dash, or bold and daring display that suggest the freedom and brilliancy of flames (a flamboyant display of courage) (flamboyant penmanship—Dowden) (the flamboyant period of prose—Saintsbury) (these... flamboyant tricks of virtuosity have gone quite out of fashion—Quiller-Couch) (some [people] are simply present at accidents, without being involved at all—catalysts of death, if you'll pardon a flamboyant phrase—Theodore Sturgeon) Florid implies richness, usually overrichness, in details, shown particularly in the use of color, figures of speech, or flourishes. For their own sake; it implies, therefore, showy and ostentatious embellishment (a florid style of poetry) (a florid musical composition) (the scene was an old one, of gilt Spanish leather, stamped and wrought with a rather florid Louis-Quatorze pattern—Wilde) (unexplainable how a book... can... be banned because of the manner in which it is advertised and sold. However florid its cover, whatever the pitch of its advertisements, the contents remain the same—W. O. Douglas)

Ana adorned, decorated, ornamented, embellished (see adorn): flowery, aureate (see rhetorical): *luxurious, sumptuous, opulent: *showy, ostentatious
Ant chaste: austere

orotund *resonant, sonorous, ringer, resounding, vibrant
Ana *loud, stentorian, strident

oscillate *swing, sway, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate, wave, undulate
Ana vacillate, waver, *hesitate, falter: *shake, tremble, quiver, quaver

ostensible *apparent, seeming, illusory
Ana specious, *plausible, colorable; pretended, assumed, affected, simulated, feigned (see assume)

ostentatious *showy, pretentious
Ana vainglorious, vain, proud (see under pride): flaunting, parading, displaying (see show vb): boasting, bragging, gasconading (see boast)

ostacize *banish, exile, expatriate, deport, transport, extradite

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
outcast, castaway, derelict, reprobate, pariah, out-and-out

out-and-out: outright, unmitigated, arrant

outiose

outiose *vain, nugatory, idle, empty, hollow
Ana *superfluous, supernumerary, surplus: *futile, vain, fruitless, bootless

oust *eject, expel, evict, dismiss
Ana *exclude, eliminate, shut out, rule out, debar, disbar: *dismiss, discharge, fire, cashier, sack

outcast n Outcast, castaway, derelict, reprobate, pariah, untouchable are comparable when they mean one who has lost contact with or has been excluded from association with men in general or with a particular group. Outcast is usually applied to a person who has been rejected by society and is forced to live without its help, its companionship, or its approval; the term need not imply a degraded or abject condition, but it does suggest a loss of the comforts that accrue from one's association with other men. The casual oppressor expiates his offense. . . . and after devastating years is given back an outcast to the society that made him—Cardozo

Ana *unwelcome, outcast, out-and-out, outright, unmitigated, arrant

otiose *vain, nugatory, idle, empty, hollow

outdo excel, outstrip, transcend, surpass, exceed

outer, outward, outside, exterior, mean being or placed without something. Although in many cases interchangeable, they are more or less restricted in their applications and are therefore clearly distinguished in their implications. Outer usually retains its comparative force, then applying to what is farther out from something described as inner. The outer as distinguished from the inner court. The outer layer of skin is called the epidermis or is farther than another thing from the center. (Shed one's outer garments) (The outer covering of a butternut is removed before the nut is cracked)

Out is also applicable to what is definitely without as opposed to what is definitely within something, but in this sense the term rarely suggests spatial relations; thus, the outer man is the man as known in the flesh and as distinguished from the inner man, that is, the man as he really is in mind and soul; one's outer life is the part which is observable to one's fellows; the outer world is the world as known directly through the senses. Outer may be used of spatial relations; when it is so used it commonly implies motion or direction away from, or the reverse of, what is inward. Given to outward display. (Outer voices from New York City is very heavy over the weekends) (The outward curve of a convex lens) Like outer, the term is sometimes used of what is manifest to others in contrast with what is within and especially with what is spiritual or mental (All outward actions, every overt thing we do—Powys) (Obstinate questionings of sense and outward things—Wordsworth) (Give outward and objective form to ideas that bubble inwardly and have a fascinating lure in them—Mencken) Outside usually implies a position on or a reference to the outer parts or surface of a thing (An outside stateroom on a ship) (Outside shutters) (The outside paint is looking shabby) But outside, in extended use, applies especially to a person or thing that is beyond implied borders, bounds, or limits; thus, an outside influence is one not emanating from the particular society, group, or community in mind; the outside world is the world beyond the scope or interest (As of a family group, community, or set) or the confines of a place (As an institution, a town, city, or a state); an outside broker is one who is not a member of an exchange; outside work is work in the open air in contrast with inside work under cover (As in an office, factory, or store) (If it had condemned, Old Chester would not have cared in the very least) It looked down upon the outside world—Deland (External and exterior are often used interchangeably without loss, for both come close in meaning to outside (External appearance of an object) (The exterior form of a body) But external may be preferred when location or situation beyond or away from the thing under consideration is implied (Our desires and wills are directed to some object external to us—Alexander) (The slavery which would be imposed upon her by her external enemies and her internal traitors—Russoevsky) and exterior is often preferred when location or situation on the surface or on the outer limits of a thing is implied (The exterior slope of a fortification) (The exterior parts of the human body) (Thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie thy Soul's immensity—Wordsworth) In addition, external sometimes comes close to superficial in implying mere appearance or semblance that has no relation or little relation to what the thing really is (But under this external

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
appearance of ease she was covered with cold beads of sweat—Wharton} \{beauty that is purely external\} and exterior may, like outer and outward, apply to what shows or is made apparent \{the exterior cold had stolen into the cars, forming lenses of ice on the inside surface of the windowpanes—Capyote\} \{the absence of exterior demonstration of affection for my mother—Wecter\}

**ana** extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien

**ant** inner —con inward, inside, internal, interior, in-testine (see inner)

**outfit** n equipment, apparatus, paraphernalia, tackle, machinery, gear, matériel

**outfit** vb furnish, equip, appoint, accouter, arm

**outlander** stranger, foreigner, alien, outsider, immigrant, émigré

**outlandish** strange, singular, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, curious

**outlast** *survive, outrival, survive* are comparable when they mean to remain in existence longer than another person or thing or after a given experience. Outlive carries a strong implication of a capacity for endurance and is especially appropriate when competition, struggle, or the surmounting of a difficulty is also connoted \{not marble, nor the gilded monuments of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme—Shak\} \{the world has outlived much, and will outlive a great deal more—J. R. Lowell\} Outlast differs little from outlive but usually stresses greater length of duration rather than greater capacity for endurance and therefore may be employed when comparison is more important than a suggestion of superiority or when the fact of existing longer is more important than the length of time involved \{customs that have long outlasted their usefulness—Inge\} \{the sweet sensations of returning health made me happy for a time; but such sensations seldom outlast convalescence—Hudson\} Survive may be used as an intransitive as well as a transitive verb; in general it suggests merely a living or existing longer than another person or thing, or after some event (sometimes implied rather than expressed) which might bring about his or its end \{the elder sister survived the younger\} \{he is unlikely to survive the operation\} \{one in a million of these childish talents survives puberty—Huxley\} \{they had at last survived the old year and were alive for the next—Irwin Shaw\} \{all called their host ‘Mr. President.’ That much sense of the proprieties survived the reek of whiskey—S. H. Adams\}

**ana** endure, persist, abide, *continue: withstand, *resist

**out** endure, persist, abide, *continue: surpass, *exceed

**outlook** n prospect, anticipation, foretaste

**ana** forecasting or forecast, predicting or prediction, prophesying or prophecy, presaging or presage (see corresponding verbs at foretell) possibility, probability, like-lihood (see corresponding adjectives at probable)

**outrage** vb *abuse, misuse, maltreat, ill-treat

**ana** *wrong, persecute, oppress, aggrieve: corrupt, pervert, vitiate, deprave, *debase

2 *offend, affront, insult

**ana** vex, *annoy, irk, bother: mortify, chagrin (see corresponding adjectives at ashamed)

**outrageous** monstrous, heinous, atrocious mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one's power to suffer or tolerate \{an outrageous practical joke\} \{an outrageous cartoon\} \{the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Hemingway\} although `skyline' may be chosen as more specific when the background is the sky \{the skyline of New York city\} \{gracious towers and spires make up the loveliest man-made skyline in the world—Pollock\} Silhouette in its primary sense applies to a likeness of someone or something made by or as if by tracing the outline of his or its shadow on dark material (as black paper), cutting this out, and mounting it against a contrasting background. In extended use silhouette, even more than outline or profile, eliminates all consideration of such details as color, quality, and expression and implies an outline seen in or as if in a shadow \{from the distance at which we stood and because of the brightness of the sun behind them, we saw the two figures only in silhouette\} \{the silhouette made a blue-black stain on the opposite wall—Lowell\} \{with a little imagination, he could find . . . the face of a dead man in the silhouette of the mountains—Bemelmans\}

**ana** figure, *form, shape, conformation, configuration

**2 sketch, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, plot, blue-print (see under sketch vb)
outside adj  
*outer, outward, external, exterior

overhang

overlay, *overflow

tardy, behindhand, late

supercilious, disdainful, lordly, arrogant,

overcome

surmount, overthrow, subjugate, rout, *conquer,

vex

frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent

over

outstrip

outdo, *exceed, surpass, transcend, excel

Outright, out-and-out, unmitigated, arrant

outright

threaten, menace: suspend, *hang, dangle

capture, *catch: outstrip, outdo, *exceed: *suppress,

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threaten, menace: suspend, *hang, dangle

capture, *catch: outstrip, outdo, *exceed: *suppress,

outside adj  
*outer, outward, external, exterior

Ana *flagrant, glaring, gross, rank: *excessive, inordinate, extreme: flagitious, nefarious, iniquitous, *vicious

outside adj  
*outer, outward, external, exterior

Ana *extrinsic, extraneous, alien, foreign

Ant inside —Con *inner, inward, internal, interior, intestine

outside adj  
*outer, outward, external, exterior

Ana *extrinsic, extraneous, alien, foreign

Ant inside —Con *inner, inward, internal, interior, intestine

outfit w frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent

Ana defeat, overcome, surmount (see conquer): *prevent, preclude, obviate, avert: overreach, *cheat, defraud

over *above

Ana beneath

overbearing supercilious, disdainful, lordly, arrogant, haughty, *proud, insolent

Ana domineering, *masterful, imperious: scarring or scornful, despising or despotic, contemning (see corresponding verbs at DESPISE): autocratic, despotic, tyrannical, *absolute

Ant subservient

overcome surmount, overthrow, subjugate, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick, subdue

Ana capture, *catch: outstrip, outdo, *exceed: *suppress, repress

ordure *tardy, behindhand, late

Ana delayed, retarded, detained, slowed, slackened (see delay vb): deferred, postponed (see defer)

overflow *teem, swarm, abound

overhang *bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, beetle

Ana *threaten, menace: suspend, *hang, dangle

overload, superpose, superimpose, appliqué can all mean to add one thing to another by placing the former upon or over the latter. Overlay usually implies covering with another material or substance, sometimes thinly (as with a wash, glaze, or coat) (plated silver is often a white metal overlaid with silver) or sometimes thickly (as by encrusting, veneering, or plastering) (a brick wall overlaid with stucco) In extended use overlay usually implies accritions or additions that conceal or encumber the original thing or smoother and stifle whatever there is of life in it (the ancient world had its own complexities, but it was not, like ours, heavily overlaid with the debris of speculative systems—Buchan) (ages of fierceness have overlaid what is naturally kindly in the dispositions of ordinary men and women—Russell) Superpose and superimpose are not always clearly distinguished, especially when they imply a putting of one thing on top of another, thereby extending the height of the original mass; thus, strata are layers of rock successively built up by sedimentary deposits, each layer being superimposed or superposed on the one previously formed. Superpose, however, is more often chosen when relative position only is indicated, and superimpose when the thing added rests upon or is supported by the original thing; thus, superposed columns do not necessarily have the columns of the lower row for their respective bases, but superimposed columns do; an overtone is strictly a superposed tone. Superpose is also the technical term when dealing with light rays or other energy waves that occupy the same position without destroying each other or losing their identities (upon the large and general motion of the glacier, smaller motions are superposed—Tyn dall) (originally they [two bright spots] were superposed on each other—Darrow) Superimpose often, especially in extended use, carries the implications of imposition or the addition of something extraneous and unintegrated (his symbolism is too often something superimposed—Bentley) Appliqué basically implies an ornamenting with pieces, usually of contrasting material, that are cut or shaped and applied (as by sewing or pasting); the term is used primarily in reference to textile ornamentation (appliqué a satin blouse with wool of the same color) In extended use appliqué suggests overlaying with something obviously added and forming a pattern (never taking his eyes off the pine trees, appliquéd against the blue water—Cather) (footnotes have been appliquéd to books that would have been better off without this factitious decoration—D. C. Smith)

overlook slight, forget, ignore, disregard, *neglect, omit

overplus *excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage

overreach *cheat, cozen, defraud, swindle

overrun *infect, beset

oversight, supervision, surveillance all denote the function or duty of watching or guarding for the sake of proper control or direction. Oversight applies to the function or duty not only of one who is called an overseer or an inspector but of anyone whose duty it is to watch the progress of a piece of work so that no defects or imperfections may occur or to superintend the labors or efforts of a body of workers (each foreman is charged with the oversight of the work done in his department) (his widow was to have the oversight of the portions left to the younger children—Struder) (legislative oversight of administration is a familiar and well-grounded assumption of responsible government—Macmahon) Supervision carries the strongest implication of authoritative powers, of responsibility, and of superintendence; it usually suggests more rigorous direction or closer management than oversight (the architect had supervision of the construction of the building) (the majority plan advocated supervision of the processing of ores . . . that is, complete control of uranium and
thorium—Current Biol.> Surveillance implies a close watch on persons suspected of being likely to commit misdeeds or offenses against the law or against morals or suffer untoward accidents (The police are maintaining a strict surveillance of the suspect) (keep the inmates of a lunatic asylum under surveillance) (I cannot drink a milk shake or put on a pair of shoes without their friendly but implacable surveillance—A. E. Stevenson) (they subjected her to a pride-breaking foreign surveillance, and refused her even the lip service of recognition as an equal—The Personalist)

**Analogous Words**

**Antonyms**

- **overturn, subvert, upset, capsize**
- **overstatement** *exaggeration, hyperbole
- **overture**
- **throw, cast, fling, hurl, toss**
- **understatement**
- **bid**
- **overture n Overture, approach, advance, tender, bid are words of somewhat indefinite application covering a variety of acts or actions by which one person or party tries to gain the goodwill of another person or party. Overture implies an attempt to begin a relationship. It may designate a formal proposal intended to open negotiations (as for peace; a marriage between persons of royal blood, or for a merger of corporations). It is, however, often applied to an act or speech that may be construed as a search for an opening (as for friendship, for reconciliation, or for cooperation) (she was not one of those backward and delicate ladies, who can die rather than make the first overture—Fielding) ("You are the new second officer, I believe." Mr. Powell answered in the affirmative, wondering if this was a friendly overture—Conrad) Approach, often in the plural, may be used in place of overture when the latter is felt to be too formal (the two girls made timid approaches to each other) (the minister is always tempted to break through ... with intimate approaches to a congregation which are off the record—Sperry) (females who are most often involved in tavern pickups and in street approaches —Kinsey et al) Advance, usually in the plural, may be applied to an attempt to gain love, friendship, or goodwill, whether it serve as an overture or as an effort to establish a closer relationship (she tried to make talk, but Hugh answered all her advances ... briefly—Anderson) and it is the one of these terms that is freely used without qualification to suggest irregularity or impropriety in the overtures made (Frances withstood the advances of the King, but she accepted his gift—Sylvia Gray) (if an officer with a higher rank than my husband's makes advances to me, do I have to submit if I want my husband to get promoted?—Kaderly) Tender retains its primary meaning of offer, but it does not necessarily imply specific acts or a formal proposal. Sometimes it suggests little more than a sign or token ("He hath, my lord, of late made many tenders of his affection to me.")." "Affection! pooh! you speak like a green girl.... Do you believe his tenders, as you call them?"—Shak.) (honored him by the tender of some important appointment—J. D. Hicks) Bid adds to advance the implication of appeal or, sometimes, of invitation; it always requires qualification (a bid for sympathy) (a bid for patronage) Like the other words of this group, the specific nature of the act or action can be inferred only from the context (de Gaulle's speech was generally considered a bid for the presidency—Ehr-
pacify, pacifist, pacifistic
pabulum *food, aliment, nourishment, sustenance, pap
pace
pacific, peaceable, peaceful, irenic, pacifist, pacificstic are sometimes confused because they all involve the idea of affording or promoting peace. But pacific applies chiefly to persons or to utterances, acts, influences, or ideas that tend to make peace or to conciliate strife (they flung out a challenge which even the most pacific Quaker in Philadelphia had to heed—Charles & Mary Beard) (seek the settlement of disputes only by pacific means—R. H. Jackson) (the pacific policy of Walpole was regarded by them as a national humiliation—Plumb) Peaceable also applies to persons or to their actions or words, but it describes their character or quality as peace-loving, as disposed to avoid strife, or as inclined to keep peace, rather than their aims or tendencies (the villagers were quiet, peaceable folk) (our king the good Simonides . . . deserves so to be called for his peaceable reign and good government—Shak) (the Mayans were a traditionally gentle and peaceable people—Bracker) Peaceful applies especially to a life, a condition or state, a period or age, or a country or people in which peace prevails or there is no strife, but it may apply to whatever is indicative of peace, especially of mind, or provides an opportunity for such peace (and may at last my weary age find out the peaceful hermitage—Milton) (the peaceful countenance of the old clergyman (thou shouldst have seemed a treasure-house divine of peaceful years—Wordsworth) (man has laid down his weapons and resumed a peaceful way of life—Bailey) (the peaceful comportment of the seals had quieted my alarm—London) Irenic, which applies primarily to peace in connection with religious controversy, may describe attitudes and measures likely to allay dispute (the political equivalent of the dogfights on the human level is not made more ienic by the capacity of the participants to verbalize their animosities—Murphy) (Piper lived to see his synod adopt a very ienic attitude towards its former antagonists—Rohne) Pacifist and pacificstic apply chiefly to the views, arguments, writings, or attitudes of opponents of war or the use of military force for any purpose but they may also apply to the spirit or utterances of someone who conscientiously objects to wars or who would substitute arbitration for the settlement of any disputes (pacificstic antagonism to conscription) (Grotius' pacificstic attitude is founded on his understanding of the humanitarian and cosmopolitan aspects of natural law—Albert Salomon) (as many pacifist writers argue, international warfare has consequences for the lives of people, in terms of spiritual sickness and the brutalizing of attitudes—Garvin)
Ana *calm, placid, serene, tranquil: conciliating or conciliatory, propitiating or propitiatory, appeasing, pacifying or pacificatory (see corresponding verbs at PACIFY)
Ant bellicose—Con *belligerent, pugnacious, combative, quarrelsome, contentious
pacifist, pacificstic *pacific, peaceable, peaceful, irenic
apacify, appease, placate, mollify, propitiate, conciliate are comparable when they mean to quiet excited, aroused, or disturbed persons. Pacify implies a soothing or calming of anger, grievance, or agitation, or the quelling of insurrection especially by force (seeing his mounting rage, friends did all they could to pacify and restrain him) (second-grade troops, useful mainly to occupy parts of the country that have already been pacified—Crozier) Appease may indicate the quieting of agitation or insistent demand by the making of concessions (open in manner, easy of access, a little quick of temper but readily appeased—Buchan) (he is utterly and absolutely implacable; no prayers, no human sacrifices can ever for one moment appease his cold, malignant rage—L. P. Smith) and it may be used in reference to appetites, desires, and passions as well as persons and to imply a giving of quietening satisfaction (there is always the drive to excel. Work, literacy, food and shelter . . . are minimum requirements of civilization, but they will not appease this ambition—Edmund Wilson) (a frantic effort to appease mounting discontent at home—Wilten) Placate is sometimes interchangeable with appease but may imply a more complete or lasting assuagement of bitter feeling (each and every new route projected was liable to drastic alteration to placate local opposition—O. S. Nock) (federal officials who try to placate witch-hunting Congressmen—New Republic) Mollify stresses softening of anger or abatement of hurt feelings by positive action (as flattery or concession) (the propagandists . . . must be able to mollify and perhaps even convert the hostile—Huxley) (mollified when they heard that the patio, with its famous cottonwood tree will be left intact—Green Peyton) Propitiate may refer to averting the anger or malevolence or winning the favor of a superior or of one possessing the power to injure greatly (propitiate this far-shooting Apollo—Grote) (Aunty Rosa, he argued, had the power to beat him with many stripes . . . it would be discreet in the future to propitiate Aunty Rosa—Kipling) (the unlimited power of trustees to abuse their trust unless they are abjectly propitiated—H. G. Wells) Conciliate may be used of situations in which an estrangement or dispute is settled by arbitration or compromise (policy of conciliating and amalgamating conquered nations—Reppier) (insinctively friendly and wholly free from inflammatory rhetoric, he did much to conciliate more stubborn Northern sentiment concerning the South—Gaines)
Ana assuage, alleviate, allay, mitigate, *relieve: *moderate, qualify, temper
Ant anger
pack n *bundle, bunch, package, packet, bale, parcel
pack vb Pack, crowd, cram, stuff, ram, tamp are comparable when they mean to fill tightly or cause to fill tightly something which holds a limited amount or presents a limited space. Pack, in its basic sense, implies a forming into packs or bundles for convenience in storing or transporting (oranges are packed in crates for shipment) (pack books in cartons before moving them) (in this factory huge quantities of meat are processed, packed, and shipped to all parts of the country) Additionally it may imply close, orderly arrangement in receptacles of determined size, and, as a corollary, compact and complete A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
filling. In extended use it may suggest completeness of filling or, frequently, an excessive or uncomfortable filling, without any relation to the ideas of storing or transporting 

(1) packed the theater 
(2) the crowd in the bus was packed in like sardines 
(3) packs an extraordinary amount of information into a few pages—Times Lit. Sup. 

Crowd (see also PRESS) implies the presence of great numbers of persons or things in proportion to the space, area, or time; the term often suggests numbers so great as to press upon or otherwise seriously inconvenience 

(1) the harbor was crowded with ships 
(2) crowd more persons into a hall than it can safely hold 

In revolutions men live fast: the experience of years is crowded into hours—Macaulay 
(1) the road . . . was now crowded with people who had come up the hill for their Sunday afternoon walk—Archibald Marshallly 
(2) his mind was crowded with the detail he observed—Nevil Shute 

Cram carries a similar implication of pressing so as to bruise or squeeze, but the word usually also suggests a forcible and, sometimes, disorderly insertion into a receptacle or space of more than it can easily or comfortably or safely take 

(1) cram a trunk full of clothes 
(2) their storehouses crammed with grain—Shak. 
(3) crammed his head full of knowledge 

(1) cram for an examination 
(2) most of the newcomers arrive with only such means as can be crammed into a bundle or two—Hersey 

Stuff implies the use of such a material as padding, wadding, or straw in expanding or distending 

(1) stuff a pillow with feathers 
(2) stuff a mattress with straw 

From this specific meaning comes the more general meaning of to fill so that a thing bulges or so that the filling protrudes 

(1) staffed his purse with bills 
(2) stuff a turkey with dressing 
(3) I have stuffed too many of the facts of history and science into my intellectual—L. P. Smithy 

Ram nearly always retains some notion of its basic implication of pounding and tamping 

(1) ram home the charge in a muzzle-loading firearm by means of a ramrod 

but this implication is sometimes obscured or subordinated and that of stuffing or cramping as if by pounding in is stressed 

(1) ram tobacco into his pipe 

(2) I always ram my clothes into a box—Bury 

(3) pronging great slices of meat onto his fork and ramming them into his mouth—Bruce Marshallly 

Tamp, which often comes close to ram in meaning, originally meant and still means to plug up a drill hole above a blasting charge with clay, earth, or similar material. In its extended use it implies a series of blows which press something into a confined space or under, over, or about another thing that needs to be supported 

(1) capping the gravel back around the ties—Laird 

(2) into his pipe 


package n packet, *bundle, bunch, bale, parcel, pack 
packet n package, pack, *bundle, bunch, bale, parcel 
pact n compact, *contract, bargain, treaty, entente, convention, cartel, Concordat 

pain n Pain, ache, pang, throe, twinge, stitch are comparable when they mean a bodily sensation that causes acute discomfort or suffering. Pain may range in its application from a sensation that makes one uneasily aware of some discomfort or suffering. Pain may range in its application from 

(1) a sensation that makes one uneasily aware of some discomfort or suffering. Pain may range in its application from 

(2) some underlying disorder 

(3) the ache of an abscessed tooth 
(4) backache that accompanies kidney disease 

A pang is a sharp, sudden, and usually transitory pain of great intensity, especially one that recurs in spasms 

(1) pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth—Isa 21:3 

(2) attacking them [feas] was a waste of time, and unless a particularly savage pang forced you into action, you just sat and let yourself be devoured—Stewart 

A throe is a pang characteristic of a process (as of labor in childbirth). Because of its association with labor the term usually designates a violent and convulsive, as well as a recurrent pain 

(1) in the throes of violent retching 
(2) the throes of a mortal and painful disorder—Scott 

A twinge is a momentary shooting or darting pain, especially one causing muscular contraction or twitching; it is sometimes regarded as a premonitory symptom (shrunken off twinges and creaking like mine as something quite to be expected in their early fifties—E. M. Stern) 

(1) feel a twinge in the region of the heart 

(2) Stitch differs from twinge in suggesting something that runs through a part of a body (usually a muscle) as a piercing needle 

(3) ran until he got a stitch in the side 

All of these words except the last designate also mental suffering. Pain commonly suggests sorrow (as for something lost or unattainable) 

(1) my craving to hear from her was at times a gnawing pain—Kenneth Roberts 

(2) Ache usually implies suffering that must be endured or longing not likely to be appeased 

(3) there was an ache in his heart like the farewell to a dear woman—Steinbeck 

(4) know the ache of loneliness 

Pang suggests a sudden sharp access of a painful emotion 

(1) sharp pangs of envy 
(2) pangs of remorse 

(3) the next time I ran away just the same, and suffered the most ghastly pangs of fear—John Reed 

(4) statements . . . made unhesitatingly, with no visible pangs of conscience—Sanders 

A throe presupposes the existence of mental agony and designates one of the recurrent spasms that characterize the state of mind 

(1) fierce maternal passion . . . was now bowing her still lower, in the throes of a bitter renunciation—Wharton 

(2) Twinge suggests less poignancy than pang but often connotes compunction 

(3) twinges of conscience 

(4) too painfully preoccupied to feel a twinge of self-reproach at this undeserved praise—George Eliot 

(5) shot down his victims without shadow of provocation and who probably never felt a twinge of remorse—Ghent 

Ana *agony, distress, suffering, passion: anguish, *sorrow, grief, heartbreak 

(1) 2 in plural form pains *effort, exertion, trouble 

(2) Ana labor, toil, travail, *work: industriousness or industry, diligence, seduluousness, assiduousness (see corresponding adjectives at BUSY) 

pair n *couple, brace, yoke 

palatable, appetizing, savory, sapid, tasty, toothsome, flavorsome, relishing mean agreeable or pleasant to the taste. Palatable is not emphatic in its implication of pleasantness; therefore it seldom suggests deliciousness and is often, on the other hand, implies little more than acceptability 

(1) provide palatable meals for her family 

(2) the root, when properly cooked, was converted into a palatable and nutritious food—Prescott 

The term is used frequently of things which are mentally digested 

(1) the rebus was not palatable 

(2) I'm afraid that my remarks have not been very palatable, but I can assure you that they were sincerely meant—Mackenzie 

Appetizing implies a whetting of the appetite; it is applicable to the smell and appearance as well as to the taste of food 

(1) the appetizing odor of a roasting turkey 

(2) a convalescent requires appetizing meals 

In its extended use the word is applicable to things that stimulate a desire for more or an

See also explanatory notes facing page
palate
eagerness to go further \langle an appetizing introduction to a subject \rangle \langle the journalist with a nose for appetizing front-page tidbits—Zirato \rangle Savory, also, is applied to foods that have an agreeable odor as well as taste, but it conveys definite implications of piquancy; it is therefore applied to highly seasoned dishes as contrasted with sweet or bland dishes \langle a bland meat sometimes needs a savory sauce \rangle \langle a savory stuffing for the turkey \rangle In extended use savory may suggest a pleasantly stimulating and agreeable quality \langle engaging books . . . neither autobiography, nor fiction, nor essays, but a savory mixture of all three—N. Y. Times ⟩ but more often than not it is used in negative construction or with orthonic implications \langle the conquest of the West . . . is not among the more savory chapters in American history—Agnew \rangle Sapid is an uncommon and chiefly technical term that primarily applies to a substance able to stimulate taste receptors \langle assuming that the spaid substance . . . initiates the electrical depolarization of the taste cell \rangle Beiderer \langle In general use it may imply a marked taste or flavor \langle a spaid dish \rangle or in extended use one that is distinctly keen or exhilarating \langle a spaid and antiseptic quality of bright intelligence—Ellis \rangle Tasty implies a marked taste, but it suggests in addition an appetizing quality \langle a tasty morsel \rangle \langle a tasty cheese \rangle \langle many trees, like the cajü, which produce tasty fruits—P. E. James \rangle \langle tasty ingredients for a good, breezy book—Barrett \rangle Toothsome heightens the implication of agreeableness in palatable and may add the suggestion of tenderness or of daintiness \langle a toothsome dessert \rangle \langle one of the most toothsome chicken dinners you'll ever munch—Gelson Hardy \rangle Flavoursome usually suggests richness rather than sharpness of taste, and again implies fragrance as well as savor \langle flavoursome apricots \rangle \langle incredibly flavoursome wild mushrooms from the forests—Davenport \rangle Relishing stresses gusto in enjoyment \langle he found all this praise extremely relishing \rangle \langle find ways in which the soldier's food could be made more relishing—Current Bioq \rangle Ana *delightful, delicious, delectable, luscious: piquant, *pungent, spicy

Ant unpalatable: distasteful

palate *taste, relish, gusto, zest

pale adj 1 Pale, pallid, ashen, ash, wan, livid mean devoid of natural or healthy color as applied to a complexion or deficient in vividness or intensity of hue as applied to a specific color. Pale is the least rich of these words in implications and connotations; it merely implies relative nearness to white and deficiency in depth and brilliance of coloring \langle his face grew pale \rangle \langle the sea is a pale green in this light \rangle Pallid adds to pale the suggestions of deprivations, rather than absence, of color and of an abnormal condition \langle as weakness or faintness, or intense weariness \rangle; thus, one may be naturally pale but a person made pale by illness would usually be called pallid \langle this pallid face reveals the strain he has been under \rangle \langle trembling limbs and pallid lips—Shelley \rangle \langle its little smoke, in pallid moonshine, died—Keats \rangle Ashen and ashly definitely suggest not only the pale gray color of ashes but often, also, extreme pallor \langle as of the skin in death \rangle. A thing described as ash or ashen may therefore be said to be deadly or ghastly pale \langle the skies they were ashren and sober—Poe \rangle \langle the ash hue of age—Scott \rangle \langle oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost, of ash hue and ashly—Shak \rangle \langle Mr. Cruncher, who was all in a tremble, with an ashy and solemn visage—Dickens \rangle Wan suggests the blanching associated with an unhealthy condition or waning vitality; it usually therefore denotes a sickly paleness \langle the blasted stars looked wan—Milton \rangle \langle her poor wan face with its wastful, pitiful little smile—Hewlett \rangle Livid basically means leaden-hued; it is chiefly used of things, especially of human faces that under the influence of something that distorts them have lost their normal coloring and have assumed a dull grayish tinge \langle he grew livid with rage \rangle \langle in the greenish glass her own face looked far off like the livid face of a drowned corpse at the bottom of a pool—Conrad \rangle The word is also applied to various dull or dun colors when the hue is barely apparent \langle the livid red of the sun seen through a heavy fog \rangle \langle the livid yellow of a stormy sky \rangle \langle his trembling lips are livid blue—Scott \rangle Ana *ghastly, macabre: cadaverous, *haggard, worn

2 Pale, anemic, bloodless are comparable in their extended senses when they are applied to things and mean weak and thin in substance or in vital qualities, as though drained of blood. Pale stresses deficiency in qualities necessary to give a thing its true color or character. Sometimes it connotes lack of vigor, force, or energy \langle the French . . . shake in their fear and with pale policy seek to divert the English purposes—Shak \rangle \langle does pale little studies that are as innocuous as his earlier work was adventurous—Coates \rangle but more often it implies inadequacy or failure to measure up to the requirements of a type or standard \langle her whole existence was too pale, too inadequate in some way—too unvital—Farrell \rangle Anemic in its extended applications to things implies deficiency in the elements that make for vigor or richness, especially intellectual or spiritual vigor or richness \langle the African Negro has . . . joy of life, love of color, keen senses, beautiful voice, and ear for music—contributions that . . . might one day prove a tonic to an anemic and artless America—Zangwill \rangle \langle not even a respectable vocabulary of indecency to draw upon in support of our anemic cussing—Whicher \rangle Bloodless stresses the absence of qualities necessary to life or lifelikeness \langle as vitality, warmth, color, and human emotion \rangle \langle now if I make this sound bloodless, I am exaggerating a bit—even an old habit is livened once in a while with color—Mailer \rangle \langle books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life—Stevenson \rangle Ana *insipid, wishy-washy, inane, jejune: ineffective, ineffectual

pall clay, surfeit, *satiate, sate, glut, gorge

palliate, extenuate, gloss, gloss, whitewash, whiten are comparable when they mean to give a specifically fine appearance to what is base, evil, or erroneous. Palliate may stress the concealing or cloaking or the condoning of the enormity of a crime or offense \langle retracing thus his frolics ('tis a name that palliates deeds of folly and of shame)—Cowper \rangle \langle we have not endeavored to conceal or even palliate his errors—Lockhart \rangle \langle we cannot . . . explain away this deliberate act as due to the garrulity of age, or accept the other excuses with which his admirers have sought to palliate it—L. P. Smith \rangle The word also is used especially in reference to other than moral evils in the sense of to disguise the true nature or extent of so as to soften the bad effects \langle minds which are keen and wills which are stronger than the average do not rest in “quiet desperation” palliated by illusion—Krutch \rangle \langle resort to coercive force and suppression of civil liberties are readily palliated . . . when the cry is raised that “law and order” are threatened—Dewey \rangle Extenuate (see also THIN) implies the aim to lessen \langle as by excuses or explanations \rangle the seriousness or magnitude of some crime, offense, or guilt \langle when you shall these unlucky deeds relate, speak of me as I am; nothing in what I have done or said is so mean as to deserve extenuate, nor yet so set down aught in malice—Shak \rangle \langle he did not extenuate, he rather emphasized, the criminality of Catiline and his confederates—Froude \rangle But the term is often used in the sense of to make excuses for \langle had never forgiven Cromwell the execution of the martyr Charles; and to extenuate the conduct of the
Great Roundhead captain, was to make Mrs. Doria despire and detest you—Meredith) <he permits himself...costly Havana cigars and an electric typewriter. There are circumstances that extenuate both indulgences—Kahn> Gloze and gloss often followed by over, imply an aim to veil by more or less light dissembling (as by specious comments or by flattering talk) the true harshness, unpleasantness, or disagreeableness of something; often, the words suggest a representation of what is actually disagreeable as more or less agreeable or as not distinctly unpleasant; gloze, however, is usually more derogatory than gloss which is a relatively neutral word (<the explorer has a fondness in glozing over the hardships he endured) <not wish to gloss over the fragmentary state of our present knowledge—Edington> <with the tongue of flattery glozing deeds which God and Truth condemn—Whittier> <we glozed our fraud by conducting their necessary war purely and cheaply—T. E. Lawrence> <believed in youth and did not gloze the unpleasant consequences of age—MacNeice> <Whitewash, and less often white, imply an attempt to cover up (as a crime, a defect or fault, or a person's guilt) by some such means as a superficial investigation, or a perfunctory trial, or a special report that leads to a seeming acquittal or exonerating or that gives the person or persons accused an appearance of innocence or blamelessness (<a poet and an author will go as far in whitewashing a munificent tyrant—Walpole> <by selecting the evidence any society may be relatively blackened, and any other society relatively whitened—Spencer> <his object in attempting to whitewash the evildoers was not so clear—Crofts> Ana mitigate, alleviate, lighten (see RELIEVE): condone; *excuse: *moderate, qualify, temper: cloak, mask, *disguise, dissimile, camouflage palid *pale, ashen, ashy, wan, livid palpable 1 *perceptible, sensible, tangible, appreciable, ponderable Ana *apparent, ostensible, seeming: believable, credible, colorable, *plausible Ant *insensible 2 plain, clear, *evident, apparent, manifest, patent, obvious, distinct Ana *sure, certain, positive: *noticeable, remarkable, striking, arresting Ant impalpable —Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic palpate vb *touch, feel, handle, paw palpation see under palpate at TOUCH vb palpitate beat, throb, *pulsate, pulse Ana vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate. *swing, sway palpitation beat, throb, pulsation, pulse (see under PULSATIE vb) Ana vibration, oscillation, fluctuation, swinging, swaying (see corresponding verbs at SWING) palter *lie, prevaricate, equivocate, fib Ana evade, elude, *escape: *trifle, daily palpistry trifling, trivial, *petty, puny, mealy, picayune, picayune Ana *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurry, cheap, beggarly, shabby: abject, ignoble, *mean: *base, low, vile pamper *indulge, humor, spoil, baby, mollycoddle Ana gratify, tickle, regale, *please: fondle, pet, cosset, *caress, dandle Ant chasten pandect *compendium, syllabus, digest, survey, sketch, précis, apécoch pandemonium uproar, *din, hubbub, babble, hubbub, clamor, racket pander *cater, purvey Ana truckle, toady, *fawn, cringe: gratify, tickle, regale, *please panegyr ic tribute, eulogy, *encomium, citation Ana commendation, applauding or applause, complimenting or compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEMD): acclaiming or acclaim, laudation, praising or praise, extolling or extollation (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE) pang *pain, ache, throe, twinge, stitch Ana agony, *distress, suffering: anguish, *sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak: torturing or torture, tormenting or torment (see AFFLICT) panic terror, horror, trepidation, consternation, dismay, alarm, fright, dread, *fear Ana agitation, upsetting or upset, perturbation, disquieting or disquiet, disrupting or discomposing (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE) Con *confidence, assurance, self-possession, aplomb: *equanimity, composure, sangfroid pant aspire, *aim Ana thirst, hunger, *long, year, pine: crave, covet, *desire, wish, want pap *food, aliment, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance paper n 1 Paper, instrument, document all mean a writing (often typed, sometimes printed) that is of value to its owner or to others who come after him as a source of information or proof of a right, contention, or claim. Paper is the most general term, applicable to such writing (as a letter, deed, certificate, or writ) filed away for future use or reference <state papers> <a peculiar difficulty I have experienced in dealing with Lord Macaulay's private papers—G. O. Trevelyan> <it was not until I was forty that my father put into my hands a few old family papers which furnished clues to an investigation of my more remote ancestry—Ellis> Instrument is a legal term applicable to a paper (as a deed, a writ, a will, or a contract) that is made and executed according to the terms of the law, as concrete evidence of some legally defined action (as a transfer of property, the enforcement of a judgment, one's decisions as to who shall inherit one's property, or the terms of an agreement) <set up a confederacy based upon a written instrument—Nevins> Document (see also DOCUMENT 1) applies to a legal instrument or to an original or authentic copy of a letter, a record, or other paper that may be used as a source of information, evidence, or proof (her letters I sent back except those of the quarreling correspondence, and those, being documents, are placed in the hands of a third person—Byron) <the Declaration of Independence stands out as one of the vital documents of history—Confield & Wilder> 2 article, *essay, theme, composition par n norm, *average, mean, median par adj mean, median, average (see under AVERAGE n) parable *allegory, myth, fable parade n 1 *display, array, pomp Ana showiness, ostentatiousness or ostentation, pretentiousness (see corresponding adjectives at SHOWY) 2 *procession, cavalcade, cortage, motorcade parade vb flaunt, expose, display, exhibit, *show Ana *reveal, disclose, divulge: *declare, proclaim, publish, advertise: vaunt, *brazen, brag, gasconade Con cloak, mask, *disguise, dissimul, camouflage paradox, antimony, anomaly are comparable terms that involve the idea of expressing or revealing an inner or inherent contradiction and are therefore not always clearly distinguished. A paradox is primarily a statement or proposition which contains a contradiction yet which, absurd as it seems to be, may still be true and in accordance with the facts and common sense (the perfectly bred man is
born, not bred, if the paradox may be permitted—Brown- nell> By extension paradox may apply to something which is known to exist, yet which when described or put in words seems incredible because it involves a logical contradiction <the old will perennially become new at the hand of genius. That is the paradox of art—Lowes> <the colonel . . . is a paradox—a well-known secret agent— Koblery> An antinomy, in philosophical use, is a contradiction of two laws, principles, or conclusions, both of which are held on good grounds or are correctly inferred from the same facts or premises; thus, the con- clusions that every material thing can be explained by mechanical causes and that some material things cannot be explained unless a final cause is postulated, present an antinomy, but in the opinion of Kant both can be accepted as rules regulative of experience. In more general use the term is often applied to one thing that contradicts another thing and is irreconcilable with it <form and expression . . . should stand toward one another not as clashing antino- mies but as reconciled opposites—Babbitl> or it may apply to a conflict (as of principles, beliefs, forces, tendencies, or aspirations) that is irresolvable in the light of present knowledge <a mind that is not naturally analytical, and conscious of the antinomies of existence—Amer. Speech> <every dogma is but one side of an inevitable antinomy— Cushing> <the antinomy between contented security and adventure for gain, between equilibrarian justice and the justice of rewards—an antinomy whose resolution calls for a reasonable compromise and not a clear-cut choice— Aron> An anomaly is something that is contrary to what it should be. For example, it may be an exception or a contradiction to a rule; it may be a freak, a monster, a sport, or a contradiction to a type; it may be an anarchy- ronism or solecism, irreconcilable with its surroundings or conditions; it may be an action, a practice, or a mood, that is in effect a denial of what one believes or teaches <there is no greater anomaly in nature than a bird that can- not fly—Darwin> <the anomaly of a war fought to pre- serve freedom by a people enslaved by prejudice— Quentin Anderson> <the political world must keep pace with the scientific world. A security league, in an age of flight, is an anomaly—E. B. White> parallel

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A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the latter in the points under consideration. Parallels is especially appropriate when the two things compared are so like each other that their lack of divergence suggests two parallel lines; the term is often used in negative expressions (we shall seek in vain a parallel for this situation). It is hard to find a parallel for this mode of procedure; none but thyself can be thy parallel—Pope. Sometimes, especially when actual comparison is implied, the word suggests that the two things follow a similar course, order, or line of development. (Many interesting parallels are drawn with the historical plays of Shakespeare—Times Lit. Sup.) Counterpart often suggests a complementary and sometimes an obverse relationship (the two halves of a globe are counterparts of each other) (not an elaboration of Romanticism, but rather a counterpart to it, a second flood of the same tide—Edmund Wilson). More commonly, however, the word implies a duplication, especially in another sphere, or age, or language. (Synthetic chemistry has produced many a drug or perfume that has no counterpart in nature) (he saw that there was no mood of the mind that had not its counterpart in the sensuous life—Wilde) (French big businessmen and reactionaries politicians have the support of their counterparts in the U.S.—Gorell). Analogue usually implies a more remote likeness than the preceding words and suggests comparison with something familiar and tangible for the sake of clarifying an explanation or enforcing an argument. Like counterpart, it often involves reference to something in another sphere, or order, or genus (the gill in fishes is an analogue of the lung in quadrupeds). (the deepest and simplest reports of man's trouble have always been told in animal analogues—Morley) (civilization is . . . the process by which primitive packs are transformed into an analogue, crude and mechanical, of the social insects' organic communities—Huxley). Correlate retains its primary implication of correspondence, but does not retain that of a complementary relationship. A thing which is a correlate of another is what corresponds to it from another point of view or in a different order of viewing (the scientist asks what is the physical correlate of the rainbow) (words are the mental correlates of direct experience—Weaver) (Fear persisted, and with it persisted an animosity toward the sister. Undoubtedly this is the psychological correlate of the incest taboo—Dollard). Paralyze *daze, stun, bemuse, stupefy, benumb, petrify Ana *dismay, daunt, appall, horrify: disable, cripple, astound, flabbergast (see SURPRISE): Weaken, enfeeble: astound, flabbergast. Parol 3 *group, cluster, bunch, lot.
parcels n plural of parcel

dodger, shirk, sidestep, duck, fence, malinger

vb

parody
travesty, *caricature, burlesque

pardon n
Pardon, amnesty, absolution

vb

parley

pariah

pare
peel, *skin, decorticate, flay

*p venial

parochial
*insular, provincial, local, small-town

portion, part

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**Modern languages and of political sciences of a college but to the several sections into which a large class of students taking a course is divided (there are twenty sections of freshman English). Except in technical use, the terms carry no explicit suggestions as to size or extent; division, however, is more often used abstractly than section, which tends to be applied to a conspicuously distinct part (as of a writing, a people, a country, a territory, or a city) (it is improper to speak of these different parts of the chemical industry as divisions, for the solidarity of the whole does not permit splitting it—Morrison). (The only important grape-growing section of Pennsylvania—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) (The sports section of the newspaper) (entertained by all sections of the local community—Moir). Segment is often preferred to section for a part cut off by natural lines of cleavage or necessitated by the nature of the thing's construction or design (a segment of an orange) (a segment of a compound leaf) (invited to address a segment of the war college—Michener) (essential raw materials for a broad segment of American industry—Crops in Peace and War). In mathematical use segment is distinguished from sector in that segment refers to any part of a plane or solid figure cut off from the whole by a line or plane (a segment of a cylinder) (a segment of a circle is bounded by an arc and a chord) while sector refers to any part of a circle bounded by an arc and two radii (divide a circle into six sectors). In more general use sector applies to a section that roughly corresponds to a mathematical sector; thus, a sector assigned to a commander of a division in war has arbitrary bounds on sides and rear but a front that is as extensive as the range of its guns (consider the ... problem as a whole and not in segments—Vandenbergh). Fraction and fragment both apply to a part that is disconnected from a whole, especially by breaking; but fraction, probably by its confusion with the arithmetical sense of that word, often suggests a negligible part (only a small fraction of mankind is capable of enthusiasm for language, for its own sake—Inge) (some little fraction ... of your enjoyment of tragedy—Montague) and fragment applies to a random bit and especially to one of the pieces left after most of the whole has been eaten, used, worn away, or lost (they took up of the fragments ... twelve baskets full—Mt 14:20) (only a fragment of the dramatic literature that once existed—Alick) (if the novel proves to be a novel and not a collage of extraordinary fragments—Mailer). (Parael (see also bundle) is used chiefly in law with reference to land and in such idiomatic phrases as part and parcel; in all its uses it carries an underlying notion of a part having a firm and unbreakable connection with the whole to which it belongs (and I will die a hundred thousand deaths ere break the smallest part of this vow—Shak.) (a land parcel, insofar as it is a described area on the face of the earth, cannot be destroyed—Babcock). *Ant whole* 

**Part vb divide, separate, sever, sunder, divorce**  
Anna *detach, disengage: apportion, *allot, allocate, assign: *tear, rend, cleave  
Ant cleave (see stick) —Con cling, *stick, adhere:  
*unite, combine, conjoin

**Partake* *share, participate**  
Anna *separate, part, divide: take, *receive, accept: *have, hold, own, possess, enjoy: *get, obtain, procure, acquire

**Partiality** possession, prejudice, bias, *prediction
Anna approving or approval, endorsing or endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)
Ant impartiality

**Participate* *share, partake**  
Anna analogous words  
Ant antonyms  
Con contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1

**Particle**  
Anna *separate, divide, part: take, *receive, accept: *have, hold, own, possess, enjoy  
**Particle 1** Particle, bit, mite, smidgen, whit, atom, iota, jot, tittle all mean a very small or insignificant piece or part. Particle is used in reference not only to substances which are actually divisible but to such things as a quality, a state, or a condition which are only theoretically so because they are intangible or ideal; usually it implies an amount within the range of visual or mental perception (a particle of matter) (he hasn't a particle of sense) (her face was ... beaded with small particles of rain—Wolfe) (there is not a particle of truth in any of these statements—Ashley Montagu). Bit usually suggests a relatively minute or the least feasible amount, extent, or degree (own a bit of land) (he doesn't like a bit) (he is a bit of a coward) (distinction on the basis of sex is the only bit of gender we have left—Laird) (little trifling useless bits of deceit—Black) (if one wished to indulge in a bit of sentimentality, one could say that the truths of science become obsolete ... but that the truth of the arts is everlasting—Boas). Mite may stress either diminutiveness in size or minuteness in amount (a mite of a boy) (a mite of a diamond) (he hasn't a mite of suspicion) (only a mite of what it could have taught was seen and learned—Fitzsimmons). Smidgen may replace bit or mite (yearning ... for a smidgen of Broadway glamour—New Yorker) but sometimes and especially in negative constructions it may go even farther in stressing minuteness or scarcity (ate squirrel and rabbit, broiled over hot coals, for there was not a smidgen of grease left—Atlantic). Whit is used chiefly in negative phrases in the sense of the least conceivable amount (it matters not a whit) (he hasn't a whit of knowledge of the subject) (the civilized man is not a whit different from the savage in this respect—Henry Miller). Atom (see also particle 2) implies an amount or a size beyond the possibility of further diminution (not an atom of dust escaped her scrutiny) (it hasn't an atom of seriousness about it—a mere footnote to history—Laski). Iota and jot both imply a minuteness suggestive of the character iota [i], the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet, while tittle, used chiefly in the phrase jot or tittle, implies a minuteness suggestive of a small diacritical mark such as the dot over an i; the three are used interchangeably to mean the smallest or most minute detail or amount (he hasn't added a jot, an iota, or a tittle to our knowledge of the subject) (Iota, however, sometimes denotes an insignificant amount, extent, or degree (of statesmanship he had not an iota—S. H. Adams) (he who adds a jot to such knowledge creates new mind—Shaw) (he meant not to lose one tittle of enjoyment—Churchill).  

**2 Particle, corpuscle, atom, molecule** in technical physical or chemical use can mean a submicroscopic division of matter. Particle, the oldest and most general of these terms, is applied especially to any of certain minute entities which have more specific designations such as ion, molecule, atom, electron, proton, and alpha particle. Particle is often used to emphasize the idea of indivisibility, commonly suggesting the entities (as protons, neutrons, and electrons) of which all matter is believed to be composed. Corpuscle may be interchangeable with particle (they [alpha particles] are corpuscles endowed with charge, with mass, and with velocity—Darrow) but more often it is specifically equivalent to elementary particle and may be applied to energy quanta (as photons or phonons) when these are considered as particulate entities (let us assume that all lighted bodies emit particles of light, or corpuscles, which, falling on our eyes, create the sensation of light—Einstein & Infeld). According to the common
modern concept, an atom is the smallest particle of an element that can exist either alone or in combination with smaller particles of the same or of a different element (an atom of hydrogen). Molecule denotes the smallest particle of an element or of a chemical combination (as a compound) that retains chemical identity with the substance in mass. Molecules are usually composed of two or more atoms, either of the same or of different elements (a molecule of water is composed of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen).

parti-colored *variegated, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked

particular adj 1 *single, sole, separate, unique, lone, solitary

Ant general 2 individual, *special, specific, especial

Ant general, universal 3 particularized, detailed, itemized, *circumstantial, minute

Ana scrupulous, meticulous, *careful, punctilious

4 fussy, squeamish, *nice, dainty, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, persnickety, persnickety

Ana exacting, demanding, requiring (see DEMAND): strict, *rigid, rigorous

particular n *item, detail

Ant universal: whole: aggregate

particularized particular, detailed, itemized, *circumstantial, minute

Ana accurate, precise, exact, *correct

Ant generalized

partisan *follower, adherent, disciple, sectary, henchman, satellite

Ana supporter, upholder, backer, champion (see corresponding verbs at SUPPORT): helper, aider or aid, assistant (see corresponding verbs at HELP)

Con antagonist, *opponent, adversary

partner, copartner, colleague, ally, confederate all denote an associate but they differ markedly in connotation and are not freely interchangeable. Partner implies especially an associate in a business (partnership) or one of two associates (as in some games, in a dance, or in marriage) (in mind and character Mrs. Adams was a worthy partner throughout his career—W. C. Ford) Since partner alone implies association, the addition of co-, with its implication of association, in copartner sometimes adds little or nothing to partner; thus, one may refer equally to partners or copartners in crime. Copartner, however, can distinctively imply fellow partner (the authority of a partner to bind his copartners—Encyc. Brit.) or equality of share (a copartner in that sovereignty of the people—Spence) Colleague applies typically to an associate in office or in professional or academic relations (like their colleagues elsewhere, Illinois’ lawmakers lack adequate facilities and staffs—Armbriiter) Ally and confederate, though referable to persons, more frequently denote an associated state or government. Ally suggests an often temporary association in a common cause (as the prosecution of a war) or in affairs of policy or statescraft (it is not really the treaty that makes an ally of another nation—Hayes) Confederate (see also CONFEDERATE 2) implies an entering into a confederacy or confederation and usually suggests a closer or more permanent union for strength and solidarity.

Ant rival

party 1 *company, band, troop, troupe

Ana clique, *set, coterie, circle: gathering, collection, assembly, assemblage, congregation (see under GATHER)

2 *combination, combine, bloc, faction, ring

pasquinate lampoon, squib, skit, *libel

pass vb Pass, pass away, elapse, expire mean to move or come to a termination or end. Pass and pass away imply gradual or gentle movement to another state or condition; they often imply a transition from life to death but they may suggest a transition from any one state or time or season to another (all that lives must die, passing through nature to eternity—Shak.) (when those conditions have passed away and history returns to normal—W. P. Webb) (but yet I know, where'er I go, that there has passed away a glory from the earth—Wordsworth) (the strangeness of his life passed, and he began to feel what this city was—Buck) Elapse suggests a movement that seems like the slipping and gliding away of something that moves silently or without notice; the word applies particularly to a period of time, either in reference only to itself or in reference to something that should have been accomplished within that time (became burdensome to him as time elapsed and political conditions changed—Malone) (all prophecies make sad reading when their term has elapsed—Krutch) (the period for the payment of the debt had now elapsed) Expire basically means to breathe one's last breath and hence to die; but it comprehends the extended senses as well as the ordinary sense of die, and is used in reference to many things that come to an end as if by death (the flame of the candle suddenly expired) (the society expired after a single meeting) (in the expiring, diffused twilight—Conrad) (suddenly their whispers expired—Bennett) It is often used with this underlying notion in reference to a period of time (as stated in a bond, a note, a promise, an agreement, a patent, or a lease) which has come to an end (your note, which was due on June 24, has now expired) (the two years of grace which the bank gave the city will soon expire) (when this copyright expires, it cannot be renewed, unless there is a new edition of the book) (Antony regarded the triumvirate as having expired on the last day of 33 B.C. and did not wish it renewed—Buchan)

Ana depart, leave, quit, *go, withdraw: end, terminate (see close)

pass n passage, *way, route, course, artery

pass n *juncture, exigency, emergency, contingency, pinch, strait, crisis

Ana situation, condition, *state, posture: plight, *predicament, quandary

passage 1 pass, *way, route, course, artery 2 Passage, passageway, corridor, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory designate a typically long narrow way connecting parts of a building or affording access to a particular room or section in it. Passage (see also WAY 1) and passageway are the comprehensive terms, usually interchangeable with any of the others. A corridor is a passageway flanked on one or both sides by rooms, apartments, compartments, or offices or leading from one part of a building to another. Hall can be applied to a corridor or to a room that serves as an entrance to a house, but hallway is used only of the former. A gallery is a corridor having a continuous row of windows; it may be a part of the building or form an enclosed veranda. An arcade is an arched and covered passageway, usually between rows of shops but, sometimes, between the front of a row of shops and the street or an open court. A cloister is a similar structure in a monastery or in a building imitating monastic architecture, but it runs along one or more sides of an open court or patio, and is arcaded or colonnaded on the outer side. An aisle is, basically, not a passageway but a part of a church or other building divided from the central part, or nave, by a row of columns or piers. The term is also applied to a passage flanked by rows of seats (as in an auditorium, a theater, a railway car,
passageway

or a bus). An ambulatory is a passageway through which one may walk; it is specifically applied to the cloister of a monastery, and to the curved passageway between the choir of a church and the chapels of an apse.

passage adj transient, transitory, ephemeral, momentary, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived

pass away pass, elapse, expire

"death, decease, demise

pass, elapse, expire

*transient, transitory, ephemeral, momentary, passing

passage, corridor, hall, hallway, gallery, passageway

passion n suffering, agony, dolor, *distress, misery

Ana trial, tribulation, cross, visitation, affliction

fainting, emotion, affection, sentiment

Ana inspiration, frenzy: ecstasy, rapture, transport

3 lust, appetite, *desire, urge

Ana craving, coveting (see desire vb): longing, yearning, hungering or hunger, thirsting or thirst (see long vb): panting, aspiring, aiming (see aim vb)

4 Passion, fervor, ardor, enthusiasm, zeal denote intense, high-wrought emotion. Passion implies an overwhelming or dominating emotion; it may be either the most abstract or the most concrete of these terms. It may be used without implication of a specific emotion; thus, a poet without passion is a poet incapable of feeling or of displaying vehement, agitating, or soul-stirring emotion; to be in the grip of passion is to be swayed by violent emotion, but without a hint from the context the nature of the emotion remains unknown (Knape also knew that passion was powerful, heady stuff, and must be prudently dispensed—Dahl) Passion (see also feeling, desire) may specifically designate intense erotic love, or often lust, or it may designate violent rage (she flew into a passion) (I am very sorry, good Horatio, that to Laertes I forgot myself . . . but, sure, the bravery of his grief did put me into a towering passion—Shak.) Fervor and ardor both imply the kindling of emotion to a high degree of heat, but fervor more often suggests a steady glow or burning and ardor a restless or leaping flame. Fervor is associated especially with matters (as emotions that express themselves in prayer, contemplation, or devotion) involving persistent warmth; ardor, with those (as emotions that express themselves in eager longings, or zealous efforts) that suggest the violence and sometimes the transitoriness or wavering of flames (the fervor of a nun) (the ardor of a missionary) (exhorts with fervor) (dampened his ardor) (all prayed and hunted quail with equal fervor and died . . . at an advanced age—Styron) (in the prints of Harunobu there is an intense sympathy with youth, with its shyness, its tremulous aradors—Binyon) Enthusiasm often comes very close to ardor, but it may differ in its emphasis on the rational grounds for the emotion, such as thoroughgoing admiration for a person. Enthusiasm, more often than ardor, suggests the quality of a cause or end. Ardor may suggest aspiration without a clearly envisioned goal, but enthusiasm nearly always implies an objective, a cause, or an object of devotion; thus, a teacher may stimulate ardor in a pupil without necessarily directing the latter's emotion into a definite channel, but he stimulates enthusiasm only when he provides the pupil with something concrete to admire, to emulate with something concrete to adm...
patience, long-suffering, longanimity, forbearance, resignation can all mean the power to endure or a capacity for enduring without complaint something which is disagreeable or requires effort. Patience stresses calmness or composure, not only under suffering or under provocation, but in awaiting an outcome that seems unduly or inordinately delayed, or in performing a task that makes severe demands upon one. Patience superadds to patience a submissive disposition. paunch *abdomen, belly, stomach, gut

pattern n 1 exemplar, example, *model, ideal, standard, beau ideal, mirror  
   Ana *paragon, apotheosis  
   2 *figure, design, motif, device  
   Ana *form, figure, shape, configuration, configuration

pause n Pause, recess, respite, lull, intermission are comparable when they mean a temporary cessation especially in action, in activity, or in movement. Pause, though it carries an implication of expected resumption, stresses the fact of stopping without indicating, in itself, the duration or the cause of the stop. The term is often applied to such a letup in utterance as that marked in printing by a period or a caesura or as that caused by an interruption, by hesitation, or by awaiting an answer, but it may as readily be applied to a temporary cessation of activity (as for play, for sleep, or for relaxation) (there was a short pause before he resumed speaking) (between the dark and the daylight ... comes a pause in the day's occupations, that is known as the Children's Hour—Longfellow) (there is no pause in the invention of new and appalling weapons—Grenville Clark) Recess implies a temporary cessation of work; usually it applies to an interval granted (as to legislators or students) for the sake of relaxation or diversion (the smaller boys and girls are granted a recess of ten minutes each morning) (Parliament is now in recess) (the justices adjourned for their summer recess—N. Y. Times) Respite implies a time of relief (as from labor, suffering, or war) or of delay (as before sentencing or executing) (there will be no respite for such workers for the duration of the war) (a battle that seemed to be without respite and without end—Rönlgaard) (a body of people ... thrown together for a week or so without the possibility of respite or escape—Lowes)

Lull implies a temporary cessation or marked decline of activity (as in the course of a storm, in business, or in military activity between two offenses) (after a lull the storm turned inland with increased fury) (running full tilt in most of its departments following a summer lull—Ericson) (there was a lull in the noises of insects as if they ... were making a devotional pause—Crane) Intermission basically implies a break in continuity but comes close to lull in stressing one caused by a temporary cessation (as of an action, a process, or a proceeding). However, its application is usually quite different since it usually suggests a pause available for some new or special activity (as for rest or recuperation) (the habit of stern thrift, begun in 1870 and practiced without any intermission till ... 1897—Bennett) (the attack occurred after a few pay's intermission) (the-interruption—Burke) (a break in continuity from such melancholy reflections—Burke) (a body of people ... thrown together for a week or so without the possibility of respite or escape—Lowes)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the actual giving of money, the term is often employed purely as a figure of speech (nothing can pay him for his pains) (the hard knowledge of the hipster that you pay for what you get is usually too bitter for the beatnik—Mailer) or it means merely to give as due or deserved (pay a compliment) or to give in the hope of a return in kind (pay attention to a young woman) Compensate is often preferred to pay when no legal obligation is implied or no payment for services is expected, because the term stresses a return, usually in money, that is regarded as an equivalent for a service given or for trouble taken or time spent (compensate a waiter for his cheerful willing service) (compensate a neighbor for taking care of one’s pets during the summer) (an epoch in which the immense costs of a war could never be compensated by any economic gains that came from it—Lerner) In this sense (see also COMPENSATE 1) compensate often does not imply an obligation to another or the passing of money; it often suggests a counterbalancing (as of something unpleasant by something pleasant or of something lost by something gained) (the beauty of the view compensated for the labor of the climb) (compensate for a feeling of loneliness by assertions of superiority—Auden) Remunerate, like pay, usually implies the discharge of an obligation in money and, like compensate, usually suggests the giving of an equivalent for services rendered rather than for goods delivered (goods with which the Cayouá is remunerated for his work for Brazilians—J. B. Watson) but unlike both of these terms it often carries a suggestion, sometimes a mere hint, sometimes a distinct implication, of a reward (he promised to remunerate the searchers handsomely) (the king remunerated them both, the former with an addition of honor, the latter with an accession of estate—Fuller d. 1661) Both compensate and remunerate can replace pay when pay might seem offensive or indelicate (the party always remunerates its faithful workers) Satisfy (see also SATISFY 1 & 3) implies the payment of something that is asked, demanded, or required especially by the terms of the law or the decree of a court (satisfy a claim) (satisfy a judgment) (death duties had been paid and the demands of creditors satisfied—Gibbons) Reimburse implies a return for money that has been expended by oneself in hope of making a profit or by another (as one’s agent or attorney) in doing one’s business (the profits of his business did not reimburse him for the money he had invested in it) (reimbursed his lawyer for earlier expenditures) (a promise of reimbursing . . . what the people should give to the king—Bolingbroke) (only Pennsylvania, of all the states, reimbursed loyalists for confiscated property—Smelser & Kirwin) Indemnify implies promised or actual reimbursement for loss (as by fire), for injury (as by accident), or for damage (as by war or disaster) (the basic purpose for which insurance exists is to indemnify persons subject to loss when such loss occurs—Hedge) (the governments of Louis XVIII and Louis Philippe so far as practicable indemnified the citizens of foreign states for losses caused by . . . Napoleon—J. B. Moore) But indemnify may approach compensate and implies less a reimbursing than a counterbalancing (he flogged them with merciless severity: but he indemnified them by permitting them to sleep on watch, to reel drunk about the streets, to rob, beat, and insult the merchants and the laborers—Macaulay) Repay and recom pense carry a weaker implication of giving or furnishing money than any of the preceding terms and a stronger implication of returning like for like; both therefore stress the demands of justice and usually the compulsion of an obligation. When the passing of money or of an equivalent is implied, repay may be preferred when there is a suggestion of giving something back that has been paid out to one (repay a loan) and recom pense when compensation for voluntary services or for losses or injuries sustained is suggested and a due or adequate return is implied (recompense these people, and especially the priest, for their great kindness—Kipling) But repay and recom pense sometimes imply reciprocation of something given, advanced, or inflicted. Repay usually implies little more than paying back in kind or amount (repay her scorn for scorn—Keats) (we never can repay your kindness) (Peacock’s fidelity as a correspondent . . . was repaid by the magnificent series of letters from Shelley—Garnett) but it is sometimes used when the return is not what might be expected but is its diametrical opposite (repay love with hate) (repaying incredulity with faith—Browning) (these Indians enabled the Pilgrims to replenish their dwindling stores, a friendly act that was later repaid with treachery—Amer. Guide Series: Me.) Recompense often in this extended sense specifically implies a desire to make amends or to atone for a wrong that has been inflicted (in some part to recompense my rash but more not so much my misled—Milton) wage or wages, salary, stipend, fee, hire, emolument Ana *reparation, restitution, indemnity, redress, amen. Daily Recorder 599 pay 599 paying paying adj Paying, gainful, remunerative, lucrative, profitable share the meaning of bringing in a return in money. Paying often implies only such a return, but it may imply a satisfactory return for the labor or effort or expenditure involved (as in a venture, a business, or a trade) (a position as office boy was his first paying job) (oats proved a paying crop) (toolmaking is one of the better paying trades) (a paying investment) (important minerals found in paying quantities in Alabama include asbestos—Willingham) Gainful applies chiefly to an endeavor (as a business or a trade) that leads to a money return whether large or small, but it may apply to persons or their acts that are motivated by a desire for gain (gainful occupations) (the lawyer’s profession is often preferred to government service as the more gainful career) (most girls choose to be gainful workers for at least a few years before marriage—Landis) (the hypocrisy that covers gainful exploitation by the pretext of a civilizing mission—Hobson) Remunerative suggests a rewarding of labor, effort, or expenditure and often implies a profit or recompense that exceeds what is usual or customary (it was a remunerative venture for all concerned) (some British farmers with land beside main lines of railways . . . find big boldly silhouetted advertisements to be the most remunerative of their crops—Montague) (the State has come nearer than usual to a useful and remunerative working partnership with the industry—Macmillan) Lucrative carries a stronger implication of large returns and applies to a business, trade, or profession or to an enterprise or undertaking that succeeds beyond one’s hopes (he made a lucrative deal when he sold his house) (a lucrative speculation in cotton futures) (contributing to the town’s prosperity and wealth was a lucrative smuggling trade—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (our rulers will best promote the improvement of the nation . . . by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course—P. M. Fraser) Profitable also is applied to what is rewarding, but it need not imply a money return (see BENEFICIAL); however it usually suggests such returns, not necessarily in a lucrative manner but in any degree that is consonant with one’s wishes or hopes (he owns a profitable hardware business) (they hoped to make a profitable investment) (follow a profitable trade) (scientific research is the development of new, more profitable products and processes—K. S. Davis) (putting to profitable use his conviction that
the atmosphere of the music should determine its . . .
presentation—Kolodin} (he spoke unreservedly and
plainly . . . ata time when it would have been profitable
to have been, at least, noncommittal—Charles Graves)

peace *true, cease-fire, armistice

peaceable *peaceful, peaceful, pacifist, pacificist, irenic

Ana *amicable, friendly, neighborly: *amiable, complaisant: *calm, placid, serene, tranquil

Ant contentious: acrimonious —Con quarrelsome, bellicose, *belligerent: *martial, warlike

peaceful *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, halcyon

Ana *soft, gentle, mild: *still, stilly, quiet, silent, noiseless

Ant turbulent

2 *peaceful, peaceable, pacifist, pacificist, irenic

Ana composed, collected, unruffled, *cool: equable, constant, *steady

Con disturbed, perturbed, disquieted, agitated, upset, discomposed (see DISCOMPOSE).

peak 1 *mountain, mount, alp, volcano, mesa

2 *summit, pinnacle, apex, acme, culmination, meridian, zenith, apogee

peculiar 1 individual: *characteristic, distinctive

Ana *special, especial, particular, specific: idiosyncratic, eccentric (see corresponding nouns at ECCENTRICITY)

2 eccentric, odd, queer, *strange, singular, unique, quaint, outlandish, curious

Ana bizarre, grotesque, *fantastic: *abnormal, atypical, aberrant: unusual, uncustomary (see affirmative adjectives at USUAL)

pecuniary *financial, monetary, fiscal

pedantic, academic, scholastic, bookish are comparable as terms of derogation applied to thinkers, scholars, and learned men and their utterances. Pedantic often implies ostentatious display of knowledge, didacticism, and stodginess his opinions were as pedantic as his life was abstemious—Froude} It may also connote undue attention to scholarly minutiae and small interest in significant issues a decided literary or rhetorical quality times Lit. Sup.

Adler}

anapaestic, paraging, slighting

Ana captious, carping, caviling, faultfinding, *critical

pejorative *derogatory, depreciatory, depreciative, disparaging, slighting

Ana contemptuous, disrespectful, scornful, disdainful (see corresponding nouns under DESPISE vb): decrying, belittling, minimizing (see DECRY)

Con praising, acclaiming, lauding, extolling (see PRAISE): exalting, magnifying, aggrandizing (see EXALT)

pelagic *aquatic, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, abyssal, lacustrine, fluvial, fluvitile

pellucid *clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, diaphanous, limpid

penchant *leaning, propensity, proclivity, flair

peep vb *chirp, chirrup, cheep, tweet, twitter, chitter

peep n chirp, chirrup, cheep, tweet, twitter, chitter (see under CHIRP vb)

peep n glance, glimpse, peek, *look, sight, view

Ana peeping or peer, gazing or gaze, staring or stare (see GAZE)

peevish *irritable, fractious, snappish, waspish, petulant, pettish, huffy, fretful, querulous

Ana captious, carping, caviling, faultfinding, *critical

pelagic *aquatic, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, abyssal, lacustrine, fluvial, fluvitile

pellucid *clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, diaphanous, limpid

penchant *leaning, propensity, proclivity, flair

penalize, fine, amerce, multct mean to punish by depriving of something. Penalize usually presupposes a violation of laws or rules intended to maintain discipline or fair treatment for all; it implies exaction by an authority of a pecuniary penalty or a forfeiture of an advantage or, especially in games, the imposition of a handicap (penalize late taxpayers by adding interest to their unpaid taxes) (penalize a football team fifteen yards for holding) Fine and amerce are chiefly found in technical legal use in reference to court cases, but their implications in extended use are not materially different. They and their corresponding nouns fine and amercement are distinguishable in that fine implies that the amount exacted is, within certain limits, prescribed by the law, while amerce and amercement indicate that it has been left to the discretion of the judge (violators of the municipal parking ordinances may be fined from one to ten dollars) (the judge amerced the offender in the sum of fifty dollars) (millions of spirits for his fault amerced of heaven—Milton) Multct implies subjection to a superior power which can legally or illegally exact a penalty (usually in money) for a breach of discipline or for failure to comply with its edicts. Sometimes it merely implies a fine or amercement or a withholding of money due (nonconformists were multcct for attendance at services of their own communion) Often the word suggests forcible imposition or exaction of a heavy or oppressive penalty (the colonizers multcted the natives of their gold whenever the latter showed signs of resistance) Ana *punish, discipline, correct, chasten

pendant *hanging, suspended, suspended, suspended

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**pervade** 1 *enter, pierce, probe

_Ana_ invade, entrench, encroach, *tresspass: *perforate, puncture, bore, prick

2 pervade, impervade, interpenetrate, *permeate, impregnate, saturate

_Ana_ insert, insinuate, interpolate, *introduce: *soak, saturate, drench, steep

**penetrate** insight, acumen, *discernment, discrimination, perception

_Ana_ sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP): shrewdness, astuteness, perspicaciousness or perspicacity, sagaciousness or sagacity (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWDED)

**penitence, repentance, contrition, attrition, compunction**

_remonse_ denote sorrow or regret for sin or wrongdoing.

Penitence implies little more than such sorrow or regret _<the outward signs of penitence>_<all calls to penitence fall on deaf ears. Penitence implies admission of guilt and no one wishes to stand accused—Political Science Quarterly>_<the showed his penitence in many ways; the majority . . . took the attitude that no sin is beyond forgiveness if it is followed by true penitence—Latourette>

Repentance is richer in its implications, for it also implies a change of heart, an awareness of one's shortcomings morally or spiritually, or of the evil of one's actions or life as a whole _<I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance—Lk 5:32>_<God of his mercy give you patience to endure, and true repentance—Shak._<there's no repentance in the grave—Watts>_<Contrition and attrition are both theological terms, and as such contrasted; only contrition is found in general use. Both imply deep sorrow for sin and the purpose of amendment, but in theological use contrition implies that one's sorrow arises out of love of God and a realization of one's failure to respond to his graces, and attrition that it arises from a lower motive, such as fear of hell or fear of the loss of heaven—O, that the vain remorse which must chastise crimes done, had but as loud a voice to warn, as its keen sting is mortal to avenge!—Shelley>

_Ana_ regret, *sorrow, anguish: humiliation, humbling, degradation, debasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): *qualm, scruple

_Con_ obdurate,ness or obduracy, inexorableness, adamant (see corresponding adjectives at INFLEXIBLE)

_pen name_ *pseudonym, nom de plume, alias, nom de guerre, incognito

_pennant_ *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pendant, pennon, jack

_penurious_ *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous

_Ana_ impoverished, bankrupt, drained (see DEPLETE): penurious (see corresponding noun at POVERTY)

_Con_ opulent, affluent, wealthy, *rich

_pennon_ *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pendant, pennant, jack

_penny-pinching_ *stingy, close, close-fisted, tight, tight-fisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheapsparing

_pensive_ thoughtful, reflective, speculative, contemplative, meditative

_Ana_ solemn, somber, *serious, earnest, sober, grave: musing, pondering, ruminating (see PONDER)

_penumbra_ umbra, adumbration, umbrage, shade, shadow

_penurious_ parsimonious, niggardly, stingy, close, close-fisted, tight, tight-fisted, miserly, cheapsparing, penny-pinching

_Ana_ avaricious, grasping, greedy, *covetous: *mercenary, venal: *mean, abject, sordid, ignoble

_penury_ *poverty, indigence, want, destitution, privation

_Ana_ *need, necessity, exigency: pinch, strait, pass, *juncture

_Ant_ luxury

_people_ n *race, nation

_peppery_ fiery, gingery, *spirited, high-spirited, mettle-some, spunky

_Ana_ impetuous, headlong, *precipitate, abrupt: *pugent, piquant, spicy, snappy

_perceive_ discern, note, remark, observe, contemplate, *see, behold, descry, esp, view, survey

_Ana_ grasp, seize, *take: *apprehend, comprehend: *enter, penetrate, pierce, probe

_percept_ sense-datum, sensum, *sensation, image

_Ana_ *idea, concept, notion: recognition, acknowledgment (see corresponding verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE)

_perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, ponderable_ all mean capable of being apprehended through the senses or intellect as real and existent. _Perceptible_ may be used inclusively to describe whatever comes within the range of one's senses and can be recognized in itself or by certain signs _<perceptible sounds>_ _<the ship is barely perceptible on the horizon>_ _<without argument, without any perceptible stages, the estrangement of almost a year was gone—Wouk>_ _<something strange was in the air, perceptible to a little boy but utterly beyond his understanding—H. G. Wells>_ It may also be used with or without qualification (as by just, scarcely, or barely) to describe something that just passes a borderline (as that between invisibility and visibility or inaudibility and audibility) _<a perceptible change in her tone>_ _<there are perceptible differences between surprise and astonish>_ _<a perceptible flavor of onion>_ _<her remark had no perceptible relevance to the topic of conversation>_ Sensible (see also MATERIAL, AWARE) may be used to describe whatever is clearly apprehended through the bodily senses or which impresses itself strongly on the mind through the medium of sensations _<a rich and thronging world of sen-

_Ana_ analogous words

_Ant_ antonyms

_Con_ contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sible things—Lowes) your true ideas of sensible things do indeed copy them—James) In contrast with perceptible, however, sensible applies to what is more obvious, even sometimes to what is patent through its effects or signs; thus, a sensible change in tone is one which is immediately recognized; a sensible difference in a person’s expression is one which is quickly detected (the direct, sensible influence of Protestantism has been to isolate and to individualize—Brownell) every owner is entitled to have the water come on to him without sensible diminution as regards quantity and sensible alteration as regards quality—F. D. Smith & Barbara Wilcox) Both palpable and tangible in their primary senses may be used to describe anything which is perceptible through the sense of touch. Palpable, however, although it is used of what is felt by touching with the tips of the fingers (a palpable powder that one feels gritty) (touch beauty as though it were a palpable thing—Maugham) (before the clouded night dropped its mysterious veil, it was the immensity of space made visible—almost palpable—Conrad) as often implies a sensation produced as a sensation sought and therefore may be applied to whatever evokes a response from tactile receptors in any part of the body (there is a palpable chill in the air) Tangible, on the other hand, is applied primarily to things which may be or are handled or grasped (if an infant is not provided with light tangible objects, he will play with a shadowed or shadowed (dots and spots or diversities in tangible form) (a cloud, a pillar of fire, a tangible physical something—London) In their secondary senses these two words diverge widely. Palpable, in one of its most common meanings, implies a high degree of perceptibility (see under EVIDENT); in poetic use, especially when applied to an immaterial thing, it suggests an almost physical awareness of its existence or reality (what happiness to live when every hour brings palpable access of knowledge—Wordsworth) Tangible in its extended senses is applied to things that can be thought of as having real, independent, or objective existence whether they are apparent to the senses or not or whether they can be handled or not; thus, tangible ideas are those that can be grasped by the mind and made objects of thought; tangible advantages are those having a substantial character; tangible assets are those (as equipment and inventory) that can be appraised with reasonable accuracy as distinguished from those (as goodwill) that are intangible (the conquest of a territory meant a tangible advantage to the conqueror—Angell) Appreciable is applicable to whatever is large enough to be measured, weighed, valued, or otherwise estimated; thus, a perceptible change in the temperature may be so slight a change that it almost but not quite escapes notice; a palpable change in temperature may still be slight, but it is great enough to make it definitely felt; an appreciable change in temperature may also be slight, but its extent is determinable by reference to a thermometer (the current . . . generated is small but appreciable—Engel) a satellite must be launched above the appreciable atmosphere—Newell) But appreciable may lose any clear notion of measurability and then often approaches considerable or significant in meaning (there had been an appreciable feeling of strain, and a corresponding rise in your sense of the obligation of meeting it—Mary Austin) There was no appreciable craft tradition in astronomy before modern times—S. F. Mason) Ponderable is applicable to whatever can be weighed either physically or mentally (something ponderable from the outer world—something of which we can say that its weight is so and so—Jeans) The word tends, however, to be applied to what is appreciable in terms of weight or significance as distinguished from what is so intangible as to elude such determination (exert a ponderable influence upon the events of his time) Ana *clear, lucid, perspicuous: *noticeable, conspicuous, signal: discerned or discernible, noted or notable, observed or observable (see corresponding verbs at SEE) Ant imperceptible perception penetration, insight, acumen, *discernment, discrimination Ana appreciation, comprehension, understanding (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND): sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP) perch vb *alight, light, stand, roost percussion concussion, crash, shock, *impact, impingement, collision, jar, jolt Ana striking, hitting, smiting (see STRIKE): vibration, oscillation, fluctuation (see corresponding verbs at SWING) perdurable durable, permanent, stable, *lasting, perpetual Ana enduring, abiding, persisting, continuing (see CON- TINUE): *everlasting, endless, interminable Ant fleeting peremptory imperative, imperious, *masterful, domineering Ana decisive, *decided: positive, certain (see SURE): *dictatorial, dogmatic, oracular perennial perpetual, incessant, unremitting, constant, *continuous, continual Ana *lasting, perpetual, perdurable, stabled, *everlasting, unceasing perfect adj Perfect, whole, entire, intact are comparable when they mean not deficient, defective, or faulty in any particular. Perfect is the usual term to describe such a condition, for it may imply not only the presence of every part, every element, and every quality necessary to a thing in its finished or fully developed state, but the soundness, the proportionateness, and the excellence of each part, element, or quality (a perfect set of teeth) (a perfect diamond) (a physically perfect infant) (the memory of that night remained intact and perfect—Wylie) The term is also applicable where there is no more definite measure or test than correspondence to a very high standard of excellence (a perfect gentleman) (perfect coloring) (a perfect poem like Lycidas, a perfect fiction like Esmond, a perfect handling of a theory like Newman’s Idea of a University—Pater) (he is the perfect writer of my generation, he writes the best sentences word for word, rhythm upon rhythm—Mailer) or to an archetype, definition, or pattern (a perfect hexagon) (a perfect Greek temple) or to a conception that represents an ideal or personal vision of the highest possible of its kind (perfect virtue) The term is also used in the sense of utter or complete (he is a perfect fool) (that is perfect nonsense) Whole and entire (see also whole 2) are somewhat elevated and often reminiscent of scriptural use. Whole usually implies a perfection, typically a moral or physical perfection, that can be sought and attained or that can be lost and regained; it usually suggests the attainment of or restoration to health, soundness, completeness (here, with one balm for many fevers found, whole of an ancient evil, I sleep sound—Housman) (one silver spider of machine, so intricate and whole as to appear rightly sufficient in itself—Terry Southern) (daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole—Mt 9:22) Entire usually implies a physical, intellectual, moral, or spiritual perfection that derives from the completeness, integrity, soundness, and often the freedom from admixture of the thing so described; more than whole, it suggests a perfection that is unimpaired or without sign of previous imperfection; thus, a collection is entire when no constituent item is missing; an entire horse is an adult uncastrated male (h
grant me, Phoebus, calm content, strength unimpaired, a mind entire—Conington\> Intact usually implies the re-
tention of the perfection of a thing in its finished or its natural or its original state; often it suggests its passage through some experience that might have destroyed its soundness, integrity, or wholeness (that high courage which enabled Fielding . . . to keep his manly benevolence and love of truth intact—Thackeray) (had seen many storms, and had reached middle age with some illusions intact—Michener) (I am . . . thankfull that I was among the last persons to see the original Rheims intact. The cathedral . . . remains enshrined . . . in my memory forever—Ellis)\>

>Ana* pure, absolute, simple, sheer: *consummate, finished, accomplished: *impeccable, flawless, faultless, errorless

>Ant imperfect —Con* deficient, defective

>perfect vb* unfold, evolve, develop, elaborate

>perfection virtue, merit, *excellence

>failing

>perfervid fervid, *impassioned, passionate, ardent, fervent

>Ana* intense, vehement, fierce, violent: heightened, enhanced, intensified (see INTENSIFY)

>perfidious *faithless, false, disloyal, traitorous, treacherous

>Ana* mercenary, venal: disaffected, alienated, estranged (see ESTRANGE): deceitful, *dishonest: perjured, forsworn (see PERJURE)

>perforate, puncture, punch, prick, bore, drill mean to pierce through so as to leave a hole. Perforate, although it can mean to pierce, is used mainly with reference to the action of a machine or instrument which makes usually small round holes in a line or pattern (as for ready tearing, for ornamentation, or for marking with a symbol, device, or name) (perforate a sheet of postage stamps) (perforate leather for the tips of shoes) (perforate laundry tabs) (a set of pins that perforates an entire sheet at one operation—Al Burns) Puncture suggests the intentional or accidental entrance of a sharp pointed instrument or thing into a tissue, substance, or material (punc-
ture the arm with a hypodermic needle) (the tire was punctured by a sharp tack) (as the rush began, there flashed through my mind a picture of the ignominious fate which awaited me—punctured to death by umbrellas—Heiser) Since puncture is often associated with the sudden release of air from an inflated object (as a balloon or a pneumatic tire) the word frequently connotes the sudden deflation of something inflated, unduly pretentious, or pompous (puncture a scheme) (the effect of Mark Twain's humorous assault on the dignity of General Grant was to reduce him not to the human but to the common level, to puncture the reluctant reverence of the groundlings—Brooks) Punch is often interchangeable with perforate especially when the use of a mechanical device called a punch is implied (punch holes in a piece of brass) (rail-
way conductors are instructed to punch the tickets pre-
sented them) (invented a system of dot-and-dash symbols which could be punched out on thick paper and read by touch at night—Time) Prick implies a piercing with some-
ting that has a sharp fine point and therefore suggests a very small hole or a superficial wound (prick oneself with a needle) (prick out a design on a piece of canvas) In ex-
tended use prick usually stresses either the sharp sting that accompanies the pricking of the skin (at the older man's laughter he felt his pride prude and prick—Buck) or the delicacy and clearness of a pattern or design (the design is pricked out, so to speak, by the rhymes—Lowes) Both bore and drill imply the use of a mechanical means in making a hole. But bore stresses the removal of materials and therefore is employed when there is a sug-
gestion of excavation by hand or machinery (bore a hole in the ground for a fence post) (bore a tunnel through a mountain) or of the use of a rotary tool (as an auger or gimlet) (bore holes in a plank) or of the use of a boring tool designed for the finishing of roughly made holes by enlarging them and by making them exact in size and true with relation to a specified center line (bore the barrel of a gun) Drill commonly implies the use of an instrument or machine equipped with a pointed or sharp rotating tool for boring holes in such hard substances as metal and stone (drill holes in a steel plate) (a dentist drills a tooth to remove decayed material and form a base for a filling) In their extended senses bore and drill (see also PRACTICE) carry differing connotations, bore suggesting the slow or continuous forcing of a passage through (bore one's way through a crowd) (the sound of an airplane bored niously into the ears of the crowd—Wooll) and drill, the forced entrance of something through a succession of efforts or through persistence (is heavily and harshly written, and that is too bad, for the ideas are exciting if the reader can drill through to them—Mailer)\>

>Ana* enter, penetrate, pierce, probe

>perform vb Perform, execute, discharge, accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill are comparable when they mean to carry out or into effect. Perform, sometimes merely a formal synonym for do, is more often used with reference to processes than to acts. One performs processes that are lengthy or exacting or ceremonial in character (perform a play) (perform a surgical operation) (perform the marriage service) (a solemn sacrifice, performed in state—Pope) One performs acts that are distinguished or striking (perform feats of skill) When the end rather than the means to the end is stressed, what is performed is, usually something undertaken or pledged (lobbyists perform a legitimate, even necessary, function—Armbrister) One executes what exists in design or intent by bringing it into being or by putting it into effect (the heads of departments are . . . political or confidential agents . . . merely to execute the will of the president—John Marshall) (the escape was planned meticulously and executed boldly—Edmond Taylor) Sometimes execute is used in place of perform of a process involving great skill or a highly exacting technique (few dancers can execute an adagio beautifully) One discharges duties or obligations when one goes through a required round of tasks (I had discharged my confidential duties as secretary . . . to the general satisfaction—De Quincey) Accomplish usually stresses the completeness of a process rather than the means bore with which it is carried out. One accomplishes something begun or something which there is reason to expect (it took us twenty-three days to accomplish the return journey—Hudson) (this project was so vast and so quickly accomplished that it has no parallel—Stoumen) Sometimes accomplish implies the fruitfulness of effort or the value of the results obtained (because of his efforts things are accomplished—Anderson) (there's very little to be accomplished by telling men anything. You have to show them—Mary Austin) Achieve adds to accomplish the implication of conquered difficulties. One achieves a work, a task, or an enterprise that is of great importance and that makes unusual demands (as on one's energy, willpower, or resources) (the American public schools achieve . . . the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell) Effect implies obstacles to be removed but, unlike achieve, it emphasizes inherent force in the agent rather than such personal qualities as daring and perseverance. Also, it is often pred-

>Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
iated things as well as of persons (only two prisoners effected their escape) <taxation as an instrument for effecting a more equal distribution of income—Shaw> <a neurotic general overcome with work may believe he has the power to effect nothing—Mailer> Fulfill implies a full realization of what exists potentially, or hitherto in conception, or is implicit in the nature or the sense of responsibility of the agent (a law that fails to fulfill its intended end) <fulfill a promise> <a sense of the failure of life to fulfill its ultimate expectations—Rees> Ana *reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain: finish, complete, conclude (see close vb)

**performer** *actor, player, mummer, mime, mimic, thes

plan, impersonator, trouser

**perfume** *fragrance, bouquet, redolence, incense

**peril** *danger, jeopardy, hazard, risk

Ana menacing or menace, threatening or threat (see threaten): exposure, subjection, openness, liability (see corresponding adjectives at liable)

**perilous** *dangerous, hazardous, risky, precarious

Ana desperate, forlorn, hopeless (see despondent): chancy, chance, haphazard, *random

**perimeter** *circumference, periphery, circuit, compass

**period** *epoch, era, age, aeon all denote a portion or division of time; epoch and era can also denote an event regarded as the beginning of a portion or division of time. Period is the generic term, designating an extent of time of any length for whatever purpose delimited (request a one-minute period of silence as a tribute to a dead person) <it began in 1915 in one of the darkest periods of the first world war—Pollock> <was returned for eight successive Congresses—a period of seventeen years—W. C. Ford>

**Epoch** can denote the starting point of a new period, especially as marked by striking or remarkable changes or events (this is an epoch . . . the end and the beginning of an age—H. G. Wells) or it may apply to such a new period (a phenomenon of our own special epoch, a man who couldn't . . . be a writer in the only meaning of the term, but who can and probably will write a book—Purdy) <Dante's work . . . initiated a new epoch in literature—R. A. Hall>

**Era** applies to a period characterized especially by some new order of things (a better intellectual era is dawning for the working men—Kingsley) <the Victorian era> <an era of singular crisis and upheaval—Aldridge> Age, usually interchangeable with but possibly more specific than era, is frequently used of a period dominated by some central figure or clearly marked feature (the age of Pericles) <the Bronze Age> <the French Revolution and its age—Arnold> Aeon applies to an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time (aeons of primeval power have shaped that pillared bulk—Gibson) <during the three terrible hours . . . he had lived centuries of pain, aeon upon aeron of torture—Wilde>

**periodic** *intermittent, recurrent, alternate

Ana *fitive, spasmodic, convulsive: sporadic, occasional (see infrequent)

**periodical** n *journal, magazine, newspaper, review, organ

**peripatetic** *itinerant, ambulatory, ambulant, nomadic, vagrant

**periphery** *circumference, perimeter, circuit, compass

**periphrasis** *verbiage, redundancy, tautology, pleonasm, circumlocution

**peristyle** *colonnade, arcade, arcature, portico

**perjure**, **forswear** are comparable when they mean to violate one's oath or, when used reflexively, to make a false swearer of oneself. In general use perjure is often employed less precisely than in law, where it is a technical term meaning to make a willfully false statement of fact or sometimes of an intention to do something, while under oath or under a solemn affirmation to tell the truth (the judge was convinced that the witness had perjured himself). In general use perjure often implies making a liar of oneself whether one is under oath or not (when a native begins perjury he perjures himself thoroughly. He does not boggle over details—Kipling) (he thanked her, with as much enthusiasm as he could muster without actually perjuring himself—Archibald Marshall> **Forswear** (see also ABJURE) often implies a violation of an oath, promise, or vow (he swore a thing to me on Monday night, which he forswore on Tuesday morning—Shak.) <thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths—Mt 5:33> but it may also suggest untruth or ill faith to something (as one's principles, one's beliefs, or the laws of one's country) as sacred as an oath (Shelley indignantly refused to "forswear his principles" by accepting "a proposal so insultingly hateful"—Arnold> Ana *deceive, delude, mislead, beguile: lie, prevaricate

**permanent** *lasting, perdurable, durable, stable, perpetual

Ana perennial, constant, continuous, *continual

**periwinkle** temporary: ad interim (of persons)

**permeate, pervade, penetrate, interpenetrate, impregnate, saturate** can all mean to pass or cause to pass through every part of a thing. **Permeate** may be used in reference to either a material or an immaterial thing and implies diffusion through all the pores or interstices of some substance or entity (the rain has permeated the soil) (the air is permeated by the pungent scent of flowers—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) (in . . . the Elizabethan age) English society at large was accessible to ideas, was permeated by them—Arnold> <the sense of beauty had permeated the whole nation—Binyon> <the religious issue permeated every meeting I conducted—Michener>

**Pervade** is a very close synonym of permeate, but it distinctively carries a heightened suggestion of diffusion throughout every part or parcel of the whole and it is more often used in reference to such matters as places, writings, and works of art than to purely material things (a deep and solemn harmony pervades the hollow vase from steep to steep—Wordsworth) (a principle which so entirely pervades the constitution . . . as to be incapable of being separated from it—John Marshall> <a kind of easy morality seems to pervade all levels of the state government—Armbrister> **Penetrate** (see also enter 1) may be preferred to permeate or pervade when there is the intent also to suggest the entrance of something that goes deeply or profoundly into the essence or nature of a thing, thereby giving it its characteristic quality or efficient force (a whole nation . . . penetrated with an enthusiasm for pure reason, and with an ardent zeal for making its prescriptions triumph—Arnold> <a letter penetrated with affection for the old plain edifice and its memories—Quiller-Couch> <a commanding significance, which penetrates the whole, informing and ordering everything—Leavis> **Impenetrable** is an intensive of penetrate implying a more thorough and often a diffusive penetration (power to isolate and impenetrable Poland—Gunther) (the church structure is backed up and impenetrated by the kinship structure—Vogt & O'Dea> **Interpenetrate**, too, may imply more than thorough penetration or penetration into, within, or throughout (Westerners who interpenetrated the East in the nineteenth century—Davis) but distinctively it may imply a mutual penetration (the state and the economy interpenetrate; during slump, war, and boom, the tie-ins tend to become ever closer—Labor and Nation) <had both imagination and a stubborn will, curiously balancing and interpenetrating each other—Cather> Im-
permission

pregnate often carries a stronger implication of the operation of a causative power (as a human agent) than any of the preceding terms; it also suggests a filling of every available part or portion of a whole so that the thing which enters or is entered is diffused throughout the entire substance, structure, work, or group (the water is impregnated with magnesia—Huxley) (any judge who has sat with juries knows that . . . they are extremely likely to be impregnated by the environing atmosphere—Justice Holmes) (a very notable poem impregnated with the pessimism of a time—Lovett) Saturate (see also SOAK) implies impregnation to the point where no more of the thing which enters can be taken up or absorbed; the term is often used in reference to permeate or pervade when what permeates or pervades is highly obvious, deeply ingrained, or overabundant (the smell, sweet and poignant beyond imagining, saturated the air—Wouk) (verse that is saturated with emotion—Lowes) (the air is saturated with golden light—Diamant)

Ana *infuse, imbue, ingrain: drench, steep, *soak, saturate: *inform, animate, inspire, fire

permission, leave, sufferance denote the sanction which enables one to do something that requires the consent of those in authority. Permission is the ordinary term except in some conventional phrases; it commonly implies the power or authority to grant or to refuse what is asked (have the owner's permission to hunt on his estate) (The horses can go in our barn. I'm sure Mr. Forrester would have no objection.) She spoke as if he had asked her permission—Cather Leave differs very little from permission. It occurs chiefly in conventionally courteous phrases such as "by your leave," "to ask leave," and "give me leave," but it may be used elsewhere in place of permission (ask for leave to remove papers from a file) In military, naval, and some official use the term implies official permission to absent oneself from one's duties or from one's station for a fixed period of time, or the furlough or absence so permitted (granted a leave of thirty days) (after being absent without leave for a month, the soldier was arrested as a deserter) (at home on sick leave)

Sufferance usually implies a neglect or refusal to forbid and therefore suggests either a tacit permission withdrawal on cause or, more often, merely allowing a person to be present or to do something (you are here only on sufferance and if you want to stay, you must listen without interrupting) (he comes among us on sufferance, like those concert singers whom mamma treats with so much politeness—Thackeray)

Ana authorization, commissioning or commission, licensing or license (see corresponding verbs at AUTHORIZE): letting, allowing (see LET): sanctioning, approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)

Ant prohibition

permit vb *let, allow, suffer, leave

Ana *authorize, license, commission: sanction, endorse, *approve

Ant prohibit, forbid

permutation mutation, *change, vicissitude, alternation

Ana moving or move, shifting or shift, removing or remove (see MOVE): transformation, conversion, metamorphosis (see under TRANSFORM)

pernicious, baneful, noxious, deleterious, detrimental are comparable when they mean exceedingly harmful but they differ as to the kind and extent of the potential for harm. Something is either pernicious or baneful which is irreparably harmful but pernicious is more often applied to things that harm exceedingly or irreparably by evil or by insidious corrupting or enervating and baneful to those that poison or destroy (pernicious anemia) (a pernicious influence) (the effects of false and pernicious propaganda cannot be neutralized—Huxley) (pernicious social institutions which stifle the nobler impulses—Parrington) (the baneful notion that there is no such thing as a high, correct standard in intellectual matters—Arnold) (they were under as little personal restraint as was compatible with their protection from the baneful habit of swallowing one another—Bierce) (the full extent and degree of their baneful psychological influence is quite inadequately realized—Moberly) Something is noxious which is harmful especially to health of body or mind (a cold noxious wind—Haughton) (only when the educator shall have been educated, the air cleared of noxious failancies . . . will the reign of Humbug come to an end—Grandgent) Deleterious is used chiefly of something which causes harm when taken into the body (as into the digestive or respiratory tract) and may suggest obscure or ill-understood effects (many drugs that seem so good in the first trials prove to have deleterious aftereffects—Heiser) (this gas was well known to be deleterious—John Phillips)

Detrimental, like deleterious, generally suggests a much lower degree of harmfulness than the remaining terms; typically it imputes an impairing or hampering quality to the agent or an impaired or hampered condition to the one acted upon (a federal-scholarship program is a project worthy of our united support, provided it can be administered at the state level, free from political or other detrimental influences—L. M. Chamberlain) (they both ran down the theory as highly detrimental to the best interests of man—Peacock) (bismuth is considered to be a detrimental impurity in refined lead—Pasterneck) (although too rich a diet is harmful to calves of both sexes, the detrimental effects are less marked in a bull calf than in a heifer—Farmer's Weekly)

Ana baleful, malignant, *sinister, malefic, maleficient: *poisonous, venomous, toxic, pestilent, miasmatic: injurious, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY)

Ant innocuous

perrnicky persnickety, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, *nice, dainty, particular, fussy, squeamish

Ana exacting, demanding, requiring (see DEMAND): annoyed, vexed, irked (see ANNOY)

perpendicular *vertical, plumb

Ana *steep, abrupt, precipitous, sheer

Ant horizontal

perpetrate *commit

Ana accomplish, achieve, effect (see PERFORM)

perpetual 1 *lasting, permanent, perdurable, durable, stable

Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable: eternal, sempiternal. *infinite

2 *continual, continuous, constant, incessant, unremitting, perennial

Ana enduring, persisting, abiding, continuing (see CONTINUE): set, settled, fixed, established (see SET vb)

Ant transitory, transient

perplex *puzzle, mystify, bewilder, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound

Ana disturb, perturb, upset, *discompose: baffle, balk, thwart (see FRustrate): astound, amaze, astonish, *surprise

perquisite *right, prerogative, privilege, appanage, birthright

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry: torture, torment, rack (see AFFLICT): *bait, badger, hound, ride

Con *indulge, pamper, humor: favor, *oblige, accommodate: *support, uphold, champion, back

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
persevere, persist are both used in reference to persons in the sense of to continue in a given course in the face of difficulty or opposition. Persevere nearly always implies an admirable quality; it suggests both refusal to be discouraged by failure, doubts, or difficulties, and a steadfast or dogged pursuit of an end or an undertaking (I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood—Shak.) (For, strength to persevere and to support, and energy to conquer and repel — these elements of virtue, that declare the native grandeur of the human soul—Wordsworth) (I do not intend to take that cowardly course, but, on the contrary, to stand to my post and persevere in accordance with my duty—Sir Winston Churchill) Persist (see also CONTINUE) may imply a virtue (this is the poetry within history, this is what causes mankind to persist beyond every defeat—J. S. Untermeyer) but it more often suggests a disagreeable or annoying quality, for it stresses stubbornness or obstinacy more than courage or patience and frequently implies opposition to advice, remonstrance, disapproval, or one's own conscience (persist in working when ill) (it is hard to see how they can have persisted so long in inflicting useless misery—Russell)

Ana *continue, abide, endure, last
Con vary, *change, alter: waver, vacillate, falter, *hesitate

persiflage *badinage, raillery
Ana bantering or banter, chaffing or chaff (see BANTER): ridiculing or ridicule, twitting, deriding or derision (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

persever 1 *persevere
Ant desist — Con continue, cease, *stop, quit
2 *continue, last, endure, abide
Ant desist — Con *stop, cease, discontinue

persnickety *pertinacious, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, *nice, dainty, particular, fussy, squeamish
Ana exacting, demanding, requiring (see DEMAND): annoyed, vexed, irked (see ANNOY)

person *entity, being, creature, individual

personality character, individuality, temperament, *disposition, temper, complexion

perspicacious *shrewd, sagacious, astute
Ana *sharp, keen, acute: penetrating, piercing, probing (see ENTER)
Ant dull

perspicuous *clear, lucid
Ana manifest, *evident, plain, distinct: *explicit, express, specific, definite
Con *turbid, muddy: inflated, flatulent, turbid, turgid

persevere *to continue in a given course in the face of difficulty or opposition

pertinent *relevant, germane, material, apposite, applicable, apropos
Ana fitting, apt, happy, felicitous (see FIT): pat, *seasonable, opportune, timely, well-timed
Ant impertinent: foreign

perturb disturb, agitate, upset. *discompose, disquiet, fluster, flurry
Ana *annoy, vex, irk, bother: *confuse, muddle, addle: confound, nonplus, distract, bewilder, dumbfound (see PUZZLE vb)

pervade *permeate, penetrate, impenetrable, interpene-trate, impregnate, saturate
Ana *infuse, imbue, ingrain, leaven: *inform, animate, inspire, fire

perseverse *contrary, restive, balky, froward, wayward
Ana *unruly, ungovernable, recalcitrant, refractory: *ob-stinate, stubborn, mulish, pigheaded, stiff-necked: fractionist: *irritable, peevish

pervert vb deprave, corrupt, *debase, vitiate, debauch
Ana *abuse, misuse, ill-treat, maltreat, mistreat, outrage: contort, distort, warp (see DEFORM)

perverted corrupted, depraved, debased, vitiated, de-bauched (see under DEBASE)
Ana distorted, contorted, warped (see DEFORM): abused, misused, outraged (see ABUSE)

pessimistic *cynical, misanthropic, misogynic
Ana gloomy, morose (see SULLEN): depressed, oppressed, weighed down (see DEPRESS)
Ant optimistic — Con sanguine, *confident, assured

pester plague, tease, tantalize, *worry, annoy, harass, harry
Ana *bait, badger, heckle, chivy, fret, gall, chafe (see ABRADE): perturb, disturb, agitate, upset, *dis-compose

pestilent, pestilential *poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic, mephitic, miasmic, miasmatic, miasmal
Ana *infectious, contagious, catching: noxious, *per-nicious, baneful, deleterious

pet vb *caress, fondle, cosset, cuddle, dandle
Ana *indulge, humor, pamper, mollycoddle, baby

petite *small, little, diminutive, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny, minute, microscopic, miniature

petition n *prayer, suit, plea, appeal

petition vb pray, sue, plead, appeal (see under PRAYER)

petrify vb deposit, precipitate (see corresponding nouns at DEPOSIT): *compact, consolidate
2 *daze, stun, bemuse, stupefy, benumb, paralyze
Ana terrify, alarm, *frighten, startle: appall, horrify, *dismay

petty vb *irritable, fractious, peevish, petulant, snappish, waspish, huffy, fretful, querulous

petty, puny, trivial, trilling, paltry, measly, picayunish, picayune mean little and insignificant, often contemptibly so. Something is petty which by comparison with other things the same in kind but different in size, importance, gravity, or moment is among the smallest or least important (a petty interest) (a petty prince) (giants beside whom we seem petty—Sinclair Lewis) (Hunt does one harm by making fine things petty and beautiful things hateful—Keats) The word often connotes small-mindedness ( petty gossip) (explaining that only the petty vengeance of men who hated Roosevelt had produced the law that prohibited . . . a third term—Michener) (divine inhabitants of a world apart, for whom nothing sordid, nothing petty, and nothing painful had any existence—Sackville-West) Something is puny which is so small or slight as to seem

resolute, steadfast, staunch (see FAITHFUL): headstrong, willful (see UNRULY)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
impotent, feeble, or completely without vitality (none of your thin, puny, yellow, hectic figures, exhausted with abstinen-ence and hard study—Smollett) (one no sooner grasps the bigness of the world’s work than one’s own effort seems puny and contemptible—J. R. Green) Something is trivial which seems petty and commonplace and scarcely worthy of special consideration or notice (that strange interest in trivial things that we try to develop when things of high import make us afraid—Wilde) (he regarded no task as too humble for him to undertake, nor so trivial that it was not worth his while to do it well—Huxley) The term is often applied to persons, minds, or activities which reveal engrossment in trivial affairs or a lack of serious or profound interests (she knew him for a philanderer, a trivial taster in love and life—Rose Macaulay) (the incessant hurry and trivial activity of daily life—Elliot) Something is trifling which is so small as to have little if any value or significance (our ordinary distinctions become so trifling, so impalpable—Hawthorne) (a considerable sum was paid to Egmont and a trifling one to the Prince—Motley) Something is paltry which is ridiculously or contemptibly small in comparison especially to what it should be (a paltry allowance) (our little ambitions, our paltry joys—Benson) (the paltry prize is hardly worth the cost—Byron) Something is meagly which is contemptibly small (as in size or quantity) or petty (a measly portion of pie) (snatch at a little measly advantage and miss the big one—Anderson) Something is picayunish or picayune which is insignificant in its possibilities or accomplishments or hopelessly narrow in outlook or interests (a picayunish policy) (a lifetime of picayunish drudgery in the company of louts—H. L. Davis) (the obvious futility, the picayune, question-begging character, of such ethical analyses—Asher Moore) (a picayune congressman) Ana *small, little, diminutive, minute Ant important, momentous: gross petulant *irritable, fractious, peevish, pettish, snappish, waspish, huffy, fretful, querulous Ana cross, cranky, touchy, testy (see irascible): *impatient, restive, fidgety phantasm 1 *apparition, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant Ana *delusion, illusion, hallucination 2 *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare phantasy *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare phantom *apparition, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant Ana counterfeit, deception, *imposture: *delusion, illusion, hallucination phrasical hypocrical, sanctimonious, canting (see under hy-poCRisy) phrasism *hypocrisy, sanctimony, cant pharmaceutical n *drug, medicinal, biologic, simple pharmacist *drugist, apothecary, chemist phase, aspect, side, facet, angle are comparable when they denote one of the possible ways in which an object of contemplation may be seen or may be presented. Phase may distinctly imply a change in the appearance of a thing without a change in the observer’s point of view. From its original denotation as one of the four different shapes which the moon apparently assumes during its waxing and waning it often suggests a cyclical change in appearance (the wheel of the world swings through the same phases. . . . Summer passed and winter thereafter, and came and passed again—Kipling) In extended use it is often applied to an outward and passing manifestation of a stage in growth, development, or unfolding (the way children de-velop and the different phases they go through—Barclay) but it also may apply to one of two or more distinctive appearances or values of something with little or no suggestion of cyclical or temporal succession (the red fox occurs in several color phases, of which the silver phase has been found to breed true) (he was a shrewd, smooth political-financier, shady in both phases—S. H. Adams) (the two alternating forces or phases in the rhythm of the universe which Empedocles calls Love and Hate—Tennyson) Aspect sometimes implies a change in appearance without a shifting in point of view, but unlike phase it usually suggests a superficial change, especially one brought about by unpredictable circumstances (every time I look out of the window, the hills present a new aspect) More distinctively it implies a change in appearance that is traceable to a change in the observer’s point of view (the one and only aspect of a rich and complex subject which I mean to treat—Lowes) (an entirely new aspect of the Everest massif filled our northwestern horizon—Shipton) (the two men lay whispering for hours, canvassing every aspect of Monck’s situation—Upton Sinclair) Thus, one who proposes to treat the phases of the depression of the nineteen-thirties implies that he intends to consider its stages as they manifested themselves outwardly; one who proposes to treat all aspects of that depression implies that he intends to consider it from every possible point of view (as the political, the economic, and the sociological). Side, though often used interchangeably with phase and aspect, may retain implications derived from other of its senses and is used chiefly in reference to something that may be thought of as having two or more faces and therefore not fully apprehensible unless it or its observer shifts position (see life only on its pleasant side) (if you get on the wrong side of authority, you are executed or exiled—Edmund Wilson) (the history as a whole is deficient on the economic side—Allen Johnson) But side differs from phase and aspect in less regularly con-noting appearance or referring to physical or intellectual vision (hear both sides of a dispute) (read all sides in a controversy) (on its theoretic and perceptive side, Morality touches Science; on its emotional side, poetic Art—George Elliot) (this kind of discussion went on all the time between the parents. They could take either side with ease—Wouk) Facet differs from side in implying a multiplicity of other faces similar to or like the one singled out for attention (noticed the different shades of green on the planes and facets of each clipped tree—Dahl) (the strength of the lyric lies in the complete statement of a single selected facet of experience—Day Lewis) Angle denotes an aspect which is observable from a point of view restricted in its scope (he knows only one angle of his subject) (it is necessary to consider all angles of the situation) (views these developments from a fresh angle—Dumas Malone) Ana *state, condition, situation, posture: *appearance, look, semblance phenomenal *material, physical, corporeal, sensible, objective Ana actual, *real Ant nounal phenomenon *wonder, marvel, prodigy, miracle Ana abnormality (see corresponding adjective at abnor-mal): anomaly, *paradox: singularity, peculiarity, uniqueness (see corresponding adjectives at strange) philanthropic *charitable, benevolent, humane, humanitarian, eleemosynary, altruistic Ana *liberal, munificent, bountiful, bounteous, open-handed, generous: lavish, *profuse, prodigal Ant misanthropic
philanthropy  *charity

Ant  misanthropy

philippic n  *tirade, diatribe, jeremiad

Ana  harangue, *speech, address, oration: condemnation, denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

philistine n  *obscurantist, barbarian

phlegm 1 impassivity, stolidity, apathy, stoicism (see under IMPASSIVE)

Ana  insensitivity, insensitiveness, impassibility, anesthesis (see corresponding adjectives at INSENSIBLE)

2 *equanimity, composure, sangfroid

Ana  imperturbability, nonchalance, coolness, collectedness (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): calmness or calm, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

phlegmatic  *impassive, stolid, apathetic, stoic

Ana  *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof: cool, chilly, *cold, frigid: sluggish, *lethargic

phony adj  *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck

photograph n  portrait, "image, effigy, statue, icon, mask

phrase, idiom, expression, locution mean a group of words which, taken together, express a notion and may be used as a part of a sentence. Phrase may apply to a group of words which for one reason or another recurs frequently (as in the language of a people, the writings of an author or school of authors, or the speech of a person or a clique of persons). Sometimes the word means little more than this (this phrase, a priori, is in common most grossly misunderstood—SOUTHEY) but more often it suggests a distinctive character, such as triteness (to use the phrase of all who ever wrote upon the state of Europe, the political horizon is dark indeed—Cowper) or pithiness or pointedness (I summed up all systems in a phrase—Wilde) ("You don't understand a young philosopher," said the Baronet. "A young philosopher's an old fool!" returned Hippias, not thinking that his growl had begged a phrase—Meredith)

In the combinations "noun phrase" and "verb phrase" it suggests one of the principal parts of a sentence. Idiom (see also LANGUAGE 1) applies to a combination of word elements which is peculiar to the language in which it occurs either in its grammatical structure or in the meaning which is associated with it but which cannot be derived from it when the elements are interpreted literally; thus, "to keep house," "to catch cold," "to strike a bargain" are examples of idioms. Expression and locution are sometimes used in place of phrase when the idea of a way of expressing oneself is uppermost. Although both terms may be applied to phrases that are generally current, they are perhaps more typically applied to those that are idiosyncratic. Expression is particularly used when accompanied by a characterizing adjective or clause or phrase (he is in the habit of using telling expressions) (that is a very odd expression) (an expression that has gone out of use) Location is somewhat more bookish than expression and is therefore often preferred when the reference is to phrases that are peculiar to a language or a group as an idiom (a pet location of the author) (Carlyle and Carlylese were to leave their traces. Even the style of Thoreau was to be tinged faintly here and there with the rhythms and locations of a writer whom lesser minds could not resist—Brooks)

phraseology, phrasing  *language, vocabulary, diction, style

physic  *remedy, cure, medicine, medication, medication, specific

physical  1 bodily, corporeal, corporal, somatic

Ana  fleshly, *carnal, sensual, animal

2 *material, corporeal, phenomenal, sensible, objective

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
pigheaded  *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, stiff-necked, bullheaded, dogged, pertinacious

Ana headstrong, willful, recalcitrant, refractory (see UNRULY): *contrary, perverse, froward

pilaster *pillar, column

pilfer *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, snitch, swipe, cop

pimples  *abscess, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pustule

pinch vb *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, snitch, swipe, cop

pirate vb *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop

pinch n *juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, strait, crisis

Ana *difficulty, hardship, rigor, vicissitude

pinchbeck adj *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, phony

pinched adj *haggard, cadaverous, worn, careworn, wasted

Ana gaunt, scrawny, skinny, angular, rawboned (see LEAN adj)

Con *strong, sturdy, stout, stalwart, robust, *healthy

pilch hter *substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate, understudy, double, stand-in

pine vb *long, yearn, hanker, hunger, thirst

Ana crave, covet, *desire: languish, enervate (see corresponding adjectives at Languid)

pinnacle *summit, peak, apex, acme, climax, culmination, meridian, zenith, apogee

pious *devout, religious, pietistic, sanctimonious

Ana *holy, sacred, divine, religious: worshiping, adoring, reverencing, venerating, revering (see REVERE): fervent, ardent, fervid (see IMPASSIONED)

Ant impious

piquant *pungent, poignant, racy, spicy, snappy

Ana *incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting, clear-cut

bland Con *insipid, flat, banal, jejune, inane

pique n *offense, resentment, umbrage, dudgeon, huff

Ana annoyance, vexation, irking or irk (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY): irritation, exasperation, provocation (see corresponding verbs at IRRITATE)

pique vb 1 *provoke, excite, stimulate, quicken, galvanize

Ana *stir, rouse, arouse: prick, punch (see PERFORATE): kindle, ignite (see LIGHT vb)

2 *pride, plume, preen

pirate, freebooter, buccaneer, privateer, corsair basically mean one who sails in search of plunder. Pirate suggests a person or a ship or its crew that without a commission from an established civilized state cruises about in quest of ships to plunder. Since pirate in this sense is seldom used of contemporary life, the word has been extended to mean one who wanders over a wide territory in search of plunder (a band of 400 desert pirates ... raised the bazaar section and fled back across the river with their loot—Time) or one who infringes upon a right legally restricted to another (English books published by American pirates ... pirates of wavelengths in radio) or one known for predatory business practices (now my grandfather there who made the money ... was a hard-boiled man of business. From your point of view he was a pirate—Edmund Wilson) Freebooter often suggests a maritime plunderer who pursues his occupation without the excuse that his country is at war and then differs from pirate only in its connotations of membership in a less closely organized band and of use of less violent methods (English freebooters who made life merry hell on the high seas for Spanish galleons wadding home from the Americas heavy-laden with gold—Dodge) In extended use freebooter is often applied to one who seizes rights, privileges, and property on a large scale without regard to the restraints of law or of order (many empire builders have been mere freebooters) An era of comparably good feeling and incomparably good pickings. He took things easy, and his fellow freebooters took almost everything easily—Hodding Carter) Buccanneer, primarily applied to early French residents of Haiti, is more generally used of these people and others who preyed, sometimes with the tacit consent of their own governments, on Spanish ships and settlements in the New World (in the reign of Charles II, the buccaneers of the West Indian Islands were in the heyday of their romantic glory, as the unofficial maintainers of England's quarrels along the Spanish Main—Trevelyan)
The term is often extended to an unscrupulous adventurer (as in business or politics); in such use it need not be wholly disparaging but does regularly imply disregard of the rules observed by ordinary men. One of the great building enterprises of the famous buccaneer out of which he is reputed to have made many millions—Stur-ksky—there still exist outright buccaneers, men who will steal anything that isn’t tied down—Sat. Review) Privateer and corsair primarily apply to a ship privately owned but commissioned by its government (as in the 17th and 18th centuries) to prey upon other ships, usually those of an enemy, but in practice either term may designate a ship, its commander, or one of its crew. Corsair is applied chiefly to a ship, a commander, or a sailor of North African origin. Neither term has extensive extended use, but when so used they are quite distinct: privateer then applies to one doing in a private capacity what would normally be undertaken by a public official (illegal [wire] taps by law enforcers and privateers continued unpunished Westin) but corsair attributes fury and rapacious cruelty to the one so-called corsairs among the reptiles—Swin-ton) had lately attacked, in corsair fashion, the Greek philosophers and had disembowelled Plato, Aristotle, and the rest of them, to his complete satisfaction—Norman Douglas

Pirouette vb *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, whirl, whirl, wheel, eddy, swirl

Pitch vb 1 hurl, fling, cast *throw, toss, sling

Pitiful, pitiable

Pity *sympathy, compassion, commiseration, condolence, ruth, empathy

Pivotal *central, focal

Place n Place, position, location, situation, site, spot, station

Placate vb *pacify, appease, mollify, propitiate, conciliate

Pitiful when a contemptuous commiseration is implied, but contempt may be weakly or strongly connoted (that pitiable husk of a man who a hundred years ago was a familiar figure in its streets, a shadow of his former insole and splendor—Lucas) felt a tender pity . . . mixed with shame for having made her pitiable—Malamud

Pity, *moving, pathetic, affecting:*tender, compassionate, responsive, sympathetic

Pithy

Pithy summary, compendious, *concise, terse, succinct

Pithy

Pity

Pitable

Pitable

Pitable

Pitable

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
placid

*a calm, tranquil, serene, peaceful, halcyon

plague

*pester, tease, tantalize, harry, harass, *worry,

plain

*locality, vicinity, district: region, tract, *area, zone:

placid

*calm, tranquil, serene, peaceful, halcyon

plague

*pester, tease, tantalize, harry, harass, *worry,

plain

*locality, vicinity, district: region, tract, *area, zone:

ruffled

(of persons): (of things)

imperturbable, nonchalant, *cool, collected, com-

Ant

solid

Ant

solids

plan adj

*plane, flat, *level, even, smooth, flush

Ant

solids

plain

2 clear, distinct, obvious, *evident, manifest, patent, ap-

parent, palpable

planning

*clear, lucid, perspicuous: *explicit, express, defi-

nite, specific, categorical

Ant

abstruse

3 Plain, homely, simple, unpretentious are comparable when

they mean devoid of whatever embellishes or makes for

superficial beauty. Plain stresses lack of anything (as

ornamentation, complexity, extraneous matter, or strong-

ly marked characteristics) likely to attract attention (had

no eccentricity even to take him out of the common run;

he was just a good, dull, honest, plain man—Maugham)

*a plain two-story frame house* Additionally it may

suggest elegance (his brown stockings . . . were of a fine

texture; his shoes and buckles, too, though plain, were

trim—Dickens) or frugality (a plain skirt of serviceable

gray flannel) or, with reference to personal appearance,

lack of positive characteristics, and then contrasts with

beautiful but without implying positive ugliness (was not

a plain woman, and she might have been very pretty still—

Glasgow) In reference to houses, furniture, food, and

other elements of domesticity, homely sometimes suggests

homey and may indicate comfortable informality without

ostentation (his secluded wife ever smiling and cheerful,

his little comfortable lodgings, snug meals, and homely

evenings, had all the charms of novelty and secrecy—

Thackeray) It may connote warmth and simplicity (a

book-learned language, wholly remote from anything per-

sonal, native, or homely—Cather) With reference to

appearance homely in American but not usually in British

usage often falls between plain and ugly (she was certainly

not bad-looking now and she could never have been so

homely as she imagined—Edmund Wilson) Simple may

occasionally differ slightly from plain in implying choice

rather than compulsive circumstance (what was then

called the simple life . . . is recognizable as the austere

luxury of a very cultivated poet—Reppier) a monk of

Lindisfarne, so simple and lowly in temper that he traveled

on foot on his long mission journeys—J. R. Green

Unpretentious, stressing lack of vanity or affectation, may

praise a person but depreciate a possession (an unpre-
tentious family doctor without the specialist's curt lof-

tiness—*unpretentious and battered old car*

Ana

*ugly, ill-avored, unsightly, hideous: barren, *bare,
bald: unembellished, unabored, undecorated, unorn-

amented, ungartnished (see corresponding affirmative verbs

at adorn)

Ant

lovely

4 *frank, candid, open

Ana

forthright, *straightforward, aboveboard: blunt,

*bluff: *sincere, unfeigned

plain

*dolorous, doleful, *melancholy, lugubrious, rueful

Ana

pensive, reflective, meditative, *thoughtful: lament-
ing, deploring (see DEPLORATE): *pitiul, piteous

plait

*weave, knit, crochet, braid, tat

plan

*n Plan, design, plot, scheme, project, as nouns, denote

a proposed method of doing or making something or of

achieving a given end, and as verbs, to devise such a

method. Plan, in its widest sense, regularly implies mental

formulation of the method (make plans to travel to Europe)

(make plans for the future of their children) (plans for an

expansion of one's business) (she had her plan clearly in

her head, with every detail . . . distinct—Gibbons) (it

is a basic part of industrial technology that planned oblo-

nescence should be built into every unit—Pohl)

In a narrower sense, the terms may imply a graphic represent-

ation of such a method (as by a mechanical drawing, a

chart, a sketch, or a layout) (an architect's set of plans)

*plans a garden* (the basement of St. Katherine's Dock

House is vast in extent and confusing in its plan—Conrad)

Design (see also INTENTION) adds to plan an emphasis on

intention (as artistic or divine intention) in the disposition

of individual members or details, often thereby suggesting

a definite pattern; since it is used frequently in reference

to a completed work, it often implies reference to the

degree in which order, harmony, or integrity have been

achieved in spite of diversity in the parts, or in which

there is the beauty that results from unity in variety (it . . .

like most architecture erected since the Gothic age, was

a compilation rather than a design—Hardy) (the most

wonderful and delicate design composed entirely of

flowers—Dahl) (knows how to design a part so that it

develops and acquires momentum in performance—Atkin-

son) (a curious woman, whose dresses always looked as

if they had been designed in a rage—Wilde) Plot (see also

plot n 2; Sketch vb) usually connotes a laying out in

clearly distinguished and carefully proportioned sec-

tions or divisions, and attention to proper placing and
due relation of the parts, and to scale. It is found chiefly

in technical use, such as that of surveying, where it sug-

gests a ground plan (plot a tract of land) or in literature,

where it refers to a fundamental design which the action

of a drama or narrative follows (there is plenty of action in
this play, but no plot) (she seldom schemed, but when she
did scheme, her plans showed . . . the comprehensive strategy

of a general—Hardy) The terms often connote, singly or

Ana

analogous words

Ant

antonyms

Con

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
plane

in combination, self-delusion, craftiness, or self-seeking on the part of the agent (he doesn't scheme and twist things about trying to get the best of someone else—Anderson) (a lurking suspicion that our work was ... a scheme to superimpose American economic control upon ingenuous foreign countries—Heiser) Project comes close to scheme except in its connotations. Sometimes it suggests enterprise; sometimes, imaginative scope or vision; sometimes, mere extensiveness (sanguine schemes, ambitious projects, pleased me less—Wordsworth) (such were my projects for the city's good—Browning) (I projected, and drew up a plan for the union—Franklin) (although his health was rapidly failing, he projected a new plan—Dinsmore) Ana *intention, intent, purpose: *idea, conception, notion: *chart, map, graph: diagram, outline, sketch (see under sketch vb)

plan vb design, plot, scheme, project (see under plan n) Ana propose, purpose, *intend: *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate

plane adj plain, flat, *level, even, smooth, flush

Ant solid

plank *paragraph, verse, article, clause, count

plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile, malleable, adaptable are applied to things and to persons regarded as material susceptible of being modified in form or nature. Something plastic has the quality (as of wax, clay, or plaster) of being soft enough to be molded or to receive an impression yet capable of hardening into a final form (a pill mass should be plastic: that is, it should be capable of being worked—C. O. Lee) (the language at the period during which the Bible was being translated into English was in its most plastic stage—Lowes) (life is plastic: it will assume any shape you choose to put on it—Gogarty) Something pliable or pliant has the quality (as of willow twigs) of being supple enough to be easily bent or manipulated and therefore yielding without resistance. Pliable, in extended use, usually suggests the imposition of or submission to another's will (I flatter myself that I have some influence over her. She is pliable—Hardy) (I've always been a pliable sort of person, and I let the ladies guide me—Upton Sinclair) (he was criticized as being too pliable, too eager to please—Bevery Smith) Pliant, on the other hand, suggests flexibility rather than obedience (art which is alive and pliant in the hands of men—Quiller-Couch) (ready to be used or not used, picked up or cast aside .... pliant to fate like a reed to the wind—Gough) Something ductile has the quality of a tensile metal (as copper) of being tenacious enough to be permanently drawn out or extended, or of water, of being made to flow through channels. In extended use ductile often approaches plastic and pliant but it may have distinctive connotations directly derived from its literal senses, such as quick responsiveness (as distinguished from submissiveness) to influences that would form, guide, or fashion (verse ... is easier to write than prose .... Mr. Shaw would have found his story still more ductile in the meter of Hawwaath—Quiller-Couch) (a vast portion of the public feels rather pliant and ductile in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation—Irving) (finds a sort of malleable mind in front of him that he can play with as he will—Masefield) Something adaptable is capable of being modified or of modifying itself to suit other conditions, other needs, or other uses. As applied to persons the term implies sometimes a pliant, but more often an accommodating, disposition and a readiness to make one's habits, one's opinions, and one's wishes correspond to those of one's present society or environment (he was an adaptable person. He had yielded to Joyce's training in being quietly instead of noisily disagreeable—Sinclair Lewis) (anarchism has always been an elastic and adaptable faith, and looking round for a suitable machinery to replace state centralization—Connolly) Ana flexible, supple, *elastic, resilient: tractable, amenable (see obedient) Con rigid, *stiff, inflexible

platitude *commonplace, truism, bromide, cliche

Ana banality, inanity, vapidity, insipidity (see corresponding adjectives at INSIPID) mawkishness, sentimentality (see corresponding adjectives at SENTIMENTAL)

plaudits *applause, acclamation, acclaim

Ana cheering (see APPLAUD)

plausible, credible, believable, colorable, specious are comparable when they mean capable of impressing the observer, auditor, or reader as truly or genuinely possessing the quality or character that is set forth or claimed. A thing or sometimes a person is plausible that is capable of winning acceptance, approval, or belief by its or his apparent possession of qualities which make it or him seem pleasing, genuine, or reasonable at first sight or hearing: the word need not definitely imply a false outside, or an intention to deceive, or a lack of soundness, but it usually connotes such a possibility, even though it also clearly suggests an ingratiating or mentally satisfying character (a plausible argument) (the most plausible and persuasive confidence man of his day—S. H. Adams) (that is a perfectly intelligible position, and it is plausible to the last degree—Lowes) (he learns that what is wanted is not an interesting or plausible story, but exact facts—Notes and Queries on Anthropology) A thing or less often a person is credible that seems to be worthy of belief or of being credited, sometimes because of plausibility, but more often because of its or his support by known facts or by sound reasoning (a credible explanation) (a credible witness) (right reason makes that which they say appear credible—Hobbes) (a theory which denies the truth of one of our fundamental convictions about our own minds must have very strong evidence from other quarters to make it credible—Inge) A thing that is credible because it comes within the range of possibility or probability, or because it is in accordance with other facts that are known, is believable (his undergraduate characters ... are all alive and believable. With his older characters he is less convincing—Havighurst) (a down-to-earth, rat-chasing, thoroughly believable wharf cat—Camper) (demand for ... believable explanations—Fear) A thing is colorable which at least on its face or outwardly seems true, just, or valid or which is capable to some extent of being sustained or justified (a colorable evi-
dence has as yet been presented in support of this theory) (the Chinese were given ... a colorable excuse for joining in the fight. The excuse, of course, was much more than colorable: it was morally and practically ideal—Purcell) A thing or, less often, a person is specious that is outwardly or apparently attractive, beautiful, valid, or sincere but that is inwardly or actually the reverse in character. Specious is the only one of these terms that clearly implies dissimulation or fraud or deceit or hypocrisy (specious picturesqueness) (specious piety) (a specious rogue) (they sanctified the worse cause with the specious pretext of zeal for the furtherance of the best—Cowper) (effusions of fine sentiments about brotherly
love that are only a *specious* mask for envy and hatred of riches and success—Babbit

**An**a smooth, bland, politic, diplomatic, *suave*: likely, *probable*, possible: uctuous, *fulsome, slick, oily

**play** *n* 1 sport, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under **play vb 1**)

**An**a enjoyment, declamation, *pleasure, delight*: amuse-

*ment, diversion, recreation, entertainment* (see under **AMUSE**: *athletics, sports, games

**Ant** work

2 *fun, jest, sport, game

3 *room, berth, elbowroom, leeway, margin, clearance

**play** *vb* 1 **Play**, sport, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol can all as verbs mean to engage in exercise or other activity as a pleasure or amusement, and as nouns mean exercise or activities engaged in for the sake of pleasure or amuse-

*ment. Play, the most general of these terms, suggests an opposition to work; like its antithesis it usually implies activity and often vigorous activity of body or mind, but it emphasizes the absence of any end except that of amuse-

*ment, diversion, recreation, or pure enjoyment* (**children** **play** for hours at keeping house) (**play** chess) (**play** tennis) (**no** **play** is interesting to me unless it affects work, and it is possible to me unless it possesses the amusement of **play**—**Ellis**) (they had been . . . transformed from a dejected, downcast, docile, uninterested people, who could not even **play**, into one which was healthy, alert—**Heiser**) (**playing** at one job and then another, too charged with impatience to plug at chores—Mailer)

Sport and disport suggest a complete release not only from work but from seriousness; the terms imply indul-

*gence in something which cheers, makes merry, or serves as a pastime* (if all the year were playing holidays, to **sport** would be as tedious as as to work—Shak.) (**sport** that wrinkled Care derides—**Milton**) (see the **children** **play** upon the shore—Wordsworth) (all the freedom and grace of healthy young animals, **sporting** in the shallows or playing in the warm sands—Beaglehole) (we make ourselves fools, to **disport** ourselves—Shak.) (a tiny fish **disporting** himself with me in the tub—Beebe)

**Frolic** suggests more gaiety, more levity, and more spontaneity than any of the preceding terms; it often is used in reference to the lighthearted, joyous movements of children or animals at play, but it also suggests the pastimes, antics, or pranks of those who have thrown off all care (1 **come** to **frolic** with you, and to cheer your drooping souls—Ford & Dekker) (**children** were allowed to **frolic** around on these piles of material to their heart's con-

*tent—**Talbot**) (their sedateness is as comical as their **frolic**—**Meredith**)

**Rollick**, infrequent as a noun and used chiefly in the form **rollicking**, adds to **frolic** implications of exuberance in gaiety and of reveling and therefore is used especially in reference to youths or young adults (**rollicking** blades) ("Q." appears as a **rollicking** humorist.) . . . He **rollicks**, perhaps, a little too laboriously—**Pall Mall Gazette**). **Romp** suggests the boisterous care-

*free frolicking of children, of rough boys, and of tomboys; it usually connotes running or racing in play** (first-to-sixth-

*graders . . . **romp** on the playground—**Cabell Phillips**)

1 **have** been having a **romp** with my godson—Braddon

**Gambol** suggests the leaping and skipping characteristic of lambs and young children; it comes close to **frolic**, but carries a stronger suggestion of joy in movement ( **Gilda** rose as limber as a 16-year-old, and **gambolled** the full length of the room— **Purdy**) (where be your gibes now? your gambolds? your songs? your flashes of merri-

*ment . . . ?—Shak.) (their pygmy king, and little fairy queen, in circling dances **gambolled** on the green— **Pope**)

**Ana** divert, entertain, recreate, *amuse*: *trifle, toy, daily

2 *act, impersonate

**Ana** feign, simulate, counterfeit, *assume

**player** *actor, performer, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trouper

**playful**, frolicsome, sporting, roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous mean given to play, jests, or tricks or indica-

*tive of such a disposition or mood. **Playful** stresses either lighthearted gaiety or Merriment (**playful** children) (in a **playful** mood) (a **confiding, playful** little animal, whom one . . . trained to do tricks—Sackville-West) or a lack of seriousness or earnestness (his words were serious, but in his eyes there was a **playful** gleam) (his pen was more **playful** than caustic—Williams & Porrone) **Frolic-

*some** heightens the implications of **playful**; it carries a stronger suggestion of friskiness or prankishness or irre-

*ponsibility (as **frolicsome** as a bird upon a tree, or a breeze that makes merry with the leaves— **Haw-

*thorne**! ( **frolicsome** sailors returning from their cruises . . . paraded through the streets—Nevins & Commager)

**Sportive** carries a stronger implication of jesting or of levity than either of the preceding words; the term some-

*times implies merely excess of animal spirits, but it usually connotes a desire to evoke or provoke laughter (three generations of serious and of **sportive** writers wept and laughed over the **venality** of the senate—Macaulay)

**Roguish** not only heightens the implications of **sportive**; but it suggests an engaging naughtiness or slyness ("I don't think I shall want anything else when we've got a little garden; and I knew Aaron would dig it for us," she went on with **roguish** triumph—George Eliot) (not a pretty girl or a **roguish** buck in the lot—Cooke)

**Waggish** suggests a less engaging sportiveness than **roguish** and one less delicate in its character; usually also the term carries a stronger suggestion of jocoseness or of jocularity (with all his overbearing roughness there was a strong dash of **waggish** good humor at bottom—Irving)

**Impish** adds to **roguish** a hint of elfish, malicious mockery (teasing . . . with **impish** laughter half suppressed—Hardy) (he also displays **impish** ingenuity in picking his examples of error from the most dignified sources—Bret. Book News)

**Mischievous** combines the implications of **frolic-

*some and **impish** (took a secret and **mischievous** pleasure in the bewilderment of her attendants—Stafford) Al-

*though it may imply the doing of mischief (see **mischief** under **INJURY** 1) or the causing of an injury to others it commonly retains some suggestion of mingled playfulness and malice (the three **mischievous**, dark-eyed witches, who lounged in the stern of that comfortable old island gondola, . . . were a parcel of wicked hoydens, bent on mischief, who laughed in your face—Melville) (the little buried eyes still watching . . . in that **mischievous**, canny way, and . . . catching out some further unpleasantness or scandal—Dahl)

Often it suggests little more than thoughtlessness or of the possible effects of one's sports, tricks, or practical jokes (a garden ruined by **mischievous** boys) (she . . . was . . . waked by Meta, standing over her with a sponge, looking very **mischievous**—**Yonge**)

**Ana** gay, sprightly, *lively*: *merry, blithe, jocund, jolly, jovial: mirthful, gleeful, hilarious (see corresponding nouns at **MIRTH**)

**plea** 1 *apology, apologia, excuse, pretext, alibi

**Ana** explanation, justification, rationalization (see corre-

*sponding verbs at **EXPLAIN**): defense, vindication (see corresponding verbs at **MAINTAIN**

2 *prayer, suit, petition, appeal

**Ana** entreaty, supplication, imploring, beseeching, beg-

*ging (see corresponding verbs at **BEG**)

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
plead vb pray, sue, petition, appeal (see under PRAYER) Ana entreat, implore, supplicate, beseech; *beg: intercede, mediate, intervene; *interpose
Con bestow, confer, present; *give: *grant, vouchsafe, accord
plesant, pleasing, agreeable, grateful, gratifying, welcome are comparable when they mean highly acceptable to or delighting the mind or the senses. Pleasant and pleasing are often indistinguishable; however, pleasant usually imputes a quality to the object to which it is applied, and pleasing suggests merely the effect of the object upon one (a pleasant garden) she liked everything to be tidy and pleasant and comfortable about her—Gibbons a pleasing arrangement of colors (the thought of gazing on life's Evening Star makes of ugly old age a pleasing prospect—L. P. Smith) Agreeable implies harmony with one's tastes or likings (an agreeable taste) if I was obliged to define politeness, I should call it the art of making oneself agreeable—Smollett (replied with an agreeable, cultured throaty intonation—F. M. Ford) Grateful carries the implications of both pleasing and agreeable; in addition it stresses the satisfaction or relief after the sensed need has somewhat less often, the mind (they . . . lay down on the clean grass under the grateful shade of the tall cottenwoods—Cather) only occasional voices from the road outside came to disturb the grateful sense of quiet and seclusion—Archibald Marshallly Gratifying is applied chiefly to what affords mental pleasure to the individual by satisfying his desires, hopes, conscience, or vanity (the reviews of his book were very gratifying) the gratifying feeling that our duty has been done—Gilbert) can satisfy their lust for power in a most gratifying way—Huxley Welcome even more than pleasing stresses the pleasure or satisfaction given by the thing to which it is applied; it often suggests prior need or an answer to one's longings (the explorers found fresh fruit and vegetables a welcome addition to their diet) the news was most welcome (revivals offered welcome interludes in pioneer life—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) Ana charming, attractive, alluring (see under ATTRACT vb): *soft, gentle, mild, balmy, smooth Ant unpleasant: distasteful: harsh
please vb Please, gratify, delight, rejoice, gladden, tickle, regale mean to make happy or to be a cause of happiness. Please usually implies an agreement with one's wishes, tastes, or aspirations and a happiness which ranges from mere content and the absence of grounds for displeasure to actual elation the family was pleased with the daughter's marriage the aim of poetry is to please the suggestion did not please him he may apply himself . . . to feeding and protecting his family, but he no longer need strain to please—Edmund Wilson) (fangless perceptions which will please the conservative power—Mailer) Gratify (compare gratifying under PLEASANT) suggests an even stronger measure of satisfaction than please and is normally positive in its implication of pleasure it gratifies us to imagine that . . . we have reached a point on the road of progress beyond that vouchsafed to our benighted predecessors—Elliot it gratified him to have his wife wear jewels; it meant something to him—Cather he had a sense of humor in his peculiar quiet way, but he never gratified it by proofs of the obvious—Theodore Sturgeon Delight stresses the emotional rather than the intellectual quality of the reaction, though the latter is often also implied; it suggests intense, lively pleasure that is not only keenly felt but usually vividly expressed in outward signs O, flatter me; for love delights in praises—Shak the girl was embarrassed and delighted by the effusive attention that followed—Hervey she was as delighted as if he had given her a Christmas present all wrapped in shining paper—MacInnes Rejoice implies a happiness that exceeds bounds and reveals itself openly (as in smiles, in song, in festivities, or in enthusiastic effort) (rejoice, you men of Angiers, ring your bells—Shak) Hendrik worked, rejoicing in the strength that God had given him—Cloete Gladden sometimes is indistinguishable from rejoice except in rarely suggesting excess of emotion and in being usually transitive a small pleasantry frankly uttered by a patron, gladdens the heart of the dependent—Irving It often, however, connotes a raising of the spirits, or a cheering or consoling in depression or grief the comrades of the dead girl assemble in the temple on certain days to gladden her spirit with songs and dances—Hearn) Tickle and regale involve the idea of delight, but they are often less dignified in their connotations. Tickling implies such pleasurable sensations as tingles and thrills or suggests an almost physical gratification food that tickles the palate Sometimes, with reference to physical tickling, it suggests provocation of laughter (the mimic court of justice in the orchard tickled him immensely—Deland) the idea of himself as a parson tickles him: he looks down at the black sleeve on his arm, and then smiles shyly—Shaw Regale connotes huge enjoyment or a feasting upon what gives pleasure Mr. Sycamore was regaling himself with the discomfiture of Lady Charlotte—H. G. Wells) would always regale them generously with madeira, sherry or whiskey, rich cake, and richer stories—Chapman-Huston) Ana *satisfy, content: beguile, *while, vile Ant displease: anger: vex
pleasing *pleasant, agreeable, grateful, gratifying, welcome Ana winning (see GET) charming, attractive, alluring enchanting (see under ATTRACT) Ant displeasing: repellent
pleasure, delight, joy, delection, enjoyment, fruition denote the agreeable emotion which accompanies the possession, acquisition, or expectation of something good or greatly desired Pleasure so strongly implies a feeling of satisfaction or gratification that it sometimes carries no implication of visible happiness or actual gladness (faintly unpleasant pleasures being atoned for by the dull unalleviated pain of guilt—Styron) he owned over forty pairs of boots, and he had the same pleasure in handling them that jewels give—Bemelman) Often, however, the term suggests an excitement or exaltation of the senses or of the mind that implies positive happiness or gladness when these wild ecstasies shall be matured into a sober pleasure—Wordsworth a great work of art always gives pleasure she didn't want to ride on the roller coaster . . . her ideas of pleasure were more sophisicated—Cheever) Delight carries a stronger implication of liveliness, intensity, or obviousness in the satisfaction of gratification it induces in pleasure and often suggests a less stable or enduring emotion what pleasure the possession of my money could have afforded him I am unable to say; but . . . as it did give him evident delight I was not sorry that I had parted with it so readily—Kipling) the errors he made in pitch and in language would be so amusing that the geishas would giggle with delight—Mailer) next to their wondrous delight in each other came their delighted wonder at earth itself—Theodore Sturgeon) Joy is often used in place of pleasure and still more often in place of delight. It is, however, especially appropriate when a deep-rooted, rapturous emotion is implied or when the happiness is so great as to be almost painful in its intensity (and all its aching joys are now no more, and all its dizzy raptures—Wordsworth)
plebiscite

It expressed her happiness, relieved the pressure of her joy at being alive—Rose Macaulay—glad to be free, proud too... of stepping this famous pavement, joy of a kind, cheap, tinselly, if you like, but all the same, rapture, flushed their faces—Woolf—Delectation and enjoyment differ in the main from the other words of this group in denoting the state of mind or the sensuous or emotional reactions of one who takes pleasure, delight, or joy in something. But delectation often carries a strong connotation of amusement, diversion, or entertainment that gives occasion for delight. Her oddities afforded him the utmost delectation—a superb eclipse of the sun, providentially arranged for the delectation of the Eastern seaboard cities—F. L. Allen—revived ancient, joyful customs for the delection of islanders and visitors—Gruening—Enjoyment, on the other hand, usually implies an attitude or a circumstance or a favorable response to a stimulus that tends to make one gratified or happy. He gave himself up to the vigorous enjoyment of his pipe for a silent minute or two—Conrad—that ruling, however, has not entirely dimmed lawmakers' enjoyment of a ripped good time—Armbister—just as backbiting and gossip could be a displease: anger: vexation.*happiness, felicity, bliss: amusement, diversion, recreation, entertainment (see under AMUSE)

pledge

Pledge, earnest, token, pawn, hostage are comparable when they denote something that is given or held as a sign of another's faith or intention to do what has been promised. Pledge, originally and still in some applications a technical legal term, applies in general to something handed over to another as a token—bear her this jewel, pledge of my affection—Shak.—or as security for the performance of an obligation or payment of a debt—property of the debtor in the creditor's possession was held as a valid pledge—Harvard Law Review—(the pawnshop, where one waits nervously while the swarthy shrewd-eyed attendant squints contemptuously at the pledges one offers—Donn Byrne)—Earnest, basically the money or other thing of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain, in its extended sense applies to something which serves as a promise or assurance of more to come or which establishes a strong probability of it (cutting off the heads of Emperor and Dudley as an earnest of the great love he bare his people—Trevelyan)—(it seemed to him a sort of earnest that Providence intended his rescue from worse consequences—George Eliot)—India must be granted her independence, as earnest to the subject peoples of the earth—Griswold—Token (see also SIGN 1) applies to something given as a guaranty or proof of a person's or thing's authority, authenticity, or good faith—I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth—Gen 9:13)—from time to time said something... as a token of friendship—Stewart—In specific concrete use token is applied to something which serves as a proof of an obligation, a right, a debt, or a payment; thus, a coin-like piece of metal sold by a transportation company for use as a ticket is usually called a token; coins or notes issued by some countries, states, or cities as currency at a nominal or face value above their real value but redeemable at their face value are collectively called tokens.

Pawn retains in anthropological use an earlier broad equivalence to a security pledge and then applies to a person held in servitude pending settlement of a debt—pawns are debtors whose work serves as interest until the loan is repaid—Amer. Anthropologist—In more general use pawn specifically refers to a personal chattel deposited as security for the money loaned on it by another, usually by a person called a pawnbroker whose business is the loaning of money on such security pledge and pawn were synonymous terms in the early common law. Modern usage tends to restrict the term pawn to the pledge of jewels and other personal chattels to pawnbrokers as security for small loans—Restatement of the Law of Security—In extended use pawn often carries a suggestion of something held for a time and liable to redemption or withdrawal by the actual owner—my life I never held but as a pawn to wage against thy enemies—Shak.—I held what I inherited in thee, as pawn for that inheritance of freedom which thou hast sold—Shelley—Hostage basically applies to a person handed over to another or kept by another as a guarantee of one's good or peaceable or submissive intentions or as a pledge until one's agreement or promise has been fulfilled—hostages were taken in very large numbers from the civilian populations—Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression—But sometimes the term is extended to other guarantees and pledges—you know now your hostages: your uncle's word and my firm faith—Shak.—Ana—guarantee, guaranty, security, surety, bond, bail

pledge vb—promise, engage, plight, covenant, contract—Ant abjure

plenary *full, complete, replete

plentiful, plenteous, ample, abundant, copious

Ana & Ant see those at PLENTIFUL

plebiscite

615

plentiful

*guarantee, guaranty, security, surety, bond, bail

plebiscite

*mandate, initiative, referendum

plebiscite

615

plentiful

*guarantee, guaranty, security, surety, bond, bail

plebiscite

*mandate, initiative, referendum

plebiscite
pleonasm

or fullness of information <declarations of a copious vein—Berkeley> <French, English, or any other copious language—Hobbes> <be copious and distinct, and tell me a great deal of your mind—Johnson>

Ana fruitful, prolific (see fertile): sumptuous, opulent, *luxurious: *profuse, lavish, prodigal

Ant scanty, scant

pleonasm *verbiage, redundancy, tautology, circumlocution, periphrasis

pliable *plastic, pliant, ductile, malleable, adaptable

Ana limber, pliable, *stiff: elastic, resilient, springy, *flexible: compliant, acquiescent

Ant obstinate

pliant *plastic, pliable, ductile, malleable, adaptable

Ana see those at pliable

plight vb *promise, engage, pledge, covenant, contract

3 sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, blueprint (see under sketch vb)

plum vb *fathom, sound

plume adj *vertical, perpendicular

plot vb 1 plan, design, scheme, project

2 *chart, map, graph (see under chart n)

ploy vb *trick, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, artifice, wile, feint

pluck n *fortitude, grit, backbone, guts, sand

Ana *courage, spirit, mettle, resolution, tenacity: hardiness, audacity, *temerity

plunge vb *fathom, sound

plumb vb *plunge, dive, pitch are comparable when they mean to throw or cast oneself or to be thrown or cast forward or downward with force or impetuosity into or as if into deep water. Plunge carries a more obvious implication than the others of the force with which one throws oneself or is thrown, but it does not always suggest a penetration of deep water; it may imply entrance into any penetrable medium, especially one that suggests a being overwhelmed or immersed, or into a course which marks a deep descent, a complete change, or a distinct involvement. Plunge bodily into the water after a forty-foot drop—Forester> <we are plunged once more into the war—Times Lit. Sup.> <he plunged into the crowd and was soon lost to view> <the singer drew breath and plunged into a new stanza—Henry> Dive, though it implies an action very similar to that indicated by plunge, usually suggests deliberation or, at least, consciousness of an aim, more skill in execution, and less heaviness and more grace; thus, "he dived into the sea" usually implies intent where "he plunged headlong into the sea" may suggest either intent, accident, or impulsion by some force.<3 gulls dive into the water for pieces of food) <an enormous water rat dived down from the bank—Powys> <clear out!" He raised his stick as he spoke. Katy shrieked, dived past him, and ran—Deland> <why not let a countable number of particles dive into it, and then weigh the tube—Darrow> <she dove into the red pocket-book and, burrowing among the debris, came up at last with what she was after—Helen Howe> Pitch (see also

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
plurality

**plutocracy**

a government or system of government in which a small, privileged class holds power over the rest of the population, often through wealth and economic control

**poet,** *hole, hollow, cavity, void, vacuum*

**vb** *handle, manipulate, wield, swing ply*

**plurality** *majority*

**plutocracy** *oligarchy, aristocracy*

**ply vb** *handle, manipulate, wield, swing*

**poet,** *versifier, rhymer, rhymester, poetaster, bard, minstrel, troubadour* denote a composer who uses metres or rhythmical language as his medium. *Poet* is used in a generic sense and in several highly specific senses. In its generic sense it applies to any writer or maker of verse; in its specific sense it applies only to a composer of verse who in his composition exhibits qualities regarded as essential or the art or time of the writer or speaker who uses the term. With all its variations in implications in these specific senses, poet usually stresses creative and expressive power as the prime essential, sometimes without clear reference to skill in constructing verses (every man, that writes in verse is not a Poet—Ben Jonson) (the Poet is chiefly distinguished from other men by a greater promptness to think and feel without immediate external excitement, and a greater power in expressing such thoughts and feelings—Wordsworth) Versifier may designate a composer who uses verse as his medium without reference to qualities thought of as essential to poetry. In contrast to poet, it implies the lack of such a quality or qualities (a clever versifier might have written Cowley's lines; only a poet could have made what Dryden made of them—T. S. Eliot) Rhymer and rhymester, once descriptive rather than depreciative, now tend to be even more definitely and consistently depreciatory than versifier in their implications of mediocrity or inferiority. Poetaster is a term of contempt applied to versifiers whose work is regarded as unimportant, trashy, or inane (there are always poetasters enough; but of great poets . . . there are never so many as not to leave room for . . . more—Julian Hawthorne) (indicative of the mistakes of poetasters and would-be poets rather than of real poets—Kiplly)

Bard basically applies to a tribal poet-singer (as among the ancient Celts) who composed verses praising heroes, chiefs, or warriors or recounting historical facts or traditions and who sang or recited them to the accompaniment of the harp or similar musical instrument. In extended use bard is a more or less Roman or florid synonym of poet used especially of one who writes impassioned, lyrical, or epic verse (compile in all the lyrical poetry of the last 150 years a list of half a dozen first-class or even second-class bards who wrote primarily to be sung—Quiller-Couch) Minstrel basically applies to a medieval public entertainer, often a strolling musician and mountebank, who sang songs (sometimes his own) to the accompaniment of a harp or other instrument and performed tricks; among its current extended applications is one in which it is close to bard in its implications, though it may place less emphasis on professional character and more on natural lyrical power (O black and unknown bards of long ago, how came your lips to touch the sacred fire? How, in your darkness, did you come to know the power and beauty of the minstrel's lyre?—J. W. Johnson) Troubadour applies historically to a type of poet-musician found chiefly in southern France and northern Italy, frequently a knightly amateur, who composed lyrics (often also the music) in the Provençal tongue, usually of an amatory character and characteristically in a complicated metrical pattern; in extended use, the word loses its suggestion of artifice and technical skill in versifying and is often employed in place of minstrel in its extended sense (known as a modern troubadour, for he wrote scores of verses for Irish folk tunes—Bridgman & Curtis) or it may specifically denote one who uses his skill in expression for the promotion of some cause (Mr. Bryan is one of the great troubadours . . . troubadouring is the thing he does best—E. G. Lowry) I speak after my fancies, for I am a Troubadour, you know, and won the violet at Toulouse—Tennyson

**Ana** *maker, creator, author:* *writer, author, composer poetaster* *poet, versifier, rhymer, rhymester, bard, minstrel, troubadour* **pogrom** *massacre, slaughter, butchery, carnage* **poignancy** *pathos, bathos, pathos* **poignant** 1 *pungent, piquant, racy, spicy, snappy* **Ana** penetrating, piercing, probing (see ENTER): *sharp, keen, acute: *incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting, crisp Ant dull (reaction, sensation) 2 *moving, touching, pathetic, impressive, affecting **Ana** exciting, stimulating, provoking (see PROVOKE): disturbing, agitating, perturbing (see DISCOMPOSE)

**point vb** *direct, aim, level, train, lay* **Ana** bend (see CURVE vb): *direct, address, devote: steer, pilot, engineer, *guide

**point of view,** *viewpoint, standpoint, angle, slant* denote the position or attitude that determines which aspect of an object of contemplation is seen or presented. Point of view, viewpoint, and standpoint are often interchangeable, but point of view and viewpoint can suggest either a mental or a physical position and may permit the inference that there are other ways of looking at what is considered and therefore usually suggest lack of completeness in the vision, or one-sidedness in the views expressed or presented (great literature enables us to see with another man's eyes . . . but only when we abandon ourselves for the time to his point of view—Kilby) (the general shape of the galaxy and the point of view from which we are looking at it—B. J. Bok) (all will benefit from exposure to the fresh viewpoint which he presents—Harrison Brown) (describes his own method of photographing motor races, and gives hints on the choice of subjects and viewpoints—Kodak Abstract) Standpoint may have connotations which tend to distinguish it from point of view and viewpoint; it is more often restricted to the mental point of view (consider totalitarianism from the German standpoint) and it more often connotes that definitely implies a fixed way of looking justified by one's fundamental principles or one's stock of information and not necessarily resulting in a limited understanding (from the poet-writer's standpoint all this prevalent talk about a New Order is sheer waste of time—Forster) (my criticism of what seems to me one-sided views will be better understood if my general standpoint is known—Inge) Angle (see also PHASE) definitely implies one-sidedness or limitations in the scope of one's vision (every man of genius sees the world at a different angle from his fellows, and there is his tragedy. But it is usually a measurable angle—Ellis) (in the rhetorical speeches from Shake-
speare which have been cited, we have ... a new clue to
the character, in noting the angle from which he views
himself—T. S. Eliot. Slant stresses bias, but it may be
derived from temperament, mental habits, or expe-
rience rather than from prejudice (periodicals, not nor-
mally pro-Democratic in editorial slant—Cater) (no one
sees anything without some personal slant—S.R.L.)

Ana *position, stand, attitude

poise vb *stabilize, steady, balance, ballast, trim

Ana *support, uphold, back

Con disturb, agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): *overturn,
overthrow, subvert

poise n 1 *balance, equilibrium, equipoise, tension

Ana suspending or suspension, hanging (see corresponding
verbs at HANG): *equanimity, composure

2 *tact, address, savoir faire

Ana self-possession, aplomb, assurance, *confidence:
calmness, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adver-
cates at CALM): grace, dignity, *elegance

poison n Poison, venom, virus, toxin, bane mean matter or
a substance that when present in an organism or intro-
duced into the body produces injurious or deadly effect. Poison
is the most inclusive of these words and is applicable to
any deadly or noxious substance whether introduced into or
produced within the body of an organism (killed by a
poison-barred arrow) <carbon monoxide gas, when in-
hale, is a deadly poison> <keeping poisons out of the
reach of children> <many alkaloids are dangerous poisons>

In extended use poison applies to whatever is felt to have the
destructive effect of a physical poison (<fear un-
controlled is a poison that destroys all self-confidence>) Venom
basically means a fluid containing a poison secreted by an
animal (as a snake, scorpion, or bee) and injected into
another animal during offensive or defensive action, usu-
ally by a bite or sting (<man spurns the worm, but pauses
ere he wake the slumbering venom of the folded snake—
Byron>) The term is occasionally extended to a poisonous
secretion of a plant and in more general extended use
applies especially to states of mind or utterances that are
felt to have the malign quality of an animal venom (<their
belief in venom and jealousy behind the war—Byron>)

spouting angry venom about his neighbors> Virus (see also GERM), once equivalent to venom, retains this value
only in extended use and then applies to something felt
to have a corrupting quality that can poison the mind or
spirit (<the force of this virus of prejudice—V. S. Waters>)

Toxin applies to a complex organic poison that is a product of
the metabolic activities of a living organism, is extremely
poisonous when introduced into the tissues but usually
destroyed by the digestive juices, and is usually able to
induce antibody formation (<bacterial toxins, such as those
of botulism and tetanus>) Bane may apply to any cause of
ruin, destruction, or tribulation (<his wife is the bane of
his life>) and can refer to poison or something (as a plant) containing poison (<ratsbane>) <henbane con-
tains a poison resembling belladonna>

poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic, mephitic, pestilent,
pestilential, miasmic, miasmatic, miasmal are comparable
when they mean having the properties or effects of the
poisons (see POISON). Basically poisonous implies that the
thing so described will be fatal or exceedingly harmful if
introduced into a living organism in sufficient quantities
(as by eating, drinking, or inhaling) (<the most poisonous
of mushrooms>) <poisonous gases> <(aniline) is also poi-
sinous but by proper chemical manipulation it becomes
the parent of many beneficent medicines—Morrison>
In its extended use the term implies extreme noxiousness or
perniciousness or power to corrode, rankle, or corrupt
(<you might condemn us as poisonous of your honor—
Shak.> <the sentence was pronounced ... in a stifling
poisonous atmosphere—Conrad> <secret spreading of
poisonous propaganda—Roosevelt> Venomous applies
equally to an animal (as a snake, scorpion, or bee) whose
bite or sting introduces a venom (see venom under POISON)
into an organism and to the bites, stings, or wounds in-
flicted by venomous creatures (<venomous insects>) (<a
venomous snake bite>) The term has much extended usage;
in this it implies extreme malevolence or destructive mal-
ignancy (<the most innocent intimacies would not have es-
cape misrepresentation from the venomous tongues of
Roman society—Froude>) (<that many of you are frustrated
in your ambitions, and undernourished in your pleasures,
only makes you more venomous—Mailer>) Virulent im-
plies the destructive or extremely deleterious properties
of or as if of a strong poison; it is applied especially to in-
fected diseases of a particularly malignant or violent
form or, somewhat less often, to notably venomous ani-
mal (poisons produce outbreaks of virulent infectious
disease ... sooner or later—Shaw) > <one of the most
virulent types of the pneumococcus> <those mosquitoes
must have been particularly virulent—Farmer's Weekly>

In extended use the term applies to something particularly
violent in its display of an offensive or noxious nature or
quality (proceedings ... dictated by virulent hatred—
George Eliot) (<the later stages of the campaign when
the rumors became virulent—Michener>) Toxic sometimes
implies the presence of properties or effects of a toxin (<see
toxin under poison>) (<a toxic goiter>) but more often
implies only the character or the properties of a poison and
therefore means little more than poisonous (<the toxic
principle of a drug>) <toxic gases> <over 200,000 fish were
killed by the toxic wastes of one industrial plant—Science>
(<a toxic drug>) In its extended use toxic may imply in-
sidious and destructive activity comparable to that of
some toxins in the human organism (<there are emotionally
toxic situations at work in the environment as manifestly
injurious ... as physical toxins—McLean>) Mephitic is
applicable to something so offensive to the sense of smell
that it is or is believed to be actually poisonous (<mephitic
vapors rising from a swamp>) (<the mephitic air of a disas-
ured mine>) (<the mephitic verdures of the Malay peninsula—
Stafford>) Pestilent and pestilential occasionally come
close to poisonous in meaning, but they are chiefly used in
the extended sense of exceedingly infectious or dangerous
to the health, morals, or mental integrity, especially of the
group distinguishing from the individual (still frequently
espouse the pestilential proposition that the world needs
to be saved in a hurry by their own brand of righteousness
—Rolo) (<a pestilent land where people died like flies—
Maurice Carr>) <grew impatient with such pestilential
hierarchies—Parrington> (<blow up the blind rage of the populace,
with a continued blast of pestilential libels—Burke>) Mias-
mic, miasmatic, and miasmal all imply a reference to
miasma, or supposedly infectious or deadly emanations
from swamps or jungles or from putrescent substances that
float in the air (<the steaming, rain-drenched, miasmic
leech-filled Sumatran jungle—Rex Lardner> (<the mias-
matic northern and northeastern coast—Encyc. Ameri-
cana>) (<the miasmal air of the closed, unventilated room—
C. M. Smith>) Of these words only miasmic is common in
extended use, where it often comes close to pestilential in
implying a power to spread contamination or to poison
the minds or souls of the multitude (<a miasmic little tale of
degeneracy—W. T. Scott>) (<miasmic fear of Communism
... has permeated Houston—Houston Post>)

Ana mortal, fatal, lethal, *deadly: *pernicious, baneful,
nоxious, deleterious, detrimental

poke vb Poke, prod, nudge, jog are comparable when they
mean, as verbs, to thrust something into so as to stir up, urge on, or attract attention and, as nouns, the act or an instance of such thrusting. ** Poke** implies primarily the use of a body part (as a finger or foot) or of some instrument or implement (as a stick, a rod, or a poker), but sometimes, especially in verbal use and in idiomatic phrases, it may imply the operation of something equally effective in stirring up or in rooting out (walked up and down and **poked** among the rocks—Masefield) (he **poked** the man in front of him to attract his attention) **poked** fire in a stove— he handed one to Lonnie, poking it at him until Lonnie's attention was drawn from the hogs—Caldwell) **poked** his head round the corner—Sayers) (to like to **poker** his nose into another person's affairs) **poker** the fire up in a stove—

**POKE** suggests the use of something sharp which can stab or prick or goad into action; it may be a physical thing (as a sharp pointed stick) **probed** and palpated that tortured and self-tortured flesh—Styron) (the cattle needed to be **prodded** along) or it may be something less tangible but equally effective (as sharp words, a threat, or a taunt) (the excitement of trying to... to prod them into action—J. R. Green) **prod** lazy schoolboys (Give Willis a prod on the subject of church attendance—Mackenzie) **Nudge** suggests gentler action than the preceding terms; it may imply the use of an elbow in attracting attention especially under conditions when speech is impossible (he nudged the person sitting next to him to allow him to pass) (Squeers then nudged Mrs. Squeers to bring away the brandy bottle—Dickens) (give him a nudge or he will not see her) or it may imply a mere suggestion or hint (what was not trimmed from our pages by an editor's nudge was given away in the haggles of publisher and author—Mailer) or it may imply repeated gentle action (as in moving or shifting) (impudent little tugboats... nudged our ship out of its slip—J. W. Brown) **Jog** implies a thrust or, often, a touch on or as if on the elbow or arm that to some extent shakes one up (a bored-looking man, with a fashionably-dressed woman jogging his elbow—Jerome) (a jog to one's memory) (almost any idea which jogs you out of your current abstractions may be better than nothing—Whitehead)

**Ana** *push, shove, thrust: *stir, arouse, rouse, awaken: *provoke, excite, stimulate, galvanize, quicken

**poke vb** prod, nudge, jog (see under **POKE** vb)

**Poke** *polite, courteous, courtly, gallant, chivalrous

**Analogous words**

**poker**

**Antonyms**

**politician** *loper, bungler, fraud, thief*

**Contrasted words**

**Politics** *politic, statesman, political

**politician**

**Ponder** *ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate

**Ponder** *ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate

**ponderous** *ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate

**Pond** *pond, skitter, splatter, drip

**Pond** *pond, skitter, splatter, drip

**politic** *politic,Guest's*
and a languid turning over of a topic as if in a dream, a fancy, or a remembrance Mosul him . . . read a certain passage of full poesy or distilled prose, and let him wander with it, and muse upon it . . . and dream upon it—Keats

(Cabot mused over the fact that the old bastard considered himself . . . one of the eminences of the great metropolis—Purdy) (still a pleasant mystery; enough to muse over on a dull afternoon—Davis) Runimate implies a going over the same problem, the same subject, or the same object of meditation again and again; it may be used in place of any of these words, but it does not carry as strong a suggestion of weighing as ponder, of concentrated attention as meditate, or of absorption as muse, and it more often implies such processes as reasoning or speculation Sit at home and ruminate on the qualities of certain little books like this one—little elixirs of perfection, full of subtlety and sadness—which I can read and read again—L. P. Smith

(forty years of ruminating on life, of glimpsing it in its simplest forms through microscopes—Kaempfert) Ana weigh, *consider, contemplate: reflect, deliberate, speculate, *think, cogitate

ponderable appreciable, *perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible

Ana important, significant, momentous, weighty, consequential (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE) Con trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry

ponderous cumbrous, cumbersome, *heavy, weighty, hefty

Ana massive, massy, bulky, substantial: clumsy, *awkward, maladroit: *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting

pool n *monopoly, corner, syndicate, trust, cartel

Poor adj 1 Poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous are comparable when they mean having less money or fewer possessions than are required to support a full life. Poor describes a person, a people, or an institution that comes under this description; it is the most general term of the group, applying not only to those who are in actual want or to those in straitened circumstances, but also to those who, as compared to other groups, live below the level of what is regarded as comfortable (despite the death of the breadwinner, his family was not left poor—Wecter) It wasn't only that they were not rich . . . but that they were so poor that they couldn't afford things—Mary Austin) Between indigent and needy there is very little difference in meaning, both implying urgent and pressing want; both, but especially indigent, may be used to express the state of want to which those who are poor are reduced (the depression had left a number of them indigent, without state or federal relief—Green Peyton) will make contributions to needy groups of all races and creeds—Current Bio) (there are many needy persons in this town) needy children are provided with hot luncheons, free of cost
destitute goes further than any of these words in its implication of acute and dire need. It implies a lack of fundamental resources or a deprivation of basic necessities of life (the fire rendered several poor families absolutely destitute) (the death of a destitute widow from starvation—Maclaren-Ross) Penniless may imply a state of destitution or of indigence but it also may suggest an often temporary state of being without money; consequently, the term is susceptible of wider use than any of the others, sometimes connoting poverty or an approach to it and sometimes a mere transitory inconvenience (the bright but penniless youth whose climb to fame rivaled the most incredible of the Alger stories—Amer. Guide Series: Minn) (returned from her shopping trip penniless but triumphant) Impecunious, though it carries practically the same basic suggestion as penniless, is not quite its equivalent; it may imply the deprivation of money but it more often suggests a habitual being without money and, sometimes, connotes also the habit of borrowing or of living upon one's friends (I was, as many young barristers are, an impecunious party—Gilbert) (this eager impecunious young man who had fared so richly in his poverty—Wharton) Poverty-stricken may be chosen as an especially vivid word suggesting the state of one who is extremely indigent or actually destitute; it often connotes the suffering caused by this condition (a wretched, poverty-stricken old couple) (the bulk of the pioneers was formed by poverty-stricken people who migrated from densely populated areas—J. F. Embree & W. L. Thomas)

Necessitous comes close to needy in meaning but often carries a clearer connotation of insistent or persistent demands for relief (it holds out a shadow of present gain to a greedy and necessitous public—Burke) (according to sample surveys . . . six percent are only "moderately in need." The rest are immoderately necessary—Liebling)

A rich—Con wealthy, affluent, opulent (see RICH)

2 *bad, wrong

Ana *deficient, defective: *petty, puny, trivial, trifling, paltry: *base, low, vile Con *good, right: satisfying, fulfilling, meeting, answering (see SATISFY)

poppypcock *nonsense, twaddle, drivel, bung, balderdash, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull

popular *common, ordinary, familiar, vulgar

Ana general, *universal, generic, common: accepted, received, admitted (see RECEIVE): prevalent, *prevailing, current

Ant unpopular: esoteric

port n *harbor, haven

port n presence, *bearing, deportment, demeanor, mien

portal *door, gate, doorway, gateway, postern

portend presage, augur, prognosticate, *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy, forebode

Ana betoken, *indicate, bespeak, attest: signify, import, *mean, denote

portent *foretold, presage, prognostic, omen, augury

Ana presentiment, foreboding, misgiving, *appréhension: forewarning, warning, cautioning or caution (see WARN)

portentous *ominous, unpropitious, inauspicious, fateful

Ana threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): prodigious, monstrous: prophesying or prophetic, presaging, foreboding, predicting, foretelling (see corresponding verbs at FORETELL)

portico *colonnade, arcade, portico, peristyle

portion n 1 *part, piece, detail, member, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, fragment, parcel

Ana quantity, amount (see SUM n): apportionment, rationing or ration (see corresponding verbs at APPORTION): allotment, assignment, allocation (see corresponding verbs at ALLOT)

2 *fate, destiny, lot, doom

Ana distribution, dispensation, division, dealing (see corresponding verbs at DISTRIBUTE): fortune, hap, *chance, luck

portion vb *apportion, parcel, ration, prorate

Ana *allocate, assign, allocate: *distribute, dispense, divide, deal

portly *fleshy, stout, lump, rotund, chubby, fat, corpulent, obese

Ana burly, husky, brawny, *muscular

portrait photograph, *image, effigy, statue, icon, mask

portray represent, depict, delineate, picture, limn

Ana image, photograph (see corresponding nouns at 620 portrayal
position: describe, *relate, narrate: reproduce, copy, duplicate
(see corresponding nouns at reproduction)
pose vb *propose, propound
Ana *ask, question, query: *puzzle, confound: baffle
(see FRUSTRATE)
pose n 1 Pose, air, affectation, mannerism are comparable when they mean an adopted rather than a natural way of speaking and behaving. Pose implies an attitude deliberately assumed in order to impress others or to call attention to oneself; it may be applied to opinions, policies, declared beliefs, and preferences as well as to manners (his reticence is just a pose) (identified himself with the Great Commoner, and this seemed to me purely a pose, which verged upon demagoguery—Edmund Wilson) Air in its more general related use may come close to demeanor (compare demeanor under bearing), but as compared with pose it, especially in the plural airs, definitely implies artificiality and the intent to give a false appearance, and usually also implies a vulgar pretense of breeding, of grandeur, or of superiority (the red-headed singer dropped her patronizing air, offered her scotch from the bottle—Wouk) (there was no doubt at all that she had acquired insufferable airs—Stafford) Affectation usually designates a specific trick of speech or behavior of one who obviously puts on airs or whose trick impresses others as deliberately assumed and insincere (regarded carrying cigarettes in a case as an affectation—Richard Burke) (agitation for opera in English seems a particular affectation to those who have come to know the works in the original—Dale Warren) Mannerism designates an acquired peculiarity or eccentricity in speech or behavior; it seldom implies insincerity, but it nearly always connotes habit or potential habit. A mannerism consciously assumed becomes thereby also an affectation; what begins as an affectation may become an unconscious and habitual trick of behavior, and so a mannerism (he giggled, and she was surprised she had not noticed this mannerism in him before—Purdy) (those little mannerisms of hers... especially the way she has of pointing a finger at me to emphasize a phrase—Dahl) 2 *posture, attitude
posit vb *presuppose, presume, assume, postulate, premise
posit n presupposition, presumption, assumption, postulate, premise (see under PRESUPPOSE)
position 1 Position, stand, attitude denote a more or less fixed mental point of view or way of regarding something. Position and stand both imply reference to a question at issue or to a matter about which there is difference of opinion. Position, however, is often the milder term, since it, unlike stand, seldom connotes aggressiveness or defiance of a widely held or popular opinion (he was asked to make known his position on disarmament) (he took the stand that disarmament would not accomplish the ends its proponents had in view) (bases his position on a wide and shrewd scrutiny of man and his history—Alain Locke) (he... agreed thoroughly with my stand that no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it by their own efforts—Heiser) Attitude suggests a personal or, sometimes, a group or communal point of view, especially one that is colored by personal or party feeling, is influenced by one’s environment or the fashion of the moment, and is, on the whole, more the product of temperament or of emotion than of thought or conviction (a humorous attitude to life) (the Greek attitude toward nature) (it was their attitude of acceptance... their complaisance about themselves and about their life—Wolfe) (their beliefs, attitudes, and prejudices were a crowd of inconsistencies—Farrell) Ana *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, angle, slant

positive 1 certain, *sure, cocksure
Ana *confident, assured, sanguine, sure: dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular, *dictatorial
Ant doubtful
2 *affirmative
Ant negative —Con *neutral, indifferent: nugatory, *vain, idle, hollow: nullifying, annulling (see NULLIFY)
possess own, enjoy, hold, *have
Ana control, manage, direct, *conduct: retain, *keep, reserve, withhold
possessions, belongings, effects, means, resources, assets can mean all the items that taken together constitute a person’s or group’s property or wealth. Possessions, belongings, effects stress ownership; means, resources, assets emphasize value and especially pecuniary value of what is owned. Possessions may be applied to the aggregate of things owned, regardless of the individual worth or significance of each thing; thus, one may speak of the possessions of an indigent old woman or of the possessions of a Rothschild, the former referring to a few articles of furniture and clothing, the latter to extensive properties and enormous invested capital. Belongings is applied commonly to an individual’s more intimate personal possessions (as clothes, household goods, and valuables) (left the house and took all his belongings with him) (my belongings were put away in the room—Frank Perry) Effects may be more inclusive than belongings, but usually less so than possessions. It is often applied to personal as distinguished from real property, especially when the reference is to the estate of a deceased person (he died leaving no effects of value) (all his effects were divided among his relatives before an administrator could be appointed) Sometimes it is applied to movable articles as distinguished from those that are stationary (a sale of household effects) (all his personal effects are in his trunk) Means usually applies to all the money that is available, in the form of revenue from capital, income, or ready money, for expenditure (lived beyond his means) (a man of large means) When unqualified means frequently implies some degree of affluence (decked out with furs, gloves and a hat sewn with pearls—one of those middle-aged women of means—Cheever) Resources, on the other hand, is applied to all possessions that have actual or potential, but not necessarily, money, value and that may be depended upon in case of need or of deficiency (a society which gives an increasing share of its resources to military purposes—Lucius Beebe) Often the term refers specifically to possessions held in reserve for emergencies or to sources of supply as yet untapped; thus, the natural resources of a country include its unmined minerals, unfeUed timber, water sources, and wild life. Assets both in law and in accounting implies an opposition to liabilities and therefore suggests the possibility of an inequality between the two and a difference between one’s ostensible and one’s actual wealth. When the term is used in reference to the settlement of the estate of a deceased person or to the legal administration of the property of an insolvent or bankrupt person or concern, the assets include all the possessions of marketable value which may be turned into money to provide for the payment of the liabilities (the assets of the estate were sufficient to cover all liabilities,
possible

including the decedent’s debts and his legacies. When used in reference to general balance sheets of a company or corporation, the term comprehends all items which from one point of view can be called resources having book value. But assets is never exactly the same as resources, because the latter word does not, as assets does, imply a comparison with liabilities.

**possible**

Possible, practicable, feasible can mean capable of being realized. Possible is used to dispel doubt that something may or does occur or exist or may come to exist (the regime of religious toleration has become possible only because we have lost the primal intensity of religious conviction—Cohen) (although he still asserts that community of goods would be the ideal institution, he reluctantly abandons it as a basis for a possible state—Dickinson). Practicable refers to what may be readily effected, executed, practiced, used, or put into operation (trial by jury—an institution in which . . . we have the very abstract and essence of all practicable democratic government—Mallock) (the only practicable tactics to be pursued were those of the routine police procedure—S. S. Van Dine). Feasible may designate what is likely to work out or be put into effect successfully or what in a difficult situation seems the expedient least liable to fail (cheap iron and steel made it feasible to equip larger armies and navies than ever before—Mumford) (only the most simple types of utilization are feasible—Van Valkenburg & Huntingdon).

**posterior**

Posterior, rear, hind, hinder, after, back are comparable when they mean behind in order of arrangement in space. Posterior is the usual technical term for whatever is situated behind and is opposed to anterior (to an anatomical eye the posterior part of the skull is even more striking than the anterior—T. H. Huxley). Rear belongs especially to military usage, but has general application with reference to such things as structures and vehicles (the rear ranks of a column) (the rear wall of a house) (Hind, opposed to front or fore, is used most commonly with reference to related parts and designates the member or pair which is in the rear (the hind wheels of a wagon) and hind legs of a horse). It has sometimes more general application (had a boy-size pair of empty overhalls blowing out of his hind pocket—Faulkner) (Hinder is equivalent to hind or, in nontechnical use, to posterior (a long oval forward part and a taillike hinder portion—Coker) (After is largely confined to nautical usage and applies to whatever is abaft the midship section, or in the rear part of a vessel, or relatively near to this part (the after cabin) (the after hatchway) Back applies to what is thought of as behind, remote from, or inferior or subsidiary to, the main or more important part (back stairs) (back door) (the near woodlands and back pastures afford good hunting—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.).

**posture**

Posture, attitude, pose denote a position assumed by the body, or the disposition of the parts of the body with relation to one another. Posture applies to the relative arrangement of the different parts of the body. It may apply to a habitual or characteristic arrangement and then specifically means the way in which one holds oneself and refers to one’s physical carriage or bearing (her posture is excellent) (pictures illustrating defects of posture) (examples of correct posture) (an urbane alertness about the face, the posture—Wouk) or it may apply to an arrangement determined with reference to the needs of the mood or the moment and then requires qualification (a sitting posture) (a kneeling posture) (the posture of supplication) (his whole figure had a prowling and half-crouching posture—Wolfe) or the assistance of the context to evoke a picture of how the parts of the body are disposed or to reveal the intention or end (there’s a posture for a man to fight in! His weight isn’t resting on his legs—Shaw) (his pose of head expressed an habitual sense of her own consequence—Shaw) (his pose was easy and graceful. A superb self-confidence radiated from him—Gibbons).

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though it also may connote abundance or continuousness in that flow <the guests streamed past, shaking hands, exchanging greetings—Styron> Gush implies a sudden and copious emission of or as if of something released from confinement; it often connotes a coming in a jet or in spurts <blood gushed from the wound> <he . . . suddenly gushed forth in streams of wondrous eloquence—Stephen> <beer began to gush . . . in a white cascade—Pynchon>

Sluice implies the operation of something like a sluice for the regulation or control of the flow of water; therefore the verb sluice suggests a sending of water or liquid over a surface in an abundant stream <water so fresh . . . never sluiced parched throats before—Thackeray> <Mowgli, with the rain sluicing over his bare shoulders—Kipling>


JUNCTURE) may imply the semblance of poverty <penury—Shaw>

the necessities of existence or having only an insufficient supply of them, it may connote another cause of such a want <penury—Malamud>

of the one who is poor or without enough to live upon. Poverty, the most comprehensive of these terms, typically implies such deficiency of resources that one is deprived of many of the necessities and of all of the comforts of life <in Syria he feathered his nest so successfully that in two years he raised himself from poverty to opulence—Buchan> <complaining of his poverty as if it were a new invention and he its first victim—Malamud>

Indigence, often opposed to affluence, does not suggest dire or absolute poverty, but it does imply reduced or straitened circumstances and therefore usually connotes the endurance of many hardships and the lack of comforts <reduced to indigence in his old age> <our newfound European indigence now makes us more materialistic than we used to rejoice ourselves on being—Times Lit. Sup.>

Penury may or may not imply abject poverty, but it does suggest such a degree of need, especially of money, that one is cramped or oppressed by it <chill Penury repressed their noble rage—Gray> <she has to take anything she can get in the way of a husband rather than face penury—Shaw>

But penury may imply the semblance of poverty that comes from miserliness or penuriousness (compare penurious under STINGY) <her relatives considered that the penury of her table discredited the Mingott name, which had always been associated with good living—Wharton>

Want (see also LACK) and destitution both imply an extreme of poverty that leaves one without the basic necessities of life; both terms, but especially the latter, often imply starvation and homelessness or the urgent need of help <he is in great want > (here to the homeless child of want my door is open still—Goldsmith>

<sinking stage by stage from indigence to squalor, from squalor to grimmest destitution—Mumford>

Privation, though implying a state that is comparable to the one suggested by indigence, does not, as the latter term does, necessarily suggest poverty; although it implies a condition of being without many of the comforts and sometimes of the necessities of existence or having only an insufficient supply of them, it may connote another cause of such a condition than a lack of money or of possessions of value <an explorer must undergo prolonged privations> <months of privation after the crop failure had left them ill-nourished>

Ana necessity, *need, exigency: strait, pass, pinch (see JUNCTURE) Ant riches

poverty-stricken *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, impucessive, necessitous

power n 1 Power, force, energy, strength, might, puissance mean the ability to exert effort for a purpose. Power is the most general of these terms and denotes an ability to act or be acted upon, to effect something, or to affect or be affected by something <the finest machine in the world is useless without a motor to give it power> <the mechanical power of the internal-combustion engine> <raise the productive power of the nation> <the sound of a great flood moving with majesty and power—Cather> <give an attorney the power to act for one> <in any link between past and present there was potent magic, some power to evoke allegiance—Hervey> <hateful to feel their power over me when I knew that they were nothing but fancies—Hudson>

Force (see also FORCE 2) implies the exhibition or the exercise of power; the term usually carries with it a suggestion of actually overcoming resistance (as by setting a thing in motion or accelerating its motion or driving a person or thing in the desired direction); thus, one having the power to do something exerts force only when he actually does it <a wind gathers force> <accumulated force which drove them as if discharged from a crossbow—Jeffries>

<jealousy> <a hard and rebellious element not to be conquered mainly by skill . . . but mainly by force—Ellis> <the perverse wish to flee . . . not from the laws and customs of the world but from its force and vitality—Cheever> Therefore force is often applied to a person or thing that exerts its power with marked efficacy or efficiency <they believed that the Church was the only force which could consolidate the nation—Inge> <art is but the expression of a harmony of life, a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit—Binyon>

Energy in general use and especially as applied to persons implies stored-up power releasing itself in work or causing such release <the prodigious energy put forth by industry in time of war—Morrison> <in spite of his small size and fragile build, the man was a dynamo of energy and could perform the labors of a Titan—Wolfe> <it was marvelous . . . that the energy of her spirit could carry through so triumphantly her frail nervous system—Ellis>

Strength applies to the power that resides in a person or thing as a result of qualities or properties that enable him or it to exert force or to manifest energy or to resist pressure, strain, stress, or attack. Physically strength implies soundness (as of health or of construction or design) <the tensile strength of a rope> <I was not delicate, not physically; when it was a matter of strength I had as much as the next man—Mailer> while mentally and morally it may imply capacity for endurance or resolution or intrepidity <show strength in temptation> <strength to surmount the horrors and humiliations . . . defeat—O’Donovan> When applied to military forces it usually implies power manifest in such things as numbers, equipment, and resources <estimate the strength of the enemy> <a fleet incomparable in strength> Mighty and puissance are rather rhetorical or poetical words meaning operative or effective power or force. Might often suggests great or superhuman power; it is therefore appropriate when the reference is to supernatural beings or supranatural forces or to human power that is so strong that it cannot be gainsaid <protect us by thy might, Great God, our King—S. F. Smith> <let us have faith that right makes might—Lincoln> <the pride and might and vivid strength of things—Galsworthy>

Puissance is often indistinguishable from might, but it can also connote an impressive display of power <we should advance ourselves to look with forehead bold and big enough upon the power and puissance of the King—Shak> <the sapience and puissance of the American businessman in general—G. W. Johnson>

Ana *ability, capacity, capability: *gift, genius, talent, faculty: qualification, competence (see corresponding adjectives at ABLE) Ant impotence

2 Power, faculty, function can all mean an ability of a living being to act or perform in a given way or a capacity for a

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
particular kind of action or performance. Power, the comprehensive term of this group, may apply to a capacity for action or performance that does not or apparently does not call the mind into play (the power to digest food) (the power of reflex movement) but it more frequently applies to an ability or capacity that involves either mental activity or mental receptiveness (the power to think clearly) (the human mind is a fearful instrument...in its mysterious powers of resilience, self-protection, and self-healing—Wolfe) Faculty in general, as distinct from technical psychological or metaphysical use, is applicable to those powers which are the possession of every normal human being, though not always manifested in the first months of infancy or the earliest years of childhood (the faculty of hearing) (the faculty of speech) or it may apply to any one of the several specific powers of the mind (as will, memory, and reason) that are often felt as discrete and discoverable (the truth is that memory and imagination, the two most important human faculties, are scarcely cultivated at all—Grandgent) Sometimes faculty means no more than a distinguishable capacity of the functioning mind or soul (once a thing did become pertinent, he had an amazing faculty for absorbing it wholly—Terry Southern) (her faculty for moral perception had withdrawn into that dim neutrality—Hervey) (it is the one occasion when violent grief, disturbing his faculties, appears in his correspondence—Bellow) Function may denote an activity which can be more or less definitely associated with the brain or the central nervous system or a part of either (all mental activities, such as seeing, hearing, perceiving, conceiving, imagining, recalling, etc., are termed functions—Murchison) or it may apply to one (as digestion or respiration) in which the mental component is slight or obscure.

3 Power, authority, jurisdiction, control, command, sway, dominion are comparable when they mean the right or prerogative of determining, ruling, or governing or the exercise of that right or prerogative. Power even in this specific sense never loses its fundamental implication of ability, but in this case it is a capacity for rule that may derive from rank, office, or even character or personality (in an absolute monarchy the king has sole power) (it is a strange desire, to seek power, and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others, and to lose power over a man's self—Bacon) (for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever—Mt 6:13) Power when used with reference to a definite person or body or office commonly connotes divisibility or strict limitation (the trustees have power of appointment) (the charter gives the city power to tax sales) (he was given power of attorney to act for his brother) (it is not enough that a statute goes to the verge of constitutional power. We must be able to see clearly that it goes beyond that power—Justice Holmes) Authority is often used interchangeably with power; nevertheless, there can be an essential difference in meaning, since authority usually refers to power resident in or exercised by another than oneself; thus, one may have power, rather than authority, to determine one's own actions, but a parent or a master or a ruler has the authority, rather than the power, to determine the actions of those under him; children are obedient to authority rather than to power (they were both getting childish and needed care and yet they resented any loss of authority—Buck) (the object is to induce the child to lend of his own free will; so long as authority is required, the end aimed at has not been achieved—Russell) (authority in the religious sphere generally means absolute or infallible authority, such as Catholics ascribe to the Church—Inge) Power and authority, especially in the plural, often refer to the persons who have or hold power or authority as defined. Powers, however, usually occurs in the phrase “the powers that be” and is either somewhat more comprehensive or less explicit in its reference than “the authorities,” which often means the persons who have authority in the special instance to direct, to decide, or to punish (he is always in instinctive opposition to the powers that be) (he threatened to report the offense to the authorities) Jurisdiction implies possession of legal or actual power to determine, to rule, or to govern within definitely assigned limits, and of the authority to so act in all matters coming within the sphere of that power (the principle of law is too well settled to be disputed, that a court can give no judgment for either party, where it has no jurisdiction—Taney) (this new and populous community must, for the present, the Kansas Banks wrote, be accounted under Father Latour's jurisdiction—Cather) Control stresses possession of the authority to restrain or curb and its effective exercise, or of actual power to regulate or keep responsive to one's will not only persons but things; thus, a teacher who has lost control of his class has reached a point where the pupils no longer recognize his authority; a fire has gone beyond control when those who are fighting it have lost all power to check it (completely out of control, the woman had shrugged off her husband's embarrassed efforts to stop her—Wouk) (he was at last in triumphant control of his destiny—Wolfe) Command implies such control as makes one the master of men, and such authority that obedience to one's order or one's will either inevitably follows or is inexorably enforced; thus, one speaks of the officer in command, rather than in control, of a regiment; a person has command of a situation when he completely dominates it or has all persons or things involved in it under control (how, in one house, should many people, under two commands, hold amnesty?—Shak.) Command is also used in reference to things which one has mastered so thoroughly that one encounters no resistance or interference in using, recalling, or controlling them (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials—Jeffries) (something beyond disorderly or careless thinking, something close to a complete loss of emotional command—Anthony West) Sway tends to be slightly rhetorical because its use in this sense was originally figurative and the word still carries a hint of its original implications of swinging or sweeping through an arc or circle; hence, when a word is desired that means power but also connotes extent or scope and such added matters as preponderant influence, compelling authority, or potency, sway is the appropriate choice (the British Empire extended its sway to every quarter of the earth) (primal spirits beneath his sway—Shelley) (the law of compensation rules supreme in art, as it holds sway in life—Lowes) Dominion imparts sovereignty to the power in question or supremacy to the authority in question (God of our fathers, known of old, Lord of our far-flung battle line, beneath whose awful Hand we hold dominion over palm and pine—Kipling) (foreign dominion in any shape would soon become hateful—Freeman) Ana *right, privilege, prerogative, birthright: management, direction (see corresponding verbs at conduct): ascendency, *supremacy

powerful, potent, puissant, forceful, forcible are comparable when they mean having or manifesting power to effect great or striking results. Powerful is applicable to something which stands out from the rest of its kind as exceeding the others in its display of strength or force or in its manifestation of energy; the word also usually implies
powerless

625

practicable

an effectiveness that has been proved rather than attributed (the most powerful ruler of his age) (a powerful fleet) (a powerful influence for good—Walcutt) (a powerful cathartic) Potent, though it implies powerfulness, is applicable chiefly to something which derives or seems to derive that character from some hidden or latent virtue or quality rather than from an observable or measurable power or force (he exercised a potent spell over her imagination) (how potent is this Oriental blood in Napoleon, in Goethe, in Heine, Victor Hugo—J. R. Lowell) (illusions . . . no longer potent because they are no longer really believed—Krutch) Puissant, a bookish word, refers typically to persons, to military or naval forces, or to bodies politic and connotes more the outward attributes of power; it commonly suggests a great and abiding strength (most . . . mighty, and most puissant Caesar—Shak) (one of the nation's most puissant labor leaders—Time) (methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep—Milton) The last two words of the group, though somewhat more restrained in their suggestion of power, nevertheless imply an ability to effect impressive results. Forceful stresses the possession or manifestation of force as a quality; it therefore suggests marked vigor or energy or strength regardless of whether it is being exercised or not. The word is applicable even to something which makes no display of effort or violence, provided it impresses its undoubted force on the observer (a forceful personality) (he relied more on a forceful clarity to convince his readers than on the brilliant and exciting ambiguities of propagandist eloquence—Huxley) (physically, he suggests at once a forceful spit-and-polish officer—Knight) Forceible, on the other hand, suggests the actual exertion of power or force; it often implies the use of physical violence in attaining one's ends (forceful disarmament and military occupation can only be temporary—Times Lit. Sup.) (take forceible possession of goods not paid for) (favor forceible measures in treating unruly prisoners) Sometimes it is used in place of forceful to add to that term implications of aggressiveness, militancy, or decided potency (win a chess game with a series of forceble moves) (more than thirty years have passed and I have seen no forceible young man of letters brave the metropolis—Yeats)

Ana *able, capable, competent: efficacious, effectual, *effective, efficient: *vigorou, energetic, strenuous
Ant powerless: inefficacious

powerless, impotent both mean unable to effect one's purpose, intention, or end. Powerless denotes merely lack of power or efficacy which is often temporary or relative to a specific purpose or situation (he suddenly found himself powerless to move) (powerless as an infant—De Quincey) (I hope that the luxuries of this palatial mansion are powerless to corrupt your heart—Shaw) (that mood of hopeless apathy that comes over men powerless to help themselves—Nordhoff & Hall) Impotent (see also sterile) implies not only powerlessness but positive weakness or, especially, complete ineffectiveness (an angry little spitfire sea continually . . . thrares with impotent irascibility—Stevenson) (impotent aristocrats talking about the code of chivalry but unable to bring it to life—Time) (terrible and impotent rage—Wilde)

Ana inert, *inactive, passive, supine: feeble, *weak, infirm, decrepit
Ant powerful: efficacious —Con *effective, efficient

practicable 1 feasible, *possible

Ana operating or operable, working or workable, functioning (see corresponding verbs at ACT)
Ant impracticable

2 Practicable, practicable are not close synonyms and not interchangeable, but they are sometimes confused when they imply a capacity for being used or turned to account. Practicable (see also possible 1) applies chiefly to something immaterial (as a plan, project, scheme, or design) which has not been tested in practice or to something material (as a new machine, a new form of entertainment, or a new implement) which has not been proved successful in operation or use (aviation was his predominant interest. He was one of the first to consider aerial locomotion practicable—W. C. Langdon) (the lovely combes running down to the sea are infested with cars in the summer season wherever there is a practicable road—Brit. Book News) (a serviceable concept on which to base a practicable policy—Hobson) Practical applies not only to things both concrete and material but also as practicable does not, to persons. The term in all of its senses stresses an opposition to what is theoretical, speculative, ideal, unrealistic, or imaginative and implies a relation to the actual life of man, his daily needs, or the conditions which must be met. When the term also implies a capacity for use, it emphasizes actual usefulness rather than highly probable or merely discovered usability; thus, a plan might be practicable in that it could be put into practice though not practical because inefficient, too costly, or superfluous; the modern low-slung high-speed automobile was practicable long before improved roads and fuels made it practical (those most practical machines of our modern life, the dynamo and the telephone—Ellis) Hence, practical may apply to whatever is such in kind, character, amount, or effect that it is definitively useful or serviceable in actual life (to make the gas turbine practical for the ordinary driver, controls would have to be simple and . . . fuel consumption . . . lowered—Modern Industry) (practical sciences, in which knowledge is pursued as a means to conduct rather than as an end in itself—Thilly) (he was eminently practical, seeking a sound, workable system adapted to the conditions of the people—Schaefer) (in everything he undertook he demanded a utilitarian purpose and a practical result—Buchanan)

practical *practicable
practically *virtually, morally

practice vb Practice, exercise, drill are comparable when they mean, as verbs, to perform or cause one to perform an act or series of acts repeatedly and, as nouns, such repeated activity or exertion. Practice fundamentally implies doing, especially doing habitually or regularly, often in contrast to thinking, believing, and professing or to theory and precept (practice what you preach) (the practice of one's religion) (practice a profession) (in theory every citizen votes, but in practice rarely more than half avail themselves of the privilege) (thinking piously of saints and others who practiced mortification—Cheever) Practice also implies a doing over and over again of certain acts for the sake of acquiring proficiency, dexterity, or skill or in the hope of attaining perfection (practice makes perfect) (practice on the piano each day) (rifle practice) (I am not normally a scheming person; I . . . have had no practice in it whatsoever—Dahl)

Exercise fundamentally implies a keeping busy or a setting to work; it usually presupposes the possession of a power or of powers which can be developed or strengthened by activity, especially repeated activity, or can be manifested only in practice (give him plenty of opportunities to exercise his intelligence) (a wise father avoids the exercise of authority except when other means fail) (he had liberality, and he had the means of exercising it—Austen) (so long as a child is with adults, it has no

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
praise, laud, acclaim, extol, eulogize mean to express appreciation of something or someone.

Practice exercise may differ from it in implying force, strength, or vigor.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
a deferential and formal solicitation sometimes for help or relief but often for a favor, a grace, or a kindness. Except in legal use (see suit n 2), in reference to the addresses of a man to the lady he hopes to marry, and in some idiomatic phrases such as "sue for peace," the words are somewhat old-fashioned in flavor (this suit to the Muse . . . relies too much on exertions and capacities—The Nation) <she sued year after year . . . for acceptance by a society of dreary dowagers—E. K. Brown> Plea (see also APOLOGY) and plead often suggest a court of law, the status of a defendant or of an accused person, and formal statements in answer to a plaintiff’s allegations or the state’s charge. In general use both terms imply argument or urgent entreaty, of which self-justification, a desire for vindication or support, or strong partisanship is usually the motive <make a plea for forgiveness> <plead for a more tolerant attitude> <she pleaded the arguments, their tear-stained pleas—Malamud> <I plead frankly for the theistic hypothesis as involving fewer difficulties than any other—Inge> Petition and its verb petition imply a formal and specific request, often in writing, presented to the person or body that has power to grant it. The words carry little or no connotation of abject humility or of entreaty; rather, they suggest a right to make a request, as one of the sovereign people or as one who is confident that it will be judged on its merits <the flood of petitions from business interests begging relief from the political crisis—Woodward> <she neither petitioned for her right, nor claimed it—Meredith> Appeal, as noun and verb, basically implies a call for attention to and favorable consideration of one’s plea <appeal for mercy> <appeal to one’s family for help> Often it additionally connotes an insistence on being heard and hence a change of plea from an inferior to a superior power (as a higher court or a higher authority) or to an emotion in an attempt to evoke a favorable response or judgment <appeal to the supreme court for a new trial> <to what sources of information do I appeal for guidance?> <Cardozo> <Mantalinis and Dobbins who pursue women with appeals to their pity or jealousy or vanity—Shaw> Sometimes, used alone, either noun or verb implies a sympathetic or favorable response or a compelling quality <an appealing child> <the song has a human appeal> Ana supplication, entreaty, beseeching, imploring, begging (see corresponding verbs at BEG): worship, adoration (see under REVERSE) preamble *introduction, prologue, prelude, preface, foreword, exordium precarious *dangerous, hazardous, perilous, risky Ana *doubtful, dubious, questionable: distrustful, mistrustful (see corresponding verbs at DISTRUST): chance, chancey, chancy, hazard, random Con *safe, secure: steady, even, equable, constant precedence *priority Ana leading or lead, guiding or guide (see GUIDE): antecedent, foregoing (see corresponding adjectives at PRECEDING) precedent adj *preceding, antecedent, foregoing, previous, prior, former, anterior preceding, antecedent, preceding, foregoing, previous, prior, former, anterior are comparable when they mean being before, especially in time or in order of arrangement. Preceding, opposed to succeeding and following, is restricted to time and place; it usually means immediately before <the preceding day> <the preceding clause> <events preceding the opening of the story> Antecedent, opposed to subsequent and consequent, usually implies order in time, but unlike preceding, it often suggests an indefinite intervening interval <events antecedent to the opening of the story> <Chaucer’s poems were written in a period antecedent to the Elizabethan Age> Very often, also, the word implies a causal or a logical, as well as a temporal, relation <to understand the success of modern dictators we must have a knowledge of antecedent conditions> <a conclusion is based on a chain of antecedent inferences> Precedent often applies to one thing which must precede another thing if the latter is to be valid or become effective; thus, a condition precedent in law is a condition that must be fulfilled before an estate can be vested in one or before a right accrues to one. Forgoing, opposed to following, applies almost exclusively to statements <the foregoing citations> <the foregoing argument> Previous and prior, opposed to subsequent, are often used almost interchangeably <his life previous to his marriage> <this will cancels all prior wills> But prior sometimes implies greater importance than previous; thus, a previous obligation suggests merely an obligation entered into earlier in point of time, whereas a prior obligation is one which surpasses the other in importance and must be fulfilled in advance of any other; a prior preferred stock is one whose claim to dividends or to a specified sum in liquidation comes before other preferred stocks of a company. Former, opposed to latter, even more definitely than prior, implies comparison; thus, there can be a former engagement only when there is also a later one; a previous or prior engagement may prevent one’s making a second. Anterior, opposed to posterior, also comparative in force, applies to position, usually in space, sometimes in order or time <the anterior lobe of the brain> <organization must presuppose life as anterior to it—Coleridge> Ant following precept rule, *law, canon, regulation, statute, ordinance Ana *principle, fundamental, axiom: *doctrine, tenet, dogma: injunction, behest, bidding (see COMMAND n) Ant practice: counsel precious *costly, expensive, dear, valuable, invaluable, priceless Ana *choice, exquisite, recherché, rare: valued, prized, appreciated, cherished (see APPRECIATE) precipitate vb *speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry Ana drive, impel (see MOVE vb): force, compel, coerce, constrain precipitate n *deposit, sediment, dregs, lees, grounds precipitation adj Precipitate, headlong, abrupt, impetuous, hasty, sudden as applied to persons or their acts or behavior denote characterized by excessive haste and unexpectedness. Precipitate especially stresses lack of due deliberation; sometimes it suggests prematurity and is therefore especially applicable to decisions or to actions based on decisions <she was resolved to lose nothing by precipitate action—Farrell> Hasty stresses quickness of response and often suggests thoughtlessness and hot temper rather than impetuousness. Precipitate especially stresses lack of due deliberation; sometimes it suggests prematurity and is therefore especially applicable to decisions or to actions based on decisions <she was resolved to lose nothing by precipitate action—Farrell> Hasty stresses quickness of response and often suggests thoughtlessness and hot temper rather than impetuousness.
precipitous

siveness (often hasty in her judgment of strangers—Dahl)〈too passionate and hasty to keep pace with the deliberative steps of his leader—Philip Marsh〉 Sudden is distinguishable from sudden meaning unexpected only by its added implications of extreme hastiness or impetuosity〈given to sudden rages〉〈now and then an access of . . . sudden fury . . . would lay hold on a man or woman—Kipling〉

Ana headstrong, willful, refractory (see unruly) Ant deliberate —Con leisurely, *slow

precipitous *steep, abrupt, sheer

Ana soaring, towering, rocketing, ascending, rising (see rise)

précis sketch, aperçu, survey, *compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect

precise exact, accurate, *correct, nice, right

Ana definite, express, *explicit: strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent

Ant loose —Con lax, slack (see loose): *careless, heedless

preciseness *precision

precision, preciseness both denote the quality or character of what is precise. Precision denotes a quality that is sought for or is attained usually as a highly desirable thing. When used in reference to language it implies expression with such exactitude that neither more nor less than what applies to the thing under consideration is said〈defining words with utmost care, they fashioned their statements〉

précis—Dinsmore〈a vague term of abuse for any style that is . . . so evidently bad or second-rate that we do not recognize the necessity for greater precision in the phrases we apply to it—T. S. Eliot〉 When used in reference to the arts and sciences, the term usually implies such clearness of definition or such sharpness in distinction or in distinguishing that there is no confusion about outlines, boundaries, dividing lines, or movements〈however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes〉〈acting, singing, and dancing seem to me the best methods of teaching aesthetic precision—Russell〉 Precision is also used in reference to an instrument, a machine, or a part of a machine that must be made with such exactness of measurements that an infinitesimal fraction of an inch would debar it from fulfilling its function〈precision instruments〉〈tiny, Swiss-made replicas, they were precision machined and finely detailed, all scaled to perfection—Terry Southern〉

Preciseness is rarely interchangeable with precision, since it carries so strong an implication of severity or of strictness, or sometimes of overnicety in the observance of religious laws, the code of one’s profession, or the proprieties as dictated by one’s class or social equals that it is deprecative as often as it is laudatory〈savoring of Puritanism and overstrict preciseness—Prynne〉〈the letter . . . had the preciseness of an imperial mandate—Meredith〉〈there was a certain amount of preciseness about the young man, and his approach to Texas was in the best striped-trousers tradition—T. D. Clark〉

preclude *prevent, obviate, avert, ward

Ana *hinder, obstruct, impede, block, bar: *stop, discontinue, quit, cease: *exclude, eliminate, shut out, debar

precocious untimely, forward, *premature, advanced

Ana *immature, unmatured, unripe

Ant backward

precursor *forerunner, harbinger, herald

Ana *sign, mark, token, symptom: antecedent, determinant, *cause, reason

predicament, dilemma, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle can all denote a situation from which one does or can extricate himself only with difficulty. Predicament carries the implication that the situation constitutes a problem for those who are involved in it and may additionally imply lack of freedom to do what one wishes or finds essential for some reason, or it may imply deep perplexity as to ways out of the situation〈advice . . . may be of such nature that it will be painful to reject and yet impossible to follow it; and in this predicament I conceive myself to be placed—Crabbe〉〈the predicament with which our civilization now finds itself confronted—the problem, namely, how to find healthy, happy leisure for all the working millions who are now being liberated by machines—L. P. Smith〉 Dilemma applies to a situation which constitutes a predicament from which one can escape only by a choice of equally unpleasant or unsatisfactory alternatives〈faced with a dilemma: if they discard obsolete, heading, forewarn, cau-

predisposition, partiality, prepossession, prejudice, bias are comparable when they mean an attitude of mind which predisposes one to make a certain choice or judgment or to take a certain view without full consideration or reflection. Predilection implies a strong liking that results from one’s temperament, one’s principles, or one’s previous experience and that predisposes one to prefer certain kinds of things (as friends, books, foods, or methods) or to accept a thing without reference to any other test〈a predilection for the strange and whimsical—Coleridge〉〈one or two authors of fiction for whom I have a predilection—Benson〉 Partiality implies a disposition to favor a particular person or thing because of some predilection or, more often, because of undue fondness or partisanship; it may connote unfairness〈show partiality in appointments to office〉〈a partiality for their own daughters’ performance, and total indifference to any other person’s—
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prejudice</td>
<td>a strong and often unreasonable dislike of or aversion to something or someone</td>
<td>&quot;He had a prejudice against the new mayor.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bias</td>
<td>an inclination in favor of or against a person or thing</td>
<td>&quot;His bias towards politics is well known.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partiality</td>
<td>an inclination in favor of or against a person or thing</td>
<td>&quot;She showed partiality to her children.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prepossession</td>
<td>a fixed idea or conception in the light of which a new person, new idea, or new experience is judged</td>
<td>&quot;Their prepossession for excellence led them to neglect the practical aspects.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prejudice</td>
<td>implies a judgment made before evidence is available and typically to an unfair-able preconception marked by suspicion and antipathy</td>
<td>&quot;His prejudice against the new mayor blinded his judgment.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preliminary</td>
<td>suggests not absolute need of preparation but a desire on the part of someone to prepare others (as for reading, for hearing, for action, or for understanding)</td>
<td>&quot;His preliminary work was done before he could begin his research.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefer</td>
<td>to take, seize, grasp, grab: *exclude, eliminate, shut out, debar</td>
<td>&quot;He prefers to work alone.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preeminent</td>
<td>surpassing, transcendent, superlative, *super-preme, peerless, incomparable</td>
<td>&quot;She is preeminent in her field.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con</td>
<td>subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject</td>
<td>&quot;His Con was his studies.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preface</td>
<td>introduction, prologue, prelude, foreword, exordium, preamble</td>
<td>&quot;The preface introduces the author.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefatory</td>
<td>preliminary, introductory, preparatory</td>
<td>&quot;The prefatory remarks were well written.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefer</td>
<td>choose, select, elect, opt, pick, single</td>
<td>&quot;She preferred the red dress.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preferable</td>
<td>*better, superior</td>
<td>&quot;It is preferable to have a backup plan.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preference</td>
<td>selection, election, *choice, option, alternative</td>
<td>&quot;His preference was for classic music.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preference</td>
<td>*advancement, promotion, elevation</td>
<td>&quot;They preferred to advance the project.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advanced</td>
<td>progress (see under ADVANCE vb 2): rising or rise, ascending or ascent (see corresponding verbs at RISE)</td>
<td>&quot;He is ready to be advanced to the next level.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>premature</td>
<td>unduly early in coming, happening, or developing</td>
<td>&quot;Her premature birth caused much concern.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prelude</td>
<td>introduction, prologue, preface, foreword, exordium, preamble</td>
<td>&quot;The prelude sets the tone for the rest of the book.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analogous words</td>
<td>*leaning, propensity, proclivity, flair: bent, turn, knack, aptitude, *gift</td>
<td>&quot;She has a natural propensity for art.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antonyms</td>
<td>*aversion</td>
<td>&quot;His antonyms were those who opposed him.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contrasted words</td>
<td>*congratulate, ^felicitate</td>
<td>&quot;He was not congratulated on his success.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see also explanatory notes facing page</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
of the mind) inhibition of precocious germination of seeds—Chronica Botanica (a precocious youth bursting with ideas—Henry Miller) The term is also applied to qualities, conditions, or circumstances which properly belong to maturity but come or belong to one who is otherwise immature (his precocious dignities were hard for youth to support without arrogance—Buchan) (Shaw is dramatically precocious, and poetically less than immature—T. S. Eliot)

**Ant**

- immature, unmatured, unripe, unmellow: abortive, fruitless (see futile)
- precipitate, hasty, sudden, abrupt

**Ant**

- deliberate, considered, advised, designed, studied

**Ant**

- intended, purposed, meant (see intend)
- voluntary, intentional, willful

**Ant**

- unmeditated: casual, accidental—Ant

**premeditated**

- deliberate, considered, advised, designed, studied

**Ant**

- intended, purposed, meant (see under Purposive)
- voluntary, intentional, willful

**Ant**

- unmeditated: casual, accidental—Con

**postulate**

- presuppose, assume

**presupposition**

- presupposition, presumption, assumption (see under Presuppose)

**premise**

- postulate, posit, presupposition, presumption, assumption (see under Presuppose)

**principle**

- reason: proposition, proposal

**postulate**

- presuppose, presume, assume

**prize**

- award, reward, meed, guerdon, bounty

**bonus**

- comparable when they mean something which is striven for or, sometimes, which may be won by chance; it is bestowed upon the winner in a contest or competition or in a lottery (bridge prizes) (a prize for the best composition) (at last the Dodo said, “Everybody has won, and all must have prizes” —Lewis Carroll)

In extended use prize commonly implies effort, struggle, and uncertainty in the seeking and often imputes value or worth to what is sought or competed for (let a man contend to the uttermost for his life’s set prize, be it what it will!—Browning) (he had embarked early upon that desperate game of which the prize was a throne, and the forfeit, life—Reynolds) (the leading chairmanships are regarded as great prizes—Nevins) Award implies both a decision of judges and a bestowal of a prize or an honor; it is therefore often preferred to prize when the recipients have not been competitors in the strict sense but have in their work or performances fulfilled the conditions required by those who offer prizes (receive an award for civic service) (the urge to make the most of ourselves and to get awards along with our success—J. T. Adams) Award is also applicable to the act of awarding a prize or to the decision in a particular competition (the judges may conceivably find themselves . . . unable to make an award—Barkham) Reward strongly involves the idea of recompense for something good or meritorious or ironically for something evil; it may be used in reference to a prize or premium only when that has been earned (as by effort or sacrifice); thus, a winner of a prize for the best novel of the year may feel that he has been given a reward for intense effort; a reward is offered for the return of a lost article (he scorned to take a reward for doing what in justice he ought to do—Steele) (it may come as a shock to the cynical that the mere embrace of wickedness is no guarantee of financial reward—Sat. Review) Meed and guerdon are close synonyms of reward, often employed without distinction, but the former tends to suggest a reward recognizing merit and proportioned to it, and the latter a prize or honor conferred as a reward (he must not float upon his watery bier unawed, and weller to the parching wind, without the meed of some melodious tear—Milton) (finds his guerdon in the consciousness of work done perfectly—Beerbohm) (verse, like the laurel, its immortal meed, should be the guerdon of a noble deed—Cowper) Bounty and bonus are applicable chiefly to a sum of money or its equivalent given as a premium or reward. Bounty is usually applied to a premium promised by a government or governmental agency as an inducement to some act (as enlistment in the army or navy, emigration to a distant colony, or destruction of noxious animals at peril or cost) or to someone (as the State pays a bounty for every wildcat killed) (generous bounties for enlistment were offered by federal, state, and local authorities—T. A. Bailey) Bonus, in contrast, is usually applied to something given over and above what is regularly received or due, either as a reward or encouragement or as a distribution of surplus (a soldier's bonus) (the subsidies became only a bonus for inefficiency—T. W. Arnold) Bonus . . . includes extra payments for night work, hazardous work, regular attendance, and overtime, as well as any annual or regular allotment such as a Christmas bonus—Glossary of Currently-Used Wage Terms (the reader is given a bonus of material not ordinarily found in meteorology texts—Science)

**principle**

- principle, reason: proposition, proposal

**preoccupied**

- abstracted, absent, absentminded, distraught

**prepare**

- fit, qualify, condition, ready are comparable when they mean someone or something ready. Prepare is the most inclusive of these terms; it implies a process, often a complicated process, involving a making ready, a getting ready, or a putting readiness on one or more persons or things (prepare ground for a crop) (prepare a corpse for burial) (prepare a person for bad news) (made a few notes for a paper I was preparing—Dahl) Fit is more limited in its scope than prepare: it suggests a making a person or thing fit for or suitable to a particular end or objective (accomplishments, fitting him to shine both in active and elegant life—Irving) (I had fitted myself to do everything, from sweeping out to writing the editorials—White) (the soldier's efforts to fit himself into the new world made possible by his sweat and blood—Wecter) Qualify (see also moderate) stresses the implication that a person's fitness for a duty, office, function, or status requires the fulfillment of some necessary conditions, such as taking certain courses of study or training, an examination, or an oath (do not let drugists prescribe for you; they are not qualified to treat syphilis—Fishbein) (his extensive knowledge of foreign languages specially qualified him for such service—A. P. Wills) Condition implies a getting into or a bringing to the condition that is proper or necessary for a person or, more often, a thing to satisfy a particular purpose or use (condition air by purification, humidification, and adjustment of temperature) (condition an athletic team by exercise and practice) (condition cattle for show or market) Ready emphasizes a putting a thing into order, especially for use, or a making ready a person for action (ready a bedroom for the use of a guest) (the whole town took part in helping to ready the outdoor
### presider

**preside**

- *dictate, ordain, decree, impose
- *command, enjoin, bid: exact, *demand, require
- 2 Prescribe, assign, define mean to fix arbitrarily or authoritatively for the sake of order or of a clear understanding. Prescribe stresses dictation, especially by one in command, and usually implies that the aim is to give explicit directions or clear guidance to those who accept one's authority or are bound to obey one's injunctions (*the Constitution prescribes the conditions under which it may be amended*; *the attending physician prescribes the medicines for his patient*; *the fixed routine of prescribed duties—Wilde*; *the code of behavior which the culture prescribes for child training—Franz Alexander* Assign (see also ALLOT, ASCRIBE) usually has some suggestion of allotment or ascription; it implies arbitrary but not despotistic determination for the sake of some practical end such as harmony in operation or functioning, the proper distribution of a number of things, or the settlement of a dispute by agreement (*the city charter assigns the duties of each elected official and the limits of his authority*; *the clause, assigning original jurisdiction to the supreme court—John Marshall*  *impersonal words, such as those assigning latitude, longitude, and date—Russell*) Define means to aim an intent to mark boundaries between things so as to prevent confusion, conflict, or overlapping (*the issues here are not too well defined*, but deliberation at this point may be fruitful in that respect—*Terry Southern*) obscure symbolism which define the relation of various age groups to each other—*Sapir* (*The Constitution of the United States prescribes the powers of the government, assigns the limits to each, and defines the functions of each branch*)

- *set, settle, fix: establish: direct, enjoin, instruct, order, *command
- prescription *receipt, recipe
- presence *bearing, deportment, demeanor, mien, port
- *personality, individuality (see DISPOSITION): aspect, *appearance, look
- present n *gift, gratuity, favor, boon, largess

**preponderant, preponderating**

- *dominant, predominant, paramount, sovereign

**prepossession**

- bent, turn, knack, aptitude, *gift: *leaning, penchant: predispension, inclination (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE)

**preposterous**

- absurd, *foolish, silly

**prescriptive**

- *dictate, ordain, decree, impose: exact, *demand, require

**prerogative**

- dominant, predominant, *paramount, sovereign

**presage**

- augur, portend, forebode, prognosticate, *forecast, *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy

**prerequisite, prerequisite**

- *dictate, ordain, decree, impose
- requirement
- *need, exigency

**press**

- N *foretoken, prognostic, omen, augury, portent
- *sign, symptom, mark, token: forewarning, warning (see WARN)
- vb augur, portend, forebode, prognosticate, *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy
- n *indicate, betoken, bespeak: signify, import, denote, *mean

**prescribe**

- *give, bestow, confer, donate, afford
- *grant, award, accord
- 2 offer, tender, proffer, prefer

**presentment**

- misgiving, foreboding, *apprehension
- *fear, dread, alarm, terror: foretaste, anticipation, *prospect: disquieting or disquietude, decomposing or discomposing, disturbance, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

**presently**

- shortly, soon, directly are comparable when they mean after a little while or before long. Presently carries this as its chief meaning; it is a term of rather vague implication as to the time indicated (*the doctor will be here presently*; *he said he would tell them the full story presently*; *I shall forget you presently, my dear, so make the most of this, your little day—Millay*; *I cannot attend to this at once but will do so presently*).

**press**

- throng, crush, *crowd, mob, rout, horde

**press**

- thong, crush, *crowd, mob, rout, horde
- *grant, award, accord
- 2 offer, tender, proffer, prefer

**present**

- *give, bestow, confer, donate, afford
- *grant, award, accord
- 2 offer, tender, proffer, prefer

**press**

- exhibit, display, parade, *show: advance, *adduce, allege, cite

**press**

- throng, crush, *crowd, mob, rout, horde

**press**

- throng, crush, *crowd, mob, rout, horde
- *grant, award, accord
- 2 offer, tender, proffer, prefer

**press**

- exhibit, display, parade, *show: advance, *adduce, allege, cite

### More Words:

**Analogous Words**

- *appear, look
- *grant, subvention
- *appropriation

**Antonyms**

- *apprehension
- *fear, dread, alarm, terror: foretaste, anticipation, *prospect: disquieting or disquietude, decomposing or discomposing, disturbance, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

**Contrasted Words**

- *grant, award, accord
- 2 offer, tender, proffer, prefer

**See also explanatory notes facing page 1**
pressing  632  prestige

〈the ceiling bears down upon the columns〉〈misfortune bore heavily upon him〉 Like press, the term has extended use; it and bear down may imply the achievement of any end consistent with the action of pressing down or heavily upon 〈Clan Alpine's best are backward borne—Scott〉〈his activity and zeal bore down all opposition—Macaulay〉 Squeeze usually implies the exertion of pressure on both sides or on all sides strongly enough and for a long enough time to accomplish a flattening, a crushing, a shaping, an emptying, or a compression 〈in washing silk stockings be sure to squeeze them, not wring them〉〈the child had squeezed the wax doll out of shape〉 Usually, however, the term carries an added implication that gives it an extended or specific meaning while often retaining its basic implication. Sometimes it implies nothing more than an expression of affection 〈he squeezed his friend's hand〉 but at other times it implies such a different idea as extraction 〈squeeze the juice from a lemon〉 approximates a laugh formed by . . . squeezing guttural sounds out of the throat—Pynchon〉 or eliciting with difficulty 〈we squeezed out of him an admission that he was leaving〉 or extortion 〈squeezing the people . . . of all the wealth that could be drained out of them—Froude〉 Squeeze is also susceptible to use even when there is no suggestion of exerting force on another but a clear suggestion of forcing someone, often oneself, or something into a space that is extremely small or is very circumscribed 〈squeeze through a half-opened window〉 〈squeezes his hand into the hole and grasps the prize—Stevenson-Hamilton〉 Crowd (see also PACK) implies the exertion of pressure upon and usually suggests such a force as a number of persons or of things closely packed together 〈great numbers of the birds were crowded to death〉〈I hope not too many try to crowd in here at once. It isn't a very big room—Steinbeck〉〈never have more startling twists been crowded into the concluding scene of a melodrama—J. M. Brown〉〈the multitude of weeds crowded out the flowers〉 Sometimes crowd implies pressure exerted by one or more persons in pushing or shoving through a crowd 〈the speakers crowded their way through the throng to the platform〉 Jam in its most frequent meaning carries an implication of being wedged in so that pressure on all sides ensues and movement or escape is made impossible 〈the courts need not be jammed with negligence cases—S. H. Hofstadter〉〈just above McCauslin's, there is a rocky rapid, where logs jammed in the spring—Thoreau〉〈traffic was completely jammed by the crowd〉〈traffic was completely jammed by the crowd〉 (this does not imply pressure upon all sides but (as in reference to a gun, an engine, or a machine) the presence of an obstacle or an obstruction or the displacement of a part which prevents operation 〈her propeller got foul of a rope, so that the shaft was jammed〉, and the engines could not be worked—Herschell) Ana *push, thrust, propel, shove: drive, impel, *move: *pack, cram, stuff, ram

pressing adj Pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant are comparable when they mean demanding or claiming attention and especially immediate attention. Pressing often implies directly or indirectly the use of pressure by persons in calling for immediate attention to their wishes 〈managed to pay his most pressing debts〉〈without ever subordinating his high ideals to the pressing demands of popular opinion—Cohen〉 but it may also imply, without reference to personal agents, a claim to quick attention which cannot be denied 〈it was business of the most pressing importance which had brought them—Doyle〉 〈it would be a great mistake for a government to concern themselves only with short-term problems, pressing as these are—Atlee〉 Urgent is stronger than pressing and places greater stress upon the constraint or compulsion of attention (as by a vehement urging), and it also usually connotes the need of promptness (as in replying, considering, or relieving) 〈an urgent telegram〉〈the urgent needs of the war—Costain〉〈the more power the people are given the more urgent becomes the need for some rational and well-informed superpower to dominate them—Buchan〉〈if human ingenuity fails in an urgent task, fate may take a hand—Butler〉 Imperative (see also MASTERCUL) stresses the obligatory nature of a task, need, or duty, but it also usually implies that immediate attention is essential 〈I feel it my imperative duty to warn you〉〈a remonstrance had become imperative—Buchan 1902〉〈military necessity made it imperative that the bridge should be blown up—Forster〉 Crying stresses the demand for attention but adds the implication of the extreme or shocking conspicuousness of the need 〈an organizer of genius in a day when order and discipline were the crying needs—Malone〉〈our crying need is for more blood donors〉 Importunate carries a strong implication of persistency in demanding or claiming attention; often therefore it is applied to persons or to their acts 〈an importunate beggar〉〈an importunate knocking at a door〉〈when people are importunate, and will not go away when asked, they had better come in—Shaw〉 but it is also much used in reference to impersonal matters (as problems or difficulties) which persistently and naggingly make claims upon one's full and immediate attention〈the demands of the dance becoming . . . too importunate for a divided attention—Austen〉〈it is a work which ought to be studied by anyone to whom the relation of Church and State is an actual and importunate problem—T. S. Eliot〉 Like importunate, insistent basically implies a quality of persons, that of insisting or maintaining or asserting persistently 〈how continual and insistent is the cry for characters that can be worshiped—Galsworthy〉〈de Vaca was insistent, and Charles approached the table—Hergesheimer〉 and it too is often used in reference to a quality which enforces attention by its perseverance or compels it by obtruding itself upon one's consciousness 〈an insistent noise〉〈an insistent voice〉〈the insistent odor of fertilizer—Amer. Guide Series: Md.〉〈we who read poetry are ridden and haunted by no such insistent problem—Lowes〉 Exigent implies less a demand for immediate attention than one for action (as by way of giving assistance or settling matters); however, it may carry a wider implication; in general it is close to urgent or pressing in its emphasis on the exacting or the imperative nature of that demand 〈that exigent cry for help—Clarendon〉〈demands upon him had never been exigent before. He had selected a course of life which haunted by no such exigent before〉 Instant may come very close to urgent and like it often implies a temporal pressure; distinctively it may suggest perseverance or the need of perseverance 〈rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing in prayer—Rom 12:12〉〈I thought there was not such instant haste—Scott〉〈the single-hearted force of him who sees the instant need—Buchan〉〈the need to study precision in writing has grown far more instant since men of science have abandoned the "universal language"—Quiller-Couch〉 A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
presume *presuppose, postulate, premise, posit, assume
Ana surmise, *conjecture: deduce, *infer, judge, gather, conclude

presumption presupposition, assumption, postulate, premise, posit (see under PRESUPPOSE)
Ana view, *opinion, conviction, belief: conjecture, surmise (see under CONJECTURE vb)

presumptuous *confident, assured, sanguine, sure
Ana self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE): presuming, assuming (see PRESUPPOSE): positive, cocksure, certain, *sure: arrogant, insolent, overbearing (see PROUD)

presuppose, presume, assume, postulate, premise, posit are comparable when they mean to take something for granted or as true or existent especially as a basis for action or reasoning. Their corresponding nouns presupposition, presumption, assumption, postulate, premise, posit when they denote something that is taken for granted or is accepted as true or existent are distinguishable in general by the same implications and connotations as the verbs. Presuppose and presupposition, the most inclusive of these words, need not imply dubiousness about what is taken for granted. At the one extreme they may suggest nothing more than a hazy or imperfectly realized belief that something exists or is true or an uncritical acceptance of some hypothesis, in either case casting doubt on what is taken for granted (a lecturer who talks above the heads of his listeners presupposes too extensive a knowledge on their part). A school of theology that presupposed the total depravity of human nature (it presupposes an opposition between the end of the individual and that of the State, such as was entirely foreign to the Greek conception—Dickinson). At the other extreme the terms may be used in reference to something that is taken for granted because it is the logically necessary antecedent of a thing known to be true or the truth of which is not presently in question (an effect presupposes a cause). So deliberate a murder presupposes a motive (belief in the supernatural presupposes a belief in natural law—Inge). Presume and presumption may imply conjecture (I presume they are now in London) but ordinarily they carry the implication that whatever is taken for granted is entitled to belief until it is disproved. Therefore one presumes only something for which there is justification in experience, or which has been shown to be sound in practice or in theory or which is the logical inference from such facts as are known (until a man or an organization has been condemned by due process of law he or it must be presumed innocent—Hutchins). (the fact that a custom is ancient and is still revered creates a presumption in its favor). (It cannot be presumed that any clause in the constitution is intended to be without effect—John Marshall). Assume and assumption stress the arbitrary acceptance as true of something which has not yet been proved or demonstrated or about which there is ground for a difference of opinion (some debaters weaken their case by assuming too much). (for the sake of argument let us assume that the accident occurred as it is contended). (I know of nothing more false in science or more actively poisonous in politics... than the assumption that we belong as a race to the Teutonic family—Quiller-Couch). (1... assume that one purpose of the purchase was to suppress competition—Justice Holmes). (she was amazed and at a loss. She had assumed that Elfine's family would be overjoyed at their offspring's luck—Gibbons). Postulate, either as verb or noun, differs from assume or assumption in being more restricted in its application and more exact in its implications. One can assume or make an assumption at any point in a course of reasoning, but one postulates something or lays down a proposition as a postulate only as the groundwork for a single argument or for a chain of reasoning or for a system of thought. Postulate, therefore, has reference to one of the underlying assumptions, which are accepted as true but acknowledged as indemonstrable and without which thought or action or artistic representation is impossible because of the limitations of human knowledge or of human reason or of art (the ordinary man always postulates the reality of time and of space) (the dramatist postulates certain conventions which it is necessary for the audience to accept). (belief in the uniformity of nature, which is said to be a postulate of science—Russell). (the prevailing theological system is one which postulates the reality of guidance by a personal God—Huxley). (What I'm postulating in all this... is that the unconscious, you see, has an enormous teleological sense—Mailer). Premise is often used as though it were identical in meaning with postulate. Premise, the noun, in logic denotes a proposition, or one of the two propositions in a syllogism, from which an inference is drawn. In more general use it may refer to a proposition which is the starting point in an argument. But a premise is not a proposition that is frankly an assumption, as a postulate often is; it may have been previously demonstrated or it may be admitted as true or axiomatic, but it is always advanced as true and not as assumed (his listeners could not assent to his conclusion because they doubted the truth of his premises). (begin with a simple statement which is the premise for all that I have to say—F. C. James). Premise, the verb, means to lay down as a premise or to base on or introduce by a premise or other pertinent matter and usually refers to the broader rather than to the technical meaning of the noun (he premised his argument on a proposition which all but a few of his readers accept as true). (it was quickly evident that the decision was not premised upon any abhorrence of the test oath technique—New Republic). (these observations are premised solely for the purpose of rendering more intelligible those which apply more directly to the particular case under consideration—John Marshall). Posit, as noun and verb, comes close to postulating in implying the laying down of a proposition as a base for an argument, a line of reasoning, or a system of thought, but it may differ in suggesting subjective and arbitrary grounds rather than, as postulate regularly does, objective and rational grounds for selection of the proposition (if she needs salvation, she will posit a savior—Santayana). (he did not posit a world of wormless apples to set off the fruit he reported in such wonderful detail—Grattan). (materialism at that time posited the premise that character was the product of environment, and this was the basis for Zola's naturalism—Farrell) but even when it connotes actual falsity it remains very close to postulate (such posits or postulated entities are myths from the standpoint of the level below them, the phenomenalistic level—Hofstadter). (kill or be killed, the surgeons cried, discriminating Die from Live, and spoke the truth. And also lied, posited false alternative—Gibson). Ana surmise, *conjecture, guess: *infer, deduce, gather, judge

description
pretension, privilege

2 Pretense, pretension, make-believe are comparable though seldom interchangeable when they involve the idea of offering something false or deceptive as real or true. Pretense may denote false show in general, or the evidence of it (she is utterly devoid of pretense) there is too much pretense in his piety (the pretense that eludes the detection of others and that which deceives the pretender himself—Brownell) (confuse dignity with pomposity and pretense—Cerf) The term may apply also to an act that is performed, an appearance that is assumed, or a statement that is made in the hope that it will convince others of the truth or reality of something that is false or unreal (rushing away from the discussion on the transparent pretense of quieting the dog—Conrad) (my mother's affectionate pretense of his being the head of the family—Mary Austin) Pretension (see also CLAIM, AMBITION) is rarely used in place of pretense as a concrete act, appearance, or statement, but it is often used in the sense of false show or the evidence of it, with, however, somewhat differing implications. Where pretense in this general sense often implies hypocrisy or intentional deceit, pretension suggests rather an unwarranted assumption that one possesses certain desirable qualities or powers, and therefore more often implies overweening conceit or self-deception (his disdain of affectation and prudery was magnificent. He hated all pretension save his own pretension—Mencken) (this mannerism which has become too offensive . . . is Roslyn's social pretension. Perhaps I should say intellectual pretension. She entertains people as if she were conducting a salon—Mailer) (annoyed with . . . the pretensions of simplicity and homelessness in her parlor—Cheever) Make-believe applies usually to pretense or pretenses that arise not so much out of a desire to give others a false impression as out of a strong or vivid imagination (as that of children or poets who like to take what their fancies create as real or as true) (in children, the love of make-believe usually expresses itself in games) The term is occasionally used to denote the acceptance against one's better judgment of something manifestly unreal or untrue because of some power in the thing itself or in its accompaniments (tells us that the make-believe of the stage is a higher reality than life outside—Bentley)

Ana humbug, fake, sham, fraud, deceit, deception, *imposture: affectation, *pose, air, mannerism

pretension 1 *claim, title, pretense
Ana *right, privilege, prerogative: assertion, affirmation, declaration, protestation (see corresponding verbs at ASSERT)
2 *pretense, make-believe
Ana *hypocrisy, sanctimony, cant: dissimulation, duplicity, guile, *deceit
3 *ambition, aspiration
Ana hoping, or hope, expectation (see corresponding verbs at EXPECT): dream, vision, *fancy

pretentious 1 *showy, ostentatious
Ana *gaudy, garish, flashy: *ornate, flamboyant, florid, baroque, rococo
Ant unpretentious
2 *ambitious, utopian
Ana aiming, aspiring, panting (see AIM vb): conspicuous, striking, arresting (see NOTICEABLE)

preternatural *supernatural, supranatural, miraculous, superhuman
Ana unnatural, anomalous (see IRREGULAR): *abnormal, atypical: outstanding, remarkable, salient (see NOTICEABLE): *exceptional

pretext excuse, plea, alibi, *apology, apologia

prevalent 634

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
nating, saturating (see PERMEATE): *usual, wonted, accustomed, customary

prevent *lie, equivocate, palter, fib

prevaricate *frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk: *arrest, check, Ana

prevent 1 Prevent, anticipate, forestall can mean to be or get ahead of or to deal with beforehand, with reference especially to a thing's due time or to its actual occurrence or to the action of another. Prevent implies frustration (as of an intention or plan) or an averting (as of a threatened evil) or a rendering impossible (as by setting up an obstacle or obstacles) (the surest way to prevent aggression is to remain strong enough to overpower and defeat any who might attack—Lawrence) Sometimes the emphasis upon hindrance (see PREVENT 2) is so strong that other implications are nearly lost, but in the sense here considered advance provision or preparation against something possible or probable is clearly implied (medical science knows how to limit these evils and can do much to prevent their destructiveness—Elliot) (steps had therefore to be taken to prevent or impede these unseemly displays—Thornton) (who stands safest? tell me, is it he? . . . whose preventing care in peace provides fit arms against a war?—Pope)

anticipate (see also FORESEE) takes the place of prevent when merely getting ahead of another especially as a precursor or forerunner is implied (most of the great European thinkers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were in some measure inspired, influenced, or anticipated by Shaftesbury—Ellis) (a "Teacher of Righteousness" who seemed in some ways to anticipate Jesus—Edmund Wilson) Like prevent, anticipate sometimes suggests frustrating another in carrying out an intention or plan, but implies its prior performance or execution rather than interposition of obstacles to its performance (he would probably have died by the hand of the executioner, if the executioner had not been anticipated by the populace—Macaulay) (in October came Commodore T. A. C. Jones, palpitating lest Great Britain anticipate him in seizing California—H. I. Priestley) Distinctively, the word implies dealing with (as by using, paying, or acting) in advance of the due time or proper order but it often involves another implication which can be gathered only from the context; thus, one anticipates a payment on a loan by making a payment before it is due; one anticipates his salary by spending its equivalent before it is earned (anticipate some details in telling a story) Forestall, in what has become perhaps the less common meaning, carries over from its earliest sense so strong an implication of intercepting that it means merely to stop in its course (something you hurried to forestall—Mary Austin) (forestalled by the watchful Jelks who fetched it for him—Dohl) But often the word loses most of its suggestion of intercepting and then implies beforehand action that serves to render a thing, and especially something inevitable, powerless to harm or merely useless (to forestall public opinion and guide its judgment—L. P. Smith) (posterity will still be explaining me, long after I am dead. Why, then, should I forestall their labors?—Rose Macaulay)

2 Prevent, prelude, obviate, avert, ward are comparable when they mean to hinder or stop something that may occur or, in the case of prevent and preclude, to hinder or stop someone from doing something. Prevent usually implies the existence of something which serves as an insurmountable obstacle or an impediment (there is no law to prevent you from erecting a building on this spot) (the authority of his presence and the purposefulness of his manner at least prevent the role becoming a minor one—Bentley) (he prevents an innocent man going to the gallows—New Books) Preclude differs from prevent in stressing the existence of some situation or condition or the taking of anticipatory measures that effectually shuts out every possibility of a thing's occurring or of a person's doing something (he makes everything so clear that all misunderstanding is precluded) (death precluded him from completing his investigation) (the doctrine . . . was adopted, not to promote efficiency but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power—Brandes) (the roar of the motor precluded further conversation—Gerald Beaumont) Obviate usually implies the use of intelligence or thought; preclude also often implies these but sometimes it suggests the operation of chance. The chief distinction between these words when anticipatory measures are implied is that obviate usually connotes an attempt to forestall disagreeable eventualities by clearing away obstacles or by disposing of difficulties (the use of bills of exchange obviates the risk in transporting money from one country to another) (no care, no art, no organization of society, could obviate the inherent incompatibility of individual perfection with the course of nature—Dickinson) Avert and ward, the latter usually with off, differ from the other words of this group in implying prevention of an approaching or oncoming evil. They suggest therefore immediate and effective measures in the face of what threatens. Avert, however, suggests the use of active measures to force back the evil before it is actually encountered (avert a catastrophe by prompt action) (the satisfaction of averting war—J. R. Green) (it was very doubtful whether the consequences could be averted by sealing my lips—Shaw) Ward, on the other hand, implies a close encounter and the use of defensive measures (ward off an opponent's blow) in order to avoid the evil or to diminish its disastrous effects (ward off a chill with hot drinks) (a magic charm to ward off evil—Herskoviits) (our nation has warded off all enemies—Eisenhower) *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar, dam, debar, shut out (see EXCLUDE): prohibit, *forbid, interdict, inhibit

price n *victim, quarry

price n Price, charge, cost, expense can mean what is given or asked for payment for a thing or for its use, or for services. Price and charge in their ordinary nontechnical use commonly designate what is asked or demanded—in the case of price, especially for goods or commodities; in the case of charge, especially for services (what is the price of this book?) (the price of meat has risen greatly) (the market price of wheat) (the charge for haulage) (goods delivered free of charge within a radius of one hundred miles) (there is a small charge for registering a deed) In economics, however, price does not necessarily refer to a fixed sum of money asked by a seller, but to the quantity or number of units of one thing exchangeable in barter or sale for another thing (labor was the first price, the original purchase money that was paid for all things—Smith's Charge, especially in accounting, also applies to what is imposed on one as a financial burden (the fixed charges of a business include rentals, taxes, interest, and liens) Cost and expense in their ordinary nontechnical use apply to what is given or surrendered for something—cost often implying somewhat specifically the payment

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
of the price asked and expense often designating the aggregate amount actually disbursed for something (they found the cost of the piano made too severe a drain on their resources) (the cost of provisions) (traveling expenses) (the heavy expense of a long illness) But cost sometimes replaces price with, however, a difference in connotation. Since cost applies to whatever must be given or sacrificed to obtain something, to produce something, or to attain some end whether it be money, labor, or lives or whether it is actually given or sacrificed, it, when replacing price, tends to suggest what will be taken or accepted from one in exchange rather than what the item is worth (the price of this article is below the cost of its manufacture) (victory will be won only at great cost of life) (he felt that the cost in effort was greater than he could afford) Expense also may denote expenditure especially but not only of money (fresh news is got only by enterprise and expense—Justice Holmes) (a convenient way of producing the maximum amount of "copy" with the minimum expense of intellect—Babbit)

priceless invaluable, precious, *costly, expensive, dear, valuable

Ancher cherished, treasured, prized, valued (see APPRECIATE)

prick vb 1 punch, puncture, *perforate, bore, drill

Ancher *enter, pierce, probe, penetrate: *cut, slit, slash

pride n Pride, vanity, vainglory are comparable when they mean the quality or the feeling of a person who is keenly or exquisitely aware of his own excellence or superiority. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding adjectives proud, vain, vainglorious. Pride and proud may imply either justified or unjustified self-esteem, insofar as what one regards as a merit or a superiority is real or imagined, and insofar as the feeling manifests itself either in proper self-respect and distaste for what is beneath one's standards or in inordinate and arrogant conceit. In the "unjustified" interpretation, pride is a sin or vice and the antithesis of humility (those that walk in pride he is able to abase—Dan 4:37) (pride in the sense of contemplating others less gifted than herself deserves the two lowest circles of a vulgar woman's Inferno—Holmes) (he had gone on for years deceiving himself—but proud, too self-conscious, maybe just too stupid to realize it—Styron) but in the "justified" interpretation, pride is a virtue or at least a highly pardonable, even commendable, feeling or quality that is the antithesis of shame and that spurs one to equal or better one's best or gives one rightful gratification (take pride in our work) (pride of his skill in fencing) (the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom—Lincoln) (she might grieve . . . but she was gallant, she was proud; she would not whine—Sackville-West) Vanity and vain imply an excessive desire to win the notice, approval, or praise of others; both connote an interest centered on oneself and often suggest a concentration on things of little or no importance relatively (he had . . . not the gay, tail-spreading peacock vanity of his son—Carlyle) (he was conceited and vain, and he was endlessly trying to enjoy what he thought he appeared to be in the eyes of others—Farrell) (looked only at himself; he had nothing but a small and worthless mortification, which was only wounded vanity—Deland) Vainglory and vainglorious imply excessive pride which manifests itself in boastfulness and arrogant display of one's power, skill, or influence (vainglorious boastings—Irving) (American historians . . . with much of the vainglorious pedantry that Irving burlesqued—Brooks) (have blockaded their minds behind . . . walls of nationalistic egoism and vainglory, symptoms of collective paranoia—Yale Review)

Ancher arrogance, haughtiness, superciliousness, disdainfulness or disdain, insolence (see corresponding adjectives at PROUD): complacency, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT): self-esteem, self-love, egotism, egoism, *conceit

Ancher humility: shame

pride vb Pride, plume, pique, preen are all reflexive verbs meaning to congratulate oneself because of something one is, has, or has done or achieved. Pride usually implies a taking credit to oneself on or upon something that redeems to one's honor or gives just cause for pride in oneself (he prides himself on his ancestry) (Mark prided himself upon maintaining outwardly a demeanor that showed not the least trace of overstrung nerves—Mackenzie) (he prided himself on his part in the new century, but he resisted the installation of a telephone—Frank)

Plume adds to pride the implication of a display of vanity or of a more obvious exhibition of one's gratification; the term usually suggests less justification than does pride (the Viceroy plumed himself on the way in which he had instilled notions of reticence into his staff—Kipling) (Cicero plumed himself on flirting with disreputable actresses—Buchan) (authors who plumed themselves on writing history with "popular appeal"—L. B. Wright) Pique (see also PROVOKE 1) differs from plume chiefly in carrying a hint of stirred-up pride or satisfaction; usually the cause of the pride is a special accomplishment (every Italian or Frenchman of any rank piques himself on speaking his own tongue correctly—Walpole) ("Pride," observed Mary, who piqued herself upon the solidity of her reflections, "is a very common failing, I believe—Austen) Preen is occasionally used in place of plume, sometimes with a slight suggestion of adorning oneself with one's virtues (he preened himself upon his sapience—Lowell) (men have admired, in theory, feminine virtue and preened themselves on the fear they aroused in the timid sex—Cunnington)

Ancher *boast, brag, vaunt, crow, gasconade: congratulate, *felicitate

priggish 1 smug, self-complacent, self-satisfied, *complacent

Ancher righteous, ethical, *moral: conceited, egotistic, self-esteeming, self-loving (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT)

2 *prim, prissy, prudish, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy

Ancher see those at PRIGGISH 1

prim adj Prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy mean excessively concerned with what one regards as proper or right. Prim and priggish (see also COMPLACENT) both imply an excessive and conscious fastidiousness in manners and morals that often more or less displease an observer. Prim, however, often suggests stiffness and preciseness of manner as well as extreme decorousness, and priggish connotes a more or less offensive, but not necessarily conscious, assumption of moral superiority, so that they are rarely interchangeable. Further, prim is often applied to the dress, words, or actions of persons but priggish is seldom referred to anything but the person or to something that directly reveals his personality (in the reign of James I the conduct of ladies and gentlemen was not marked by the same prim propriety as in the reign of the highly respectable Victoria—Ellis) (Charlotte Lovell was meant to be an old maid . . . . There was something prim about her in spite of her fiery hair—Wharton) (a widower, a man with a prim sour mouth and an expression of eternal disapproval

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
all over his face—Dahl> <there is . . . no moralizing of that offensively priggish kind which the instinct of boys teaches them to despise and mistrust—Pall Mall Gazette> <it was, as you warned me, very expensive. But I have no priggish objections to a little luxury—Ambler> Prissy, though sometimes very close to prim in meaning, is applied to a person who shows, or to a thing that manifests, an exaggerated sense of what is proper or precise; the term connotes sissiness but usually as a feminine concern for niceties of expression, of conduct, or of design and may imply a lack of forcefulness or virility <an outspoken candidate who offended the prissiest members of his party> <shock words may wear out their welcome just as readily as prissy ones—New Republic> (a shockable, narrow, prissy people obeying the rules . . . and protecting their treasured, specialized pruderies—Theodore Sturgeon) Prudish implies a modesty and decorousness so marked as to seem affected or overasserted; the term, however, seldom suggests pretense but rather an undue consciousness of propriety or fear of impropriety or an excessive sense of the importance of modesty and decorum <a verse, not fettered in its movements, or prudish in its expressions—Edinburgh Review> (tried to condemn her own attitude as old-fashioned, prudish. There was no such thing as an adulteress anymore, she told herself—Wouk) <had become so serious, so prudish almost, since she had given up balls and taken to visiting the poor—Wharton> Puritanical, often capitalized, may refer specifically to the religion of the Puritans especially as it showed itself in strict regulation of behavior, but in ordinary uncapitalized use it more often suggests only an excessive narrowness or illiberality in judgment (as of books, plays, or pictures), in regulation (as of manners and morals), or in narrowly determining the boundary between what is good and what is bad <the puritanical suspicion of beauty> <that Fielding in his hatred for humbug should have condemned purity as puritanical, is clearly lamentable—Stephen> <he held old-fashioned and rather puritanical views as to the vice of luxury and the sin of idleness—Wood> <afraid that if it became known he might jeopardize his position in the rather puritanical community, he avoided consulting any of the Coltertown doctors—Elmer Rice> Straitlaced and stuffy are derogatory terms applicable to persons or things that are markedly puritanical or prudish; Straitlaced refers more often to a person or his principles from a less subjective point of view than does stuffy, which is usually a term of contempt expressive of their effect upon the observer <“Stuffy, my lord; it's an expression a good deal used in modern Society.” “What does it mean?” “Straitlaced, my lord”—Galsworthy> <a stuffy book> <abiding by the rather involved, stuffy code of ethics—Riggs> <set himself intently to the business of assailing the straitlaced authorities of Boston—Parrington> Ana precise, *correct, nice: *decorous, proper: *stiff, rigid, wooden primal primordial, primitive, pristine, primeval, *primary, prime Ana *ultimate, absolute, categorical: original, fresh, *new primary, primal, primordial, primitive, pristine, primeval, prime mean first in some respect (as order, character, or importance). Something primary comes first in the order of development or of progression. Sometimes the term means little more than initial (the primary lesion of a disease) but sometimes it acquires the implications of fundamental, elemental, or elementary, and describes the part or element that is first (as in time or in importance) or one of such parts or elements in a complicated structure, substance, or system <the primary yxlem tissue of a tree> <primary schools> <the raw material of music is sound. Sound is a primary, a "pure" medium . . . . It has no meaning except in a context—Day Lewis> and at other times it means original in the sense of not being derived <the primary colors> <the primary qualities of matter> <the primary cause> <the primary end of poetry> (call of us in the news business ought to remember that our primary responsibility is to the man who buys his newspaper, or turns on his radio, expecting . . . . the whole truth—Davis> Primal applies to what is primary in the sense of initial, fundamental, or elemental <some who maintain that the regime of religious toleration has become possible only because we have lost the primal intensity of religious conviction—Cohen> <not philosophy, after all, not humanity, just sheer joyous power of song, is the primal thing in poetry—Beethoven> or to what goes back to the origin or to the beginnings, especially of the human race <it hath the primal eldest curse upon't, a brother's murder—Shak> <the Biblical vocabulary is compact of the primal stuff of our common humanity—Lowes> <ultimate issues, primal springs—Kipling> Primordial applies to what serves as the starting point in a course of development or growth or is the earliest in order or in formation. The term often suggests a rudimentary quality or state; thus, the primordial ooze is thought of as the substance out of which the earth was formed; a primordial cell is in biology the first and least specialized of a line of cells <primordial germ cells> <primordial man> <assuming that the sun, planets, and their satellites had all originated from a primordial mass of gas—S. F. Mason> Something primitive belongs to or is associated with an early stage, often but not necessarily a remote stage, in the development of something (as the human race). Often, when used in reference to art or manufacture, the term suggests lack of knowledge of such modern techniques or conventions as perspective in painting or modes in mensurable music or architecture or industry <primitive potteries> <the symmetry of the body provides the archetype of primitive design in most religious art—Binyon> When used in reference to persons, their ways of living, or their instincts, emotions, or laws, it usually suggests either a connection with a very rudimentary civilization or a retention of a character or quality associated with such a civilization <a primitive but effective police inquiry—T. S. Eliot> <primitive laws to protect inheritance, to safeguard property—Rose Macaulay> <genuinely primitive traits that reveal themselves in the childhood of either the individual or the race—Babbit> <he worked in the seed gardens, learned the primitive pharmacy of roots, barks, and herbs—Genzmer> Often, however, the term merely stresses an opposition to what is highly civilized or sophisticated and therefore unduly complicated, and may suggest naturalness or simplicity <life is very primitive here—which doesn't mean that one is getting down to anything fundamental, but only going back to something immediate and simple—H. G. Wells> <the town band, a very primitive affair, brings up the rear, playing "Yankee Doodle"—Shaw> Pristine applies to something in its earliest and freshest and newest state <an image of the pristine earth—Wordsworth> <the qualities of pristine Christianity> <restored to its pristine freshness—A prine- tine form of air conditioning—Mumford> Primeval in its basic sense applies to something which belongs to
Principal

Mainly, chiefly, mostly, largely, greatly, chief, main, leading, foremost, capital

Kingly, regal, royal, queenly, imperial

Luxurious, sumptuous, opulent: munificent, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, liberal

Dominant, predominant, paramount: vital, cardinal, fundamental, essential: preeminent, supreme, superior

Mainly, chiefly, mostly, largely, greatly, generally

Prime, axiom, fundamental, law, theorem are comparable when they denote a proposition or other formulation stating a fact or a generalization accepted as true and basic. Principle applies to a generalization that provides a basis for reasoning or a guide for conduct or procedure. The principle of free speech (his remarkable grasp of principle in the remaining field, that of historical geography—Farrington) (the same hankering as their equivalent) (the conquest of nature's procreative forces, through the laws of the rain and of the seasons here are tropic laws—M. S. Douglas) (it is a law that no two electrons may occupy the same orbit—Eddington) Theorem applies to a proposition that admits of rational proof and, usually, is logically necessary to succeeding logical steps in a structure of reasoning (theoretical economics puts the patterns of uniformity in a coherent system [of which] the basic propositions are called assumptions or postulates, the derived propositions are called theorems—Lange) (the error that was to prove most durable of all, the theorem that only a very short land traverse would be found necessary from Missouri to Pacific waters—De Voto) (the superficial commonplaces which pass as fundamentals—Johnson) (the courts established the priority of invention of birth) (they disputed priority of invention of the regenerative electron-tube circuit—C. B. Fisher) When, however, the question concerns a number of things (as debts or cases) which cannot be taken care of or dealt with all at once and must be arranged in order of time, priority suggests a rule of arrangement that determines which shall precede the other. Priority is the usual term in law and the sciences and chiefly concerns an order of time. When there is merely a question concerning the time relations of events, the term implies antecedence in occurrence (the courts established the priority of the wife's death in an accident) (the right to inherit a title is dependent mainly on priority of birth) (they disputed priority of invention of the regenerative electron-tube circuit—C. B. Fisher)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
priory 639 probable

of seniority or length of service) (the order of precedence was very rigidly observed, for the visiting maids and valets enjoyed the same hierarchy as their mistresses and masters—Sackville-West) In more general use the term often suggests a prior place, chance, or seat accorded to one, often because of age, sex, social position, or as a mere courtesy (no one lost anything by granting precedence to a man so flauslessly urbane—Repplier) (to give organizations precedence over persons is to subordinate ends to means—Huxley)

*Ana ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): ascendancy, *supremacy: preeminence, transcendence (see corresponding adjectives at SUPREME)

prize n *premium, award, reward, meed, guerdon, bounty, bonus

*Ana recompensing or recompense, compensation (see corresponding verbs at PAY): winning or winnings (see GET)

forfeit

prize vb value, treasure, cherish, *appreciate

*Ana esteem, respect, admire, regard (see under REGARD n): *estimate, evaluate, assess, assay, rate

probable, possible, likely are comparable when they mean not now certain but such as may be, or may become, true, real, or actual. Something probable has so much evidence in its support or seems so reasonable that it commands itself to the mind as worthily of belief, though not to be accepted as a certainty; thus, the most probable conclusion from evidence at hand is the one which the weight of evidence supports even though it does not provide proof; the probable thief is the one at whom so much of the evidence points as to give grounds for a presumption that he is guilty; the "probable life" of a person, in the language of actuaries, is the period during which one half the persons of a given age at a given time will remain alive according to mortality tables (the probable cause of a fire) (the probable expenses of a trip) (far from being a madman's dream... Bur's chance of success was uncomfortably probable—Hervey Allen) (it is not probable that any enemy would... attack us by landing troops in the United States—Roosevelt) Something possible is within the powers of performance, attainment, or conception of an agent or agency, especially a human agent (it is possible to cross the Atlantic in an airplane) (knowledge possible only to God) or which is within the widest limits of a person's ability or a thing's capacity as determined by nature, necessity, or circumstances (it is not possible to carry more than a thousand gallons of gasoline in this airplane) (communication with the stars may never be possible) (the number of possible amusements is small until the child has learned to grasp objects that it sees—Russell) or which, though not probable, may happen by chance or is dependent on a contingency (his election is possible, but not probable) (it is possible that she will come this way) (I think that "so near as to obstruct" means so near as actually to obstruct—and not merely near enough to threaten a possible obstruction—Justice Holmes) Something likely (see also ANT 2) is to all appearances as alleged, suggested, or required; in contrast with probable, likely does not as often or as definitely suggest grounds sufficient to warrant a presumption of truth, but in contrast with possible, it usually implies many more chances in favor of its being true or coming about; thus, the probable murderer is the suspect whose guilt is nearly but not completely established by the evidence: a possible murderer is merely one against whom suspicion is directed for some reason, or one known to have had opportunity; the likely murderer is the one among the possible murderers who, especially from a more or less superficial point of view, has had the strongest motive and the best opportunity, or toward whom the circumstantial evidence most distinctly points as the murderer (no likely heir to the bachelor millionaire's estate has been mentioned) (the likely outcome of the war changes from month to month) (if there is failure in one quarter, no matter which, it is a likely sign of failure in the other—Blackmur) Likely is also often used in the sense of promising because of appearances or ability to win favor (a likely young man) (a likely candidate) and sometimes in that of suitable because of apparent fitness or adaptability.
tion to some end (watching for a likely place to picnic) (chose the eastern part of the island as the more likely district for discovery of prehistoric remains—Clodd) Ana credible, believable, colorable, *plausible: reasonable, *rational
Ant certain: improbable

**proclamation** *novice, novitiate, apprentice, postulant, neophyte*

**probe** n investigation, *inquiry, inquisition, inquest, research

**proceed** vb pierce, penetrate, *enter
Ana examine, inspect, *scrutinize: *prove, try, test

**probfity** *honesty, honor, integrity
Ana uprightness, justness, conscientiousness, scrupulosity (see corresponding adjectives at UPRIGHT): *truth, veracity: rectitude, *goodness, virtue

**problem** *mystery, enigma, riddle, puzzle, conundrum
Ana perplexity, mystification, wilderness, distraction (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE): *predicament, dilemma, plight, quandary
Ant solution

**problematic** *doubtful, dubious, questionable
Ana ambiguous, equivocal, *obscure, vague, cryptic, enigmatic: uncertain, suspicious, mistrustful (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY)

**procedure** *process, proceeding
Ana ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): *method, system, manner, way: conducting or conduct, management (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT)

**proceed** issue, emanate, stem, flow, derive, *spring, arise, rise, originate
Ana *follow, succeed, ensue: *come, arrive

**proceeding** n *process, procedure
Ana *action, act, deed: *affair, business, concern: operation, functioning, working (see corresponding verbs at ACT)

**process, procedure, proceeding** denote the series of actions, operations, or motions involved in the accomplishment of an end. Process is particularly appropriate when progress from a definite beginning to a definite end is implied and something is thereby made, produced, or changed from one thing into another; the term usually suggests a division of the entire sequence of events into steps or stages (describe the process of making sugar from sugar-cane) (the process of digestion) (perfect knowledge is no mere intellectual process) (I have always liked the process of commuting; every phase of the little journey is a pleasure to me—Dahl) The idiomatic phrase “in process” means in the course of being made, produced, built, constructed, evolved, or attained (for men in practical life perfection is something far off and still in process of achievement—James) Procedure stresses the method followed or the routine to be followed, whether in carrying through an industrial, a chemical, a mental, or other process, or in doing some specific thing (as conducting a meeting, a trial, a conference, or a business, or performing an experiment or an operation, or prosecuting an investigation or a search) (study the rudiments of parliamentary procedure) (knows laboratory procedure thoroughly) (correct legal procedure) (you know what a stickler she is for procedure—"red tape" I called it to her—Terry Southern) (this Byzantine court, which is trying to adapt its procedure to the ideals of its Western education—Edmund Wilson) Proceeding, a much less definite term than the others of this group, applies not only to the sequence of events, actions, or operations directed toward the attainment of an end, but also to any one of such events, acts, or operations. The term throws more stress on the individual or collective items than on their closely knit relation to each other or on the final end which they have in view, and often the term means little more than an instance, sometimes a course, of conduct or behavior (the law... stepped in to prevent a proceeding which it regarded as petty treason to the commonwealth—Froude) (record the proceedings of a meeting of a society) (the precise habits, the incredible proceedings of human insects—L. P. Smith) (legislative proceedings frequently veer off into areas of somewhat less than momentous significance—Armbrister)

**proceed, progress, advance** (see under ADVANCE vb): conducting or conduct, management, controlling or control, direction (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT): performance, execution, accomplishment, fulfillment (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM)

**procession, parade, cortege, cavalcade, motorcade** mean a body (as of persons and vehicles) moving along in order. Procession stresses the orderly arrangement and smooth procedure; often it suggests formality, solemnity, and pomp (a funeral procession) (and all the priests and friars in my realm shall in procession sing her endless praise—Shak) (and delegate Dead from each past age and race, viewless to man, in large procession pace—Lanier) Parade is used of a usually large and formal procession. The term also implies marching in a more or less military fashion to the accompaniment of a band and often suggests other evidences of pomp and display (see also DISPLAY) (the Fourth of July program includes a parade and fireworks) (the annual parades of both organizations... open-air festivals, with colorful banners, drum and fife bands)—Mogy (there was a parade in honor of the successful candidate for governor) Cortege, sometimes used in the meaning of a retinue or train, usually means a procession of mourners at a funeral; it can refer either to those who follow the casket on foot or to those who follow in vehicles (declared that the cortege of the dead emperor must set forth on the journey homeward—Buck) Cavalcade throws the emphasis upon the moving of men on horseback or in vehicles; often it applies specifically to a dignitary and his retinue (the king's cavalcade through the gates of the city the day before his coronation—Walpole) and only indirectly does it suggest the appeal of a spectacle or spectacular procession. Motorcade may replace cavalcade when the intent is to stress mechanized as distinguished from equine power; otherwise the two terms are similar in values (with a motorcade of more than 2,000 vehicles, New York yesterday celebrated its traffic safety record for the first quarter—N. Y. American) (more than 300 floats will form a brilliant motorcade to the fairgrounds—Brooklyn Daily Eagle) (the three heads of state motored to Arlington Cemetery. It was raw and windy as the motorcade entered the cemetery—Time)

**procrastinate** *succession, sequence, train: pomp, array (see DISPLAY)

**proclaim** *declare, announce, publish, advertise, promulgate, broadcast
Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge, tell: voice, utter, vent, ventilate (see EXPRESS vb): *inform, apprise

**proclamation** declaration, announcement, publication, advertisement, promulgation, broadcasting (see under DECLARE)

**proclivity** propensity, *leaning, penchant, flair
Ana knack, aptitude, *gift, bent, turn: inclination, disposition, predisposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE): *predilection, prepossession, prejudice, bias

**procrastinate** *delay, lag, dawdle, loiter
Ana *defer, suspend, stay, postpone: protract, prolong (see EXTEND)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
produce

*generate, engender, beget, get, sire, breed, propagate, reproduce

procure
*get, obtain, secure, acquire, gain, win

Ana *negotiate, arrange, concert: *reach, compass, gain, achieve, attain

prod vb 1 *poke, nudge, jog
Ana prick, punch, bore (see PERFORATE): goad, spur (see corresponding nouns at MOTIVE): pierce, penetrate (see ENTER)

2 *nurse, egg, exhort, good, spur, prick, sic
Ana *incite, instigate: stimulate, excite, pique, *provoke

prod n poke, nudge, jog (see under POKE vb)
Ana *stimulus, stimulant, incitement, impetus

prodigal adj *profuse, lavish, exuberant, luxuriant, lush
Ana extravagant, exorbitant, immoderate, *excessive: abundant, *plentiful, plenteous, ample, copious: *supererogatory, uncalled-for, gratuitous

Ant parsimonious: frugal —Con niggardly, penurious, *stingy: economical, *sparing, thrifty

prodigal n *spendthrift, profligate, waster, wastrel
Ana spender, expender, disburser (see corresponding verbs at SPEND)

prodigious *monstrous, tremendous, stupendous, monumental
Ana enormous, immense, *huge, vast, gigantic, mammoth, colossal: amazing, astounding, flabbergasting (see SURPRISE)

prodigy *wonder, marvel, miracle, phenomenon
Ana abnormality (see corresponding adjective at ABNORMAL): monstrousity (see corresponding adjective at MONSTROUS): anomaly, *paradox

produce vb *bear, yield, turn out
Ana *generate, breed, propagate: *make, form, shape, fabricate, manufacture: create, *invent

produce n *product, production

product 1 *work, product, opus, artifact
Ana execution, fulfillment, performance (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM): *effort, exertion

2 *product, produce

profanation, desecration, sacrilege, blasphemy can all mean a violation or a misuse of something regarded as sacred. Profanation applies to an irreverent outrage shocking to those who cherish and hold sacred the thing mistreated; although it may suggest base callousness, it often applies to vulgar intrusion or insensitive irreverence (as of vandals) (these sages attribute the calamity to a profanation of the sacred grove)—Frazier
Desecration applies especially to any action whereby sacred character is impaired or lost; often it indicates loss of that character through defilement, often malicious or malign and culpable (desecration of the cathedrals by the invading barbarians)—the last priest, feeling there was no work to be done in such a dreary outpost, burned the chapel in 1706 to prevent its desecration—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.
Sacrilege may refer technically to reception or administration of a religious sacrament by one unworthy; it refers commonly to any outrageous profanation (the execution was not followed by any sacrilege to the church or defiling of holy vessels)—Cather
above all things they dread any contact with the spirits of the dead. Only a sorcerer would dare to commit such a sacrilege, an offense punishable with death.—Frazier
Blasphemy (see also BLASPHEMY; compare blasphemous under IMPIOUS) may refer to any strong irreverence, often one involving or suggesting reviling, defying, mocking, or otherwise treating with indignity something sacred (he cooperated with me in sending the pious elders to unspeakable corners of hell; we arranged a wordless language of blasphemy and signaled to each other across the laps of the godly)—Brace

prodigious monstrosity, monstrous, monstrous, monstrosity, monstrous, monstr
proficiency, adept, skilled, skillful, expert, masterly

art, handicraft, craft, *trade

profanity

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

implies a relation to the world as distinguished from the church or religion or the religious life; it may come close to profane <secular music> (the secular drama) or it may be opposed to regular in the sense of governed by a monastic rule; thus, a secular priest is a priest who does not belong to a religious order; a regular priest is one who does. The term is most often opposed to religious in the sense of belonging to or serving the ends of a religion or church, then coming close to civil or public <secular schools> <secular journals> (the secular authority) (there are peoples in the world who have no secular dances, only religious dances—Ellis) (believing that no creed, religious or secular, can be justified except on the basis of reason and evidence—Times Lit. Sup.) Lay is applied to persons, or sometimes to their activities, interests, or duties, that do not belong to the clergy and particularly the regularly ordained clergy; it therefore usually implies an opposition to clerical or ecclesiastical (laymen and laywomen of the parish) (a lay preacher) (lay sermon) (lay delegates to a diocesan convention) In religious orders the term is applied to a class of religious who are occupied chiefly with domestic and manual work as distinguished from those who are occupied with liturgical observances, teaching, and study (the lay brothers in a monastery)

Lay is often extended to other than the clerical profession (compare lay analyst under NEUROLOGIST) in the sense of nonprofessional or of not having a professional source or character; thus, a lay opinion on a question of law is merely an opinion delivered by one who is neither a lawyer nor a judge (the doctrine of scienter . . . in the lay mind has been converted into the popular half truth that a dog is entitled to his first bite—Field-Fisher)

Temporal implies an opposition to spiritual (in the sense of being concerned not with material or mundane but with immaterial and eternal ends) and is applied chiefly to sovereigns, rulers, or dignitaries having political authority or civil power; thus, lords temporal are those members of the British House of Lords who are not bishops or archbishops (these latter being called lords spiritual) (the Papacy had no temporal power between 1870, the year of the fall of the Papal State, and 1929, the year of the establishment of Vatican City) (persuading the Church to forego its claim to temporal authority and confine its attention to spiritual benefactions—Littlefield)

Ana worldly, mundane, *earthly, terrestrial
Ant sacred —Con *holy, divine, religious, spiritual 2 *impartial, blasphemous, sacrilegious


profanity blasphemy, cursing, swearing

Ana imprecation, *curse, malediction: exegation, objuration, damming (see corresponding verbs at EXECRATE)

profess *assert, declare, affirm, aver, protest, avouch, avow, predicate, warrant

Ana allege, *adduce, advance

profession art, handicraft, craft, *trade

proffer *offer, tender, present, prefer

Ana propose, design, *intend: confer, bestow, present, *give.

Con reject, spurn, refuse, *decline

proficient, adept, skilled, skillful, expert, masterly are comparable when they mean having the knowledge and experience necessary to success in a given line especially of work or endeavor. When applied to things rather than persons, all these terms carry the implication that the quality of the person has been attributed to the thing. Proficient implies training and practice as the source of competency beyond the average (proficient in the art of self-defense—Shaw) (Jane began to type. It bored her, but she was fairly proficient at it—Rosen Macaulay)

Adept implies proficiency but stresses aptitude and often cleverness (adept at leggerdemain) (so adept at the lovely polishing of every grave and lutean phrase—Gibbons)

Skilled, often interchangeable with proficient, may distinctively suggest mastery of the details of a trade or handicraft or of the technique of an art or profession. In modern industrial use skilled simply connotes that one has met a standard set up by employers for a special type of work or job (skilled labor) (the skilled trades) (by long practice, he was skilled in the arts of teaching—Gibbons) (professors, students, and skilled employees make a varied assault upon the mysteries of marine biology—Parshley)

Skillful implies adceptness coupled with dexterity in execution or performance (a skillful operator of an automobile) (a skillful teacher) (in little danger with a skillful hand at the helm—Nordhoff & Hall) (the solution achieved by a skillful minority in face of a hostile majority—Parrington)

Expert applies to one who has attained extraordinary proficiency or is exceptionally adept (an expert accountant) (an expert bridge player) (expert knowledge of engines) (neither of them was expert in the roping of cattle—Mary Austin) (explaining at length, but with an expert lucidity, some basic point of law—Edmund Wilson) (Masterly, applied more often to the thing executed or the quality displayed than to the person who executes or displays, is close to expert in its implication of proficiency and adceptness, but it commonly adds a suggestion of confident control (he compressed into the masterly introductory essays . . . his entire theory of the progress of the United States—Bydwell) (his masterly dissimulation—Motley) (how masterly is he in all the points of his profession—Trollope)

Ana efficient, effectual, *effective: capable, *able, competent, qualified: finished, accomplished, *consummate: practiced, drilled, exercised (see practice vb) Con *awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche: *ignorant, untaught

profile *outline, contour, silhouette, skyline

profit n *use, service, advantage, account, avail

Ana reward, award, meed, guerdon (see PREMIUM): gaining or gain, winning (see GET)

profit vb *benefit, avail

Ana *get, gain, win: *advance, progress

profitable 1 *beneficial, advantageous

Ana *favorable, auspicious, propitious: *expedient, advisable, politic

Ant unprofitable —Con detrimental, deleterious (see PERNICIOUS): harming or harmful, injurious, hurting or achieved (see corresponding verbs at INJURE)

2 *paying, gainful, remunerative, lucrative

Ana fruitful (see FERTILE): compensating, recompenising, repaying (see PAY): valuable, precious (see COSTLY)

profligate adj dissolute, reprobate, *abandoned

Ana debauched, corrupted, depraved, debased, perverted (see under DEBASE): degenerate, corrupt, *vicious: *loose, relaxed, slack, lax

profligate n *spendthrift, prodigal, wastrel, waster

Ana debauche, pervert, corrupter (see corresponding verbs at DEBASE): libertine, lecher (see corresponding adjectives at LICENTIOUS)

profound *deep, abysmal

Ana penetrating, probing, piercing (see ENTER): scrutinizing, inspecting, examining (see SCRUTINIZE)

Ani shallow

profuse, lavish, prodigal, luxuriant, lush, exuberant carry as their basic meaning giving out or given out in great abundance. What is profuse seems to pour or be poured forth in abundance, without restraint, or in a stream (profuse...
fuse apologies) (profuse sweating) (pourest thy full heart in profuse strains of unpremeditated art—Shelley) (a land where life was great . . . and beauty lay profuse—Browning)

What is lavish is so exceedingly profuse as to suggest, positively, munificence or extravagance or, negatively, the absence of all stint or moderation (lavish gifts) (a lavish feast) (lavish expenditures) (the lavish attentions of his mother—Meredith) (our lavish use of a bountiful supply of crude oil—Morrison) What is prodigal gives or is given so lavishly and so recklessly as to suggest waste or the ultimate exhaustion of resources (chary of praise and prodigal of counsel—Stevenson) (the prodigal expenditures of the recent war—M. W. Childs) (he had been prodigal with his money and she probably imagined that he was still in funds—Cliff Farrer)

What is luxuriant produces or is produced in great and rich abundance; the term usually connotes not only profusion but gorgeousness or splendor in what is produced (her luxuriant hair) (the luxuriant imagination of Milton) (this damp and mild climate makes possible the most luxuriant forest growth—Forde) (rich and luxuriant beauty; a beauty that {h}one with deep and vivid tints—Hawthorne)

What is luscious is not only luxuriant but has reached the peak of its perfection; the term distinctively connotes richness, fullness of development, or luxuriousness (how lush and lusty the grass looks! how green!—Shak.) (the lush . . . full-blown landscape of the south through which they had set out that morning—Jan Struther) (the fabulous period of the Nineties, that lush, plush, glittering era with all its sentimentality and opulence and ostentation—S. H. Hay)

What is exuberant produces or is produced so abundantly or luxuriantly as to suggest exceedingly great vigor, vitality, or creative power; the term applies chiefly to persons or their words, emotions, or qualities that display a vigor or vitality that is almost rampant (an exuberant fancy) (the exuberant genius of Shakespeare) (to restrain my too exuberant gesture—Mary Austin) (exuberant energy) (actually, in the present context, all our exuberant post-Sputnik talk is irrelevant and even nonsensical—Huxley)

Anna copious, abundant (see plentiful): *excessive, immoderate, extravagant: *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, generous

Ant spare, scanty, scant —Con *meager, skimpy, scrimpy, exiguous, sparse

progenitor *ancestor, forefather, forebear
Ant progeny

progeny *offspring, young, issue, descendant, posterity
Ant progenitor

prognosis *diagnosis

prognostic *foretoken, presage, omen, augury, portent Anna indication, betokening, bespeaking (see corresponding verbs at indicate): symptom, *sign, mark, token

prognosticate *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy, augur, presage, portend, foretell, foretaste Anna *indicate, betoken, bespeak: *foresee, foreknow, apprehend, divine, anticipate

program, schedule, timetable, agenda denote a formulated plan listing things to be done or to take place, especially in their time order. Program is the term of widest application. It may refer to a mental plan or to one that is written or printed; it may be applied not only to a plan for a meeting, an entertainment, or a service but to one made by an individual in ordering his own day or his own future or to one made by a group that has certain ends in view and proposes their orderly achievement (what is your program for today?) (the program of a concert) (theater programs) (the Five-Year Plan was the name given the industrialization program of the Soviet Union) Schedule and timetable stress the importance of the time element and imply a plan of procedure which establishes not only the chronological order of events or steps but also their time limits (the schedule for a college year) (a schedule of production in a factory) (the timetable life of a New York University student—N. Y. Times) (the timetable for expansion of Soviet power and influence in Asia has been seriously upset—Mosely) Schedule is sometimes used, but timetable distinctly more often, for a tabulated list of regularly recurring events (as arrivals and departures of trains or buses) (a schedule of classes) (it was in October 1839 that George Bradshaw issued the first timetable to show all trains then running in this country—O. S. Nock)

Agenda is applied chiefly to a schedule of the order of business for a meeting. progress n (see under advance vb 1)

Ana improvement, betterment (see corresponding verbs at improve): headway, impetus (see speed n)

2 Progress, progression are not always clearly distinguished, although they can be more or less sharply differentiated. Both denote movement forward. Progress (see also progress n under advance vb 2) usually applies to a movement considered as a whole, stressing such aspects as the distance covered, the change or changes taking place, and the amount of improvement made (we made little progress that day) (note the extent of his progress during the past year) (delightful never-ending progress to perfection—Hazlitt) (the history of educational progress) (the rapid progress of a disease) Progress (see also succession) commonly applies to a movement in itself or in its detail, often implying a continuous series of steps, degrees, or stages toward an objective but sometimes implying little more than a moving on more or less continuously (mode of progression) (that slow progression of things, which naturally makes elegance and refinement the last effect of opulence and power—Reynolds) (every generation . . . adds . . . its own discoveries in a progression to which there seems no limit—Peacock)

progress vb *advance

Ana move, drive, impel: further, forward, promote, *advance: develop, *mature

Ant retrogress

progression 1 *succession, series, sequence, chain, train, string

2 *progress

progressive *liberal, advanced, radical
Ant reactionary

prohibit *forbid, inhibit, enjoin, interdict, ban
Ana *prevent, preclude, obviate: debar, shut out, *exclude: *hinder, impede, obstruct: *restrict, curb, check
Ana permit —Con *let, allow, suffer: tolerate, endure, *bear

project n scheme, design, plot, *plan
Ana sketch, delineation, draft, outline, diagram (see under sketch vb): *device, contrivance

project vb 1 scheme, design, plot, plan (see under plan n) Ana propose, purpose, *intend: *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate

2 *bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, overhang, beetle

Ana *extend, prolong, lengthen: swell, distend, *expand

projection, protrusion, protuberance, bulge all denote something which extends beyond a level or a normal outer surface. Projection is applicable to anything that juts out, especially at a sharp angle (buttresses are projections which serve to support a wall or a building at a point of great strain or pressure) (machinery set in motion to keep a level smooth . . . feels the least projection, and
tries to flatten it out—*Hearn* 〈the appendix is a small fingerlike projection from the large bowel—*Fishbein*〉

**Promotion** applies to something which is thrust out or which pushes out so that it seems an excretion or deformity 〈a projection of lava in the form of a thousand-foot pinnacle〉 〈the fantastic gables, pinnacles, and protrusions which intercepted the light—*Samuel Lucas*〉

A protuberance swells or pushes out, often in rounded rather than angular form 〈warty protuberances on a potato〉 〈balconies, bay windows and protuberances which make their fronts look like bemedaled chests—*Hauser*〉 〈a bulge is a protuberance or expansion of a surface caused usually by pressure from within or below 〈a bulge in a wall〉 〈there is a slight bulge in the soil before the first stalk of a plant appears〉

**prolific** fruitful, *fertile, fecund* 〈Ana teeming, swarming, abounding (see *TEEM*): generating, breeding, propagating, reproducing or reproductive (see corresponding verbs at *GENERATE*)〉

**Ant** barren, unfruitful

**prolificacy** fruitfulness, fertility, fecundity (see under *FERTILE*)

**prolix** *wordy, verbose, diffuse, redundant* 〈Ana tedious, *irksome, tiresome, wearisome: prolonged, protracted (see *EXTEND*: pleonastic, circumlocutory, redundant, tautological (see corresponding nouns at *VERBIAGE*)〉

**prologue** *introduction, prelude, preface, foreword, exordium, preamble* 〈prolong, *extend, lengthen, elongate*〉

**prominent** remarkable, conspicuous, salient, outstanding, signal, *noticeable, striking, arresting* 〈Ana *chief, leading, main: principal: important, significant (see corresponding nouns at *IMPORTANT*)〉

**promiscuous** heterogeneous, motley, *miscellaneous* 〈Ana mixed, mingled, blended, merged (see *MIX*: random, haphazard, desultory, casual: *indiscriminate, wholesale, sweeping: *licentious, lewd, wanton, lascivious*〉

**Con** discriminating, perceiving, discerning (see corresponding nouns at *DISCERNMENT*): discreet, prudent, forethoughtful (see under *PRUDENCE*)

**promise vb** Promise, engage, pledge, covenant, contract are comparable when they mean to give one's word that one will act in a specified way (as by doing, making, giving, or accepting) in respect to something stipulated. *Promise* implies a giving assurance either orally or in writing but it suggests no further grounds for expectation of the fulfillment of what is promised 〈he is a man of his word, what he promises he performs〉

**promised** that he would pay his bill 〈promised to do painting, trimming and repairing with all possible expediency—*Riker*〉

**promised to reexamine all royalty cases cleared by the Democrats—*Ginzburg*〉 〈she has promised herself a trip to Bermuda〉 〈Engage implies a more binding agreement or more definite commitment than *promise*. Typically it is used in formal or consequential situations, sometimes specifically implying an agreement to marry and sometimes an agreement to accept as an employee. It ordinarily implies a promise regarded as binding and to be relied on and especially one concerning conduct over a period of time 〈to Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless—*Walford*〉

**study material about Gen. Grant, whose biography he had engaged to prepare—*Caffey*〉

**promontory** 〈the United States ... engaged to exclude peddlers from their country—*Foreman*〉

**pledge** (compare *pledge* n), aside from uses in connection with drives and charities 〈pledged a dollar a week to the church building fund〉, may imply the giving of a promise by some act or words that suggest the giving of a solemn assurance or the provision of a formal guarantee 〈pledged their loyalty to their sovereign〉 〈pledge themselves to maintain and uphold the right of the master—*Taney*〉

**promised with excited and angry men pledged to destroy the Church—*Bellco*〉

**plight** implies a solemn promising 〈if for America it is too violent a wrench to plight its fate with Europe's, even ... to prevent war—*Peffer*〉 and persists chiefly in a few stereotyped phrases such as "plight one's troth."

**Covenant** implies at least two parties to the promise, each making a solemn agreement with the other 〈a man cannot grant anything to his wife, or enter into covenant with her: for ... to covenant with her, would be only to covenant with himself—*Blackstone*〉 〈covenanted to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland—*Rose Macaulay*〉

**contract** (see also *contract vb 3, incurr*) implies the entry into a solemn and usually legally binding agreement (see *contract n*) 〈contract for a large loan〉 〈the company has contracted to supply the schools of the state with textbooks〉 〈the good wife realizes that in becoming a wife she contracts to forget self and put her husband's happiness above her own—*D. F. Miller*〉

**promote** forward, further, *advance* 〈Ana help, aid, assist: *speed, quicken, hasten, hurry*〉

**Ant** impede—Con *hinder, obstruct, block, bar*

**promotion 1** *advancement, preferment, elevation* 〈Ana *progress, progression: exaltation, magnifying, aggrandizement (see corresponding verbs at *EXALT*)〉

**Ant** demotion—Con *degradation, humiliation, debasement (see corresponding verbs at *ABASE*)* 〈2 *publicity, ballyhoo, propaganda*〉

**Anna advertisement, promulgation, broadcasting (see corresponding verbs at *DECLARE*)**

**prompt adj** *quick, ready, apt* 〈Ana alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: expeditious, speedy, swift (see *FAST*): trained, disciplined (see *TEACH*): eager, keen, avid* 〈Con remiss, lax, slack (see *NEGLIGENT*): dilatory, *slow*〉

**promulgate** proclaim, announce, *declare, publish, advertise, broadcast* 〈Anna *reveal, disclose, divulge, discover: profess, affirm, aver, avow, avouch (see *ASSERT*): *communicate, impart promulgation proclamation, declaration, announcement, publication, advertisement, broadcasting (see under *DECLARE*)**

**prone 1** subject, exposed, open, *liable, susceptible, sensi-"
propinquity *proportion *proximity
Ana closeness, nearness (see corresponding adjectives at close): relatedness or relationship, kindredness or kindred (see corresponding adjectives at related)
propitiative *pacify, appease, placate, mollify, conciliate
Ana reconcile, conform, adjust, *adapt: *satisfy, content: intercede, mediate (see interpose)
propitious auspicious, *favorable, benign
Ana benignant, *kind, kindly: fortunate, *lucky, providential, happy
Ant unpropitious: adverse — Con *sinister, malefic, malficient, malign, baleful: *ominous, inauspicious, portentous, fateful
proportion *symmetry, balance, harmony
proportional, proportionate, commensurate, commensurable are often used without marked distinction because all mean being duly proportioned to something else. Proportional and proportionate both imply due proportions either to a related thing or things, or of things that are related (as by belonging to the same set, series, design, or construction, or by being the effect of a cause or the response to a stimulus). Proportional is the more usual term when a constant and often mathematically precise ratio between corresponding aspects (as size, amount, number, or length) of related things is under consideration; thus, a proportional tax is one assessed as a constant percentage of the value (as of income or realty) being taxed; a proportional wage is a fixed percentage (as of gross sales or profits) the circumferences of all circles are proportional to the lengths of their radii a detailed plan for proportional . . . disarmament to be achieved by stages — Grenville Clark Proportional may be used, but proportionate is more often used, when the term is intended to imply the adjustment and sometimes the deliberate adjustment of one thing that bears a reciprocal relationship to another thing, so that both are in keeping with each other or not out of keeping with what is just, fair, due, or reasonable (the punishment should be proportionate to the crime) ponderous bodies forced into velocity move with violence proportionate to their weight — Johnson most state taxes produce a yield proportionate only to general economic growth — Armsbrister they rushed into freedom and enjoyment . . . with an energy proportional to their previous restraint — Dickinson Commensurate and commensurable differ from the preceding words chiefly in carrying a stronger implication of equality between related things each of which has a value (as of measure, degree, or intensity) that is intimately related to that of the other the meagerness of the result was commensurate with the crudity of the methods — Buchan the two punishments must be perfectly commensurable — Bentham Sometimes both terms, but especially commensurable, differ from the other words in implying a common scale of values by which outwardly different things can be shown to be equal or proportionate in some significant way (if two magnitudes can both be expressed in whole numbers in terms of a common unit, they are commensurable — W. G. Shute et al) all civilization[s] . . . are commensurable, and . . . are but ramifications (if not historically, at least phenomenologically) of the one idea of civilization — Schrecker the measure of a rancher’s ability to take care of live-stock while not on public land . . . is referred to as his commensurability and the property so used is his commensurate property — Appraisal Terminology & Handbook Ana corresponding, correlative, *reciprocal: relative, contingent, *dependent
proportionate *proportional, commensurate, commensurable
Ana corresponding, correlative, *reciprocal

Analogous words

Ant Antonyms

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
**proposition, proposition** denote something which is proposed to another for consideration. **Proposal** usually carries a clear suggestion of the act of proposing; thus, one receives a proposal, or entertains a proposal, or listens to a proposal. It also commonly implies an offer (as of oneself as a husband, or of a sum of money in return for the transferring of a piece of property) a proposal of marriage; he offered to sweep the floor of the gymnasium then and there. This proposal convinced the Skenes—Shaw (the steel industry refused to make any wage proposals until it obtained federal clearance for higher steel prices—Current History). But it may imply the suggestion of a scheme, a plan, or a project which may be accepted or rejected at the will of the one to whom it is proposed every proposal for a grant, a subsidy, a loan, is being examined more carefully and less enthusiastically than at any previous time—Harsch. This proposal was distinctly unreasonable, but Burr probably never seriously intended to carry it out—Cox. **Proposition** applies primarily to a usually affirmative statement that is propounded for discussion, argument, proof, or disproof (demonstrate the truth of a proposition) at first sight the proposition seemed absurd. The fanatical and ordered mobs proved, if the proposition needed proof, that in a time of crisis men will act from passion—MacLeish. It is a proposal too plain to be contested, that the constitution controls any legislative act repugnant to it—John Marshall. The term is also applicable to an implied or expressed principle that is or may be questioned or is regarded from the point of view of its truth or its falsity—who still fervently espouse the pestilential proposition that the world needs to be saved in a hurry by their own brand of righteousness—Rolo. **Proposition** has been and to a restricted extent still is used instead of proposal in the sense of a proposal made formally that some course of action be followed, some policy be adopted, or some honor granted—we hold it essential to our success that the proposition of Sir George Clerk should be adopted—Wilberforce. Parking meters for Bakersfield again will be a proposition on the June 3 ballot—Los Angeles Examiner. **Proposition** may replace proposal in implying an act of proposing (if you wish to buy this land, make me a proposition) but in such use it and especially the corresponding verb proposition may carry a hint of irregularity or impropriety that proposal lacks; thus, one offers a proposal of marriage but a proposition of less formal sexual relation propositioned him to work for the Soviets after his return to the United States—Exposé of Soviet Espionage.

**prostaff** 1 purpose, *intend, mean, design

**prospect** 2 **Propose, propound, pose** can all mean to set before the mind for consideration. **Propose** (see also INTEND) fundamentally implies an invitation to consider, discuss, settle, or agree on some question or some proposition clearly stated. In the last chapter I proposed the hypothesis that a pure poetry exists—Day Lewis. Someone proposed that he had really done it the night before by moonlight—Stafford. • or an offering for consideration or acceptance of someone as a candidate or aspirant or of something by way of a suggestion he proposed Mr. Smith for secretary of the club—propose marriage (with a swarm of fantastic reforms being every day suggested...perhaps we may propose one as fantastic as any other—Sullivan). **Propound** implies the stating of a question or proposition for discussion; it usually suggests neither personal bias nor an attempt to prove or disprove on the part of the one setting it forth or in the manner of setting it forth. The term is therefore often used when the writer or speaker wishes to convey no implications of how the one propounding would answer the question or deal with the proposition the query is propounded whether the privilege should be accorded to a physician of putting a patient painlessly out of the world when there is incurable disease—Cardozo. **Propound** the thesis that the great artist is an unconscious artist—T.S.Eliot. • if we may judge from his...facility in the propounding of theories—Huxley. Pose often equals propound, except that it frequently implies that no attempt will be or can be made to seek an immediate answer the problems posed by this situation in the control of cancer and diseases of the heart are receiving the most serious study—Morrison. I shall try at least to pose basic issues that underlie all our political problems—Frankfurter.

**ana** state (see RELATED): *offer, tender, present

**proposition** *propose

**propound** propose, pose

**proposery** decorum, decency, etiquette, dignity

**prorate** apportion, portion, parcel, ration

**prosaic, prosy** matter-of-fact all denote having a plain, practical, unimaginative, unemotional character or quality. **Prosaic** implies an opposition to poetic in the extended sense of that word. Although the term suggests the quality of prose, it seldom refers to literary prose as such but rather to the ordinary language of men in communicating their wants, their ideas, or their experiences, or in rendering intelligible what is difficult to understand or make clear; hence, prosaic usually implies a commonplace, unexciting quality, and the absence of everything that would stimulate feeling or awaken great interest (to make verse speak the language of prose, without being prosaic...is one of the most arduous tasks a poet can undertake—Cowper. A certain irreverent exuberance which prompts him never to choose a prosaic example for his concrete illustrations—Times Lit. Sup. (the eighteenth century, from the religious point of view, is a period of rather cold and prosaic common sense—Inge) (a record of mediocrities, of the airless prosaic world of a small college town—E.K. Brown). **Prosy**, on the other hand, suggests a relation to prose, the verb, rather than to prose, the noun, and heightens the implication in the verb of turning what is poetry or interesting prose into dull plain prose (as by paraphrasing or by translating). Consequently, prosy stresses extreme dullness or tediousness and usually implies a tendency to talk or write at length in a boring or uninviting manner (made me wish that he would be long-winded and prosy instead of twitching me from one thing to another—Sassoon) (call prosy dull society sinners, who chatter and beat and bore—Gilbert). **Matter-of-fact** stresses a lack of interest in the imaginative, speculative, visionary, romantic or ideal; sometimes it connotes accuracy in detail, but often it suggests concern only for the obvious and a neglect of the deeper or spiritual reality or an absence of emotional quality (a matter-of-fact account of his experience—a matter-of-fact historian) (faced with this matter-of-fact skepticism you are driven into pure metaphysics—Shaw). • Lilly, who was matter-of-fact and in whom introspection, poetry or contemplation had no place—Ethel Wilson.

**ana** practical, *practicable: boring, tedious, *irksome

**proscribe** sentence, condemn, damn, doom

**proselyte** convert

**prospect, outlook, anticipation, foretaste** are comparable when they mean an advance realization of something to
prosper, prosy
* prosaic, matter-of-fact

avech, avow, profess, affirm, aver, *assert,

vb

shield, guard, safeguard, *defend

protract

foretaste
> giving me amid Ant
curtail
> shortening, abridge, abbreviate

*cure, delay, retard, slow, slacken, *defer, suspend, stay, postpone

Ant curtail —Con *shorten, abridge, abbreviate

prostrate *prone, supine, recumbent, couchant, dormant

prosy *prosaic, matter-of-fact

protuberate *bulge, jut, stick out, protrude, project, overhang, beetle

protrude *bulge, jut, stick out, protrude, project, overhang, beetle

protrusior *projection, protruberance, bulge

protruberance *projection, protrusion, bulge

proverbiate *bulge, jut, stick out, protrude, project, overhang, beetle

Ana obtrude (see INTRUDE): *extend, swell, distend, *expand

protrusion *projection, protruberance, bulge

proverbiate *bulge, jut, stick out, protrude, project, overhang, beetle

Ana swell, distend, *expand

proud 1 Proud, arrogant, haughty, lordly, insolent, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful can mean in common filled with or showing a sense of one's superiority and scorn for what one regards as in some way inferior. Proud (see also proud under PRIDE n) usually connotes a lofty or imposing manner, attitude, or appearance that may be interpreted as dignified, elevated, spirited, imperious, satisfied, contemptuous, or inordinately conceived according to the circumstances. Why should the spirit of mortal be proud? Like a swift-flying meteor, a fast-flying cloud. ... he passeth from life to his rest in the grave—William Knox. <she's a stick-up proud girl, and she hasn't a proper decency—Buck. (A dictator convinced that destiny lies in his own hands is bound to be proud, ruthless and ultimately destructive—Billy Graham.) Arrogant implies a disposition to claim for oneself, often domineeringly or aggressively, more consideration or importance than is warranted or justly due. The Junker developed into a rude, domineering, arrogant type of man, without cultivation or culture—Shirer. (In holidays the atmosphere of home is apt to be dominated by the young people. Consequently they tend to become arrogant and hard—Russell.) Haughty implies a strong consciousness of exalted birth, station, or character, and a more or less obvious scorn of those who are regarded as beneath one. (Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall—Prov 16:18.) (His walk, his haughty, indifferent manner spoke his scorn for the two ... men who accompanied him—Hervey). The last four words of this group are more specific than the preceding terms and refer more to the ways in which arrogance or haughtiness is exhibited than to the temperament or attitude. Lordly usually suggests pomposity, stutting, or an arrogant display of power or magnificence. (A lordly indifference to making money by his writings—Stephen.) A lordly foreman in a shoe factory—a man who, in distributing the envelopes, had the manner of a prince doling out favors to a servile group of petitioners—Dreiser. Insolent implies both haughtiness and extreme contemptuousness. It carries a stronger implication than the preceding words of a will to insult or affront the person so treated. (She could not determine whether the silent contempt of the gentlemen, or the insolent smiles of the ladies, were more intolerable—Austen.) (Vile food, vile beyond belief, slapped down before their sunken faces by insolent waiters—K. A. Porter.) Overbearing suggests a bullying or tyrannical disposition, or intolerable insolence (An overbearing employer). (Back country militiamen whose rough overbearing manners sorely tried the Indians' patience—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.) Supercilious stresses such superficial aspects of haughtiness as a lofty patronizing manner intended to repel advances. It refers to one's behavior to others rather than to one's concept of oneself, though the latter is always implied; often it suggests not only scorn but also incivility, they have no blood these people. Their voices, their supercilious eyes that look you up and down—Galsworthy.) (Supercilious and haughty they [camels] turn this way and that, like the dowagers of very aristocratic families at a plebeian evening party—Huxley.) Disdainful implies a more passionate scorn for what is beneath one
than does supercilious; it as often as not suggests justifiable pride or justifiable scorn (very elegant in velvet and broad-cloth, with delicately cut, disdainful features,—one had only to see him cross the room . . . to feel the electric quality under his cold reserve—Cather) (a democracy smugly disdainful of new ideas would be a sick democracy—Eisenhower)

**Ana** contemptuous, scornful, disdainful (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING): pretentious, ostentatious (see SHOWY): imperious, domineering, *masterful

*Ant* humble: ashamed

2 vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE n)

**Ana** exalted, magnified, aggrandized (see EXALT): self-satisfied, *complacent, smug: contented, satisfied (see under SATISFY)

*Ant* ashamed: humble

**prove** 1 Prove, try, test, demonstrate are comparable when they mean to establish a given or an implied contention or reach a convincing conclusion by such appropriate means as evidence, argument, or experiment. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in their corresponding nouns **proof, trial, test, demonstration** when they denote the process or the means by which a contention is established or a convincing conclusion is reached. Prove and proof (see also INDICATE, REASON n 1) are the most widely useful of these terms, employable not only in reference to contentions and conclusions, but also in reference to persons or things whose quality (as of strength, genuineness, or fitness) is in question. When used in reference to contentions or to conclusions reached by study, they imply that evidence sufficient in amount and sufficiently reliable in its character has been adduced to bring conviction of the truth of the contentions or conclusions and to make other contentions or other conclusions untenable (this proposition may or may not be true; at present there is certainly no evidence sufficient to prove it true—Russell) (the legislation of the different colonies furnishes positive and indisputable proof of this fact—Taney) But prove and proof when used in reference to persons or things about which there is doubt in some particular imply the settlement of this doubt or the establishing of certainty of his or its quality by subjecting the thing to an experiment or by giving the person a chance to manifest his quality in experience, or by such means as assaying, verifying, or checking (we want to realize our spontaneity and prove our powers, for the joy of it—Justice Holmes) (prove a cannon) (proved his courage in action) (put a man’s loyalty to the proof) (the proof of the pudding is in the eating) Try and trial (see also ATTEMPT vb, TRIAL 2) carry implications from their earliest senses of to separate, or the separation of, the good from the bad in a person or thing, and therefore stress not the conclusion reached but the process by which the guilt or innocence of a person is definitely proved, or a thing’s genuineness or falsity, its worth or worthless, or its degree of strength or validity is definitely established (try a person for theft) (a boy does not like to be called a fool, and is usually ready to try the question with his fists—Meredith) (some other apparently inaccessible peak on which to try their ardor and endurance—Mais) (the new employee is on trial) (a brief trial of the plan would convince the people of its futility—Osg & Ray) Test, both as a verb and as a noun, implies a putting to decisive proof by means of experiment, use, experience, or comparison with a high standard, or through subjection to a thorough examination or trial for the sake of such proof or a determination of the facts (experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution—Washington)

**provident** prudent, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet
providential (see under PRUDENCE)

*Ana* careful, solicitous, concerned (see under CARE n):
*Ant* improvident

providential *lucky, fortunate, happy

*Ana* benign, auspicious, propitious, *favorable: benignant, kindly, *kind

providing see under provided at IF

province *field, domain, sphere, territory, bailiwick

*Ana* *limit, confine, bound, end

pru...
much as he might have been by the *proximity* of a large dog of doubtful temper—*Shaw*; *Propinquity* may imply proximity, but it then usually distinctively suggests closeness, sometimes even contact (we read a book because it happens to be near us and it looks inviting. It is a case where *propinquity* is everything—*Crothers*). *They are jammed into such propinquity with one another in their new suburbia—Whyte*; but it is more often used as *proximity* is not, to imply nearness in relationship (here I dismiss all my paternal care, *propinquity*, and property of blood—*Shak.*); or closeness in association, in age, or in tastes (*environment and propinquity make for a desire to graduate from marijuana to opiates—Maurer & Vogel*); or even closeness in time (events occurring in close *propinquity* to each other) (thereby was declared the *propinquity of their desolations, and that their tranquility was of no longer duration than those soon decaying fruits of summer—*Browne*).

_An* nearness, closeness (see corresponding adjectives at *CLOSE*): adjacency, contiguousness, juxtaposition (see corresponding adjectives at *ADJACENT*)

_Ant* distance

_proxy* deputy, attorney, *agent, factor

**prudence, providence, foresight, forethought, discretion** are comparable when they denote a quality that enables a person to choose the wise and sensible course, especially in managing his practical affairs. The same differences in implications and connotations are apparent in the corresponding adjectives _prudent, provident, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet_. *Prudence* and _prudent_ (see also _wise_), the most comprehensive of these words, imply both that one does not act rashly or unadvisedly and that one has thought for its founder—_Eliot_. The same differences in *prudence* or:_prudent_ suggest due consideration of what is at stake and then assigns to each its proper weight—_JAMA_. _Prudence_ and _prudent_ are implied in thoughts of the intellectual *providence_ to acquire . . . vast stores of dry information—_Bagel_. A _provident_, rather thoughtful people, who made their livelihood secure by raising crops and fowl—_Cather_. *Foresight_ and _foresighted_ stress a power, usually the result of a highly developed intelligence, of seeing what is likely to happen and of being prepared for it (the more we study the making of the princepat, the more we shall be impressed with the grasp and foresight of its founder—_Buchan_). *Incapable of the foresighted control and adjustment of action which are the essence of all the higher forms of behavior—McDougall*. _Foresight_ and the less frequent _foresightful_ suggest due consideration of contingencies (in choosing the Yankee dialect, I did not act without _foresight_—_J. R. Lowell_); _every newcomer, be he never so foresightful, finds himself lacking tools_—_Bell_. _Discretion_ and _discreet_ stress qualities (as good judgment, caution, and self-control) which make for _prudence_ or compel _prudent_ action; they often imply the power to restrain oneself when one is tempted to be temerarious, passionate, incensed, or loquacious (encountered an eagerness to talk and a candor of expression among officials that . . . has heavily taxed my _discretion_—_A. E. Stevenson_). _I dare say he will be a discreeter man all his life, for the foolishness of his first choice—Austen_; _Ana* caution, circumspection, calculation (see under _CAUTION*); expediency, advisableness (see corresponding adjectives at _EXPEDITIOUS_): frugality, thriftiness or _thrift_ (see corresponding adjectives at _SPARING_)

**prudent** 1 judicious, sensible, sane, *wise, sage, sapient

_**prudent**_ *intelligent, brilliant, bright, smart, alert*: *shrewd, perspicacious, sagacious, astute*: disciplined, schooled (see _TEACH_)

2 _provident, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet_ (see _PRUDENCE*_).

_**Ana**_ *cautious, circumspect, calculating, wary*: _political, expedient, advisable_: economical, frugal, thrifty, _sparing_.

3 _Prudent, prudential_ are sometimes confused in use. _Prudent_ applies to persons or their acts or utterances and implies such qualities of mind or character as caution, circumspection, and thrift (see _prudent_ under _PRUDENCE_), or as wisdom in practical affairs (see _wise_). _A prudent man_ (a _prudent_ course) (a _prudent_ way of life) (people who are both dissolve and _prudent_. They want to have their fun, and they want to keep their position—_Socville-West_). _Prudential_, on the other hand, applies not to individuals but either to habits, motives, policies, or considerations which are dictated or prescribed by _prudence_, forethought, business sense, or practical wisdom (in a _prudential_ light it is certainly a very good match for her—_Austen_). _From obvious _prudential_ considerations the Pacific has been principally sailed over in known tracts—_Melville_); or to committees, groups, or associations having charge of practical affairs such as expeditures or exercising discretionary or advisory powers in regard to these (_prudential investment society_). _The _prudential_ committee of a Congregational church_. _Ana* _politic, _expedient, _advisable_: advising, counseling (see corresponding verbs under _ADVICE_)

**prudential** *prudent*

**prudish** *prim, priggish, prissy, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy

_An* *rigid, strict*: stern, *severe, austere*: formal, conventional, solemn (see _CEREMONIAL_)

**prune** _vb_ trim, top, *shear, poll, clip, snip, crop

_An* enhance, heighten (see _INTENSIFY_); eliminate, exclude

**prying** *curious, inquisitive, snoopy, nosy

_An* _meddlesome, officious, _impertinent, intrusive, _obtrusive

**pseudo** *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pinchbeck, phony

_An* *false, wrong*: *misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory

**pseudonym**, alias, _nom de guerre_, _pen name_, _nom de plume_, _incognito_ all denote a name other than one's true or legal name. **Pseudonym** usually implies assumption of a fictitious name as an accepted practice of writers, prizefighters, actors, and entertainers; it does not suggest a discreditable motive for one's attempt to conceal one's identity. _Alias_, in legal use, covers not only assumed names, but those ascribed by others; thus, a boy's true name may be John Potter but he is better known by the _alias_ John Rhoads (Rhoads being his stepfather's name). In more general use _alias_ is associated regularly with offenders against the law and usually connotes an attempt to free oneself by a change of name from the onus of a criminal record. _Nom de guerre_ is a pseudonym assumed by one who seeks anonymity or freedom of scope typically as an adventurer, a critic, or a controversialist; _pen name_ or _nom de plume_ is the pseudonym of a writer. _Incognito_ can denote a name or character adopted especially by a person of rank or eminence from a desire to remain unrecognized or as a polite fiction by which the honors due his rank or eminence may be avoided (the Prince
psyc

of Wales often traveled under the incognito of Baron Chester

psychic *ment, intellect, soul, brain, intelligence, wit

psychologist *neurologist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst

psychopathologist *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist

psychopharmacologist *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist

psychosis *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia

psychoanalyst *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist

puberty, pubescence *youth, adolescence

public *following, clientele, audience

publication declaration, announcement, advertisement, proclamation, promulgation, broadcasting (see under DECLARE)

publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda are comparable

publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

publish *declare, announce, advertise, proclaim, promulgate, broadcast

publish *declare, announce, advertise, proclaim, promulgate, broadcast

puerile *youthful, juvenile, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden

puerile *youthful, juvenile, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden

pugnacious combative, belligerent, bellicose, quarrelsome, contentious

pulp n *criticism, critique, review, blurb

draw vb *pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) pull a person toward one pull down goods from a shelf pull out a drawer (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition) draw usually implies a pulling forward or toward the person or thing that exerts the force; commonly it implies a steadier and smoother and often gentler motion than pull (draw a chair to the fireside) (the coach was drawn by six horses) draw a sled over the snow (he felt drawn this way and that way by duty and by ambition) pull an armchair to one (the parasol drew him like a magnet) (the drawing power of a play) or a bringing forth or eliciting from a source of supply (draw money from the bank) (a . . . being from whom we draw power and refreshment)

draw vb *pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force; usually it suggests active or passive resistance (the horses dragged the overturned carriage half a mile) (the ship dragged her moorings in the storm) (the laden net to the shore) (draw logs to the river) (the attempt which is now being made to drag Anglicanism away from its history and traditions) Haul implies a forcible pulling, sometimes a dragging (when the hawser fell into the water, there was no means of hauling the boat to shore) haul down the sails (that dangling figure hauled him aside and calmed him down) (the horses dragged the overturned carriage half a mile) (the ship dragged her moorings in the storm) (the laden net to the shore) (draw logs to the river) (the attempt which is now being made to drag Anglicanism away from its history and traditions) In extended use draw often specifically implies a result dependent on a drawing by lot (draw a prize) (draw a jury) or by extracting (draw a tooth) or by an inferring (draw a conclusion) or by attracting (the parasol drew him like a magnet) (Wharton) (the drawing power of a play) or a bringing forth or eliciting from a source of supply (draw money from the bank) (a . . . being from whom we draw power and refreshment)

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psyc

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
pulsate, pulse, beat, throb, palpitate can mean to manifest the pulsing pulses of blood it may also connote a lively succession of reciprocating movements such as or similar to the one which occurs in the circulatory system when blood is forced along by alternate contractions and relaxations of the ventricles of the heart. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are to be found in the nouns pulsation, pulse, beat, throb, palpitation when they are used of this rhythmical movement or of one distinct step in it. Pulsate and pulsation carry few specific or distinguishing connotations, but they usually imply regularity, continuity, and vigor in the rhythm whether it is apparent in movements or in sounds when the heart no longer pulsates, death occurs. Great effort pulsating from the heart of this small island—Sir Winston Churchill the pulsations of its engine had died away—Bennett long heavy pulsation of airplanes passing over—Thirkell Pulse, the verb, carries a strong implication of impelled movement, in distinction from pulsate it may also connotate a lively succession of spurs, waves, or gushes; thus, the arteries pulsate as the blood pulses through them. The term is more common in general and technical than in ordinary use. It sometimes takes as its subject what flows or moves in this fashion (as the blood) and at other times what evidences the rhythmical movement (as the heart or blood vessels) the pulsing waters of the sea through the tensed veins on his forehead the blood could be seen to pulse in nervous staccato bounds—Donn Byrne Eustacia . . . set inwardly pulsing by his words—Hardy they move and breathe in an environment that pulses and glows—Mencken Pulse, the noun, is chiefly a technical term; even its extended use is affected by or dependent on the term's meaning in physiology. In this sense, pulse usually denotes the number of pulsations of the arteries in a minute as observed commonly by feeling the radial artery of the wrist a normal pulse a patient's pulse an intermittent pulse in his eardrums hammers his heavy pulse—Lowell In extended use pulse, when it does not take the place of pulsation is usually a metaphoric extension of the technical use Rome was the heart and pulse of the empire . . . and on its well-being hung the future of the civilized world—Buchan one felt the pulse of the village in the pub—Mais Beat, both verb and noun, is the ordinary non-technical word often used in place of pulsate and pulsation and sometimes in place of pulse. It stresses rhythmical recurrence of sounds more often than rhythmical and continuous alternation in movement he could hear the beat of his heart this breathing was hard and . . . the blood beat in his ears and eyes—Robertson Davies A question was beating unanswered at the back of his brain—Glasgow It is the more usual designation for something (as the tick of a clock, a stroke on a drum, and the accentuated syllable in verse or note in music) that strikes the ear at regular intervals the beat of a bird's wing against a windscreen the beating of tom-toms. Both the noun and verb throb imply vigorous and often violent or painful pulsation throb of drum and timbal's rattle—Housman the throbbing of an abscessed tooth Either is especially appropriate when there is the intent to imply excitement, strain, or emotional stress the love which fills the letter, which throbs and burns in it—H. O. Taylor here is a captain, let him tell the tale; your hearts will throb and weep to hear him speak—Shak. the throb of their activity is felt throughout the whole body politic—R. M. Dawson Palpitate and palpitation imply rapid, often abnormally rapid and fluttering, pulsation. In medical use the terms commonly imply overexertion, violent emotion, or a diseased condition; in extended use, however, the words more often imply a rapid vibration, quivering, or shaking, without any connotation of something amiss then, delicate and palpitating as a silver reed, she stood up in the soft light of the morning—Hewlett though the book palpitates with its amour, nothing like simple ordinary human love is to be seen anywhere—Barrett Ana vibrate, fluctuate, waver, oscillate (see SWING) quiver, shudder, quaver, tremble (see SHAKE)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
punish, chastise, castigate, chasten, discipline, correct

incisive, trenchant, biting, cutting: penetrating,

ana fortune must balance it now and then with a

ant analogous words See also explanatory notes facing page 1

punish, chastise, castigate, chasten, discipline, correct

incisive, trenchant, biting, cutting: penetrating,
purge vb *rid, clear, unburden, disable
Ana cleanse, *clean: eliminate, *exclude, debar, shut out, rule out: *eject, oust, dismiss, expel: expunge, *erase, efface, delete

puritanical *prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, straitlaced, stuffy
Ana *rigid, rigorous, strict: *plain, simple, homely, unpretentious: *illiberal, narrow, narrow-minded, hidebound, intolerant, bigoted

purloin *steal, pilfer, filch, lift, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop
Ana abstract, *detach: *rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burglarize

purport n *substance, gist, burden, core, pith
Ana *significance, import, *meaning, signification: tenor, *tendency, drift, trend

purported *supposed, supposititious, suppositional, reputed, putative, conjectural, hypothetical

purpose n *intention, intent, design, aim, end, object, objective, goal
Ana *ambition, aspiration: proposition, *proposal: *plan, project, scheme

purpose vb propose, design, *intend, mean
Ana meditate, *ponder: weigh, *consider, contemplate: plan, plot, scheme, project (see under PLAN n): determine, *decide

pursue *follow, chase, trail, tag, tail
Ana *persevere, persist: *practice, exercise: persecute, oppress (see WRONG vb): hound, ride, *bait, badger
Con flee, fly, *escape: avoid, evade, elude, shun (see ESCAPE)

pursuit calling, occupation, employment, *work, business

purvey *cater, pander
Ana *furnish, equip, outfit

purview *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken

push vb Push, shove, thrust, propel mean to use force upon a thing so as to make it move ahead or aside. Push implies the application of force by a body (as a person) already in contact with the body to be moved onward, aside, or out of the way (push a wheelbarrow along the road) (push a door open) (push a man over a cliff) (an extra locomotive was needed at the rear to push the long train up the grade) (push the excited children into another room) Shove often differs from push in carrying a stronger implication of the exercise of muscular strength and of forcing something along a surface (the boys shoved the furniture up against the walls) (I picked him up trying to shove in the front door. There wouldn't been any door in a minute—Helmholtz) Often, when muscular exertion is not strongly implied, haste or roughness or rudeness in pushing is suggested (shove the paper into his pocket) (shove the articles on the desk into a box) (shove a person out of one's way) (I can't say that I took the drink. It got shoved into my hand—Warren) Thrust differs from push in carrying a weaker implication of steadiness or continuance in the application of force and a stronger suggestion of rapidity in the movement effected or of violence in the force that is used; often the use of actual physical force is not clearly implied (Abraham . . . thrust the old man out of his tent—Taylor) (thrust her hands in her coat pockets in a coquettish pose—Wouk) Often, also, it implies the sudden and forcible pushing (as of a weapon, implement, or instrument) so that it enters into the thing aimed at (thrust a spear into an opponent's breast) (thrusting their money into a stranger's hand—Wolfe) Propell implies a driving forward or onward by a force or power that imparts motion. In some use it implies pressure exerted from outside or behind, usually by some power that is not human (the flow of air which propels the slow-sailing clouds—Loves) (she walked—as if she were being propelled from the outside, by a force that she neither knew nor could control—Tate) Additionally, it is the usual term when the use of a mechanical aid or of an actuating power (as steam or electrical power) is implied (ships propelled by steam) (a galley propelled by fifty oars) (automobiles are usually propelled by internal-combustion engines)

In extended uses push implies a pressing or urging forward (as with insistence, with vigor, or with impetuousness) so that one's end may be gained, one's work may be completed, or one's goal be reached (push the nation into war) (push a theory to an extreme) (he directed a year-long probe . . . then pushed through sweeping reforms—Abram BRister) Shove often suggests obstinacy or intransigence or lack of finesse in attaining an end or making a way for oneself or another (shove oneself into society) (shoving the boring tiring jobs off to other people—Ann Bridge) Thrust implies a forcing upon others of something that is not wanted, desired, or sought for (some have greatness thrust upon 'em—Shak) (Amy had a grievance . . . because Sophia had recently thrust upon her a fresh method of cooking green vegetables—Bennett) Propel is sometimes used in place of impel when a strong inner urge or appetite is implied as pushing one on, especially toward what one desires (anxiety is not the only force that propels us, but it is surely one of the most potent—Binger)
Ana *move, drive, impel: *force, compel, constrain, oblige

pushing, pushy *aggressive, militant, assertive, self-assertive
Ana *vigoros, energetic, strenuous: officious, intrusive, obtrusive (see IMPERTINENT): self-confident, confident, self-assured, assured (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE)

puss n *face, countenance, visage, physiognomy, mug

pustule *blisters, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple

putative *alleged, advanced (see ADDUCED): assumed, pretended, simulated (see ASSUME)

putrefy *rot, decompose, *decay, spoil, disintegrate, crumble
Ana corrupt, vitiate, deprave, *debase: deliquesce (see LIQUEFY)

putrid fetid, noisome, stinking, *malodorous, rank, rancid, fusty, musty
Ana decomposed, decayed, rotten, putrefied (see DECAY): corrupted, vitiated (see under DEBASE)

pusch *rebellion, revolution, uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, coup

put up *reside, live, dwell, sojourn, lodge, stay, stop

puzzle vb *puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewilder, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound are comparable when they mean to disturb and baffle mentally or throw into mental confusion. The first three words express various mental reactions to what is intricate, complicated, or involved. Puzzle implies such complication or intricacy that the mind finds it exceedingly, often distressingly, difficult to understand or to solve (a great poet may tax our brains, but he ought not to puzzle our wits—Birrell) (there was much that impressed, puzzled and troubled a foreign observer about the new Germany—Shirer) Perplex adds to puzzle the implications of worry and uncertainty, especially about reaching a decision on a course of action or the right solution of a personal problem (Southerners . . . were terribly perplexed and torn when the conceptions on which
**quack**

*n* *impostor, faker, mountebank, charlatan

*Ana* pretender, simulator, counterfeiter, shammer (see corresponding verbs at **assume**): *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, guile*

**quail**

*vb* *recoil, shrink, flinch, wince, blench*

*Ana* cow, cringe (see **fawn**): falter, waver, vacillate, *hesitate: quake, quaver, tremble, shudder (see **shake**)*

**quaint**

*strange, odd, queer, outlandish, curious, peculiar, quaint* "impostor, faker, mountebank, charlatan*

**quack**

*n* *moderate, temper

qualified

*competent, capable, able*

*A* trained, instructed, disciplined (see **teach**): examined, quizzed, catechized (see **ask**): tested, tried, proved (see **prove**)

**ant** unqualified

**quality**

1 *Quality, property, character, attribute, accident all denote one of the intelligible marks or indications by means of which a thing may be identified or its constitution be understood. Quality is the term of widest application and may designate any such mark, material or immaterial, individual or generic (distinguishing qualities of iron are tensile strength and corrosiveness) (there was only one quality in a woman that appealed to him—charm—*Galsworthy*). The term may imply a lack of definite knowledge of the thing in question; thus, one can speak of the attributes of God, meaning the qualities men ascribe to him (to endow her with all the attributes of a mythological paragon upon Olympus—*Wylie*). (The term is used especially in scientific and philosophical writing with reference to the properties which distinguish an isolable subgroup (as a species) within a larger group (as a genus)). The properties of cereal grasses but have specific characters that clearly differentiate them (buahynte and noselie show characters like sodaliit, but they differ from it in containing the radical SO)*

**pygmy**

*dwarf, midget, manikin, homunculus, runt*

**puzzle**

*n* *mystery, problem, enigma, riddle, conundrum*

Q
a contrast with the substance—or the real, but unapparent, nature—of the thing <waves [on a Japanese artist's screen] such as these, divested of all accident of appearance, in their naked impetus of movement and recoil —Binyon> In more general use accident usually implies fortuitousness or lack of intrinsic value <rhyme is ... an accident rather than an essential of verse—Lowes> Certainly many mystics have been ascetic. But that has been the accident of their philosophy, and not the essence of their religion—Ellis>

**Ana** predication, affirmation (see corresponding verbs at assert): peculiarity, individuality, characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic)

2 Quality, stature, caliber are often interchangeable as indicating, when used without modifiers, distinctive merit or superiority. Quality implies a complex of qualities (see quality 1) and is therefore always singular in use. The term usually implies a high order of excellence, virtue, strength of character, or worth <splendid writing, of course, but to no purpose ... It's not quality we look for in a novel, but mileage—Purdy> They're all made by machinery now. The quality may be inferior, but that doesn't matter. It's the cost of production that counts —Dahl> This little Tania had quality; she carried her scars without a whimper—Bambrick> Stature implies that the one considered has reached or is in process of reaching the height or greatness possible to one of his kind <probings in the realms of life and matter have seemed to diminish man's stature and to belittle his dignity—Marquand> Every piece of work you do adds something to your stature, increases the power and maturity of your experience—Wolfe> Caliber suggests extent or range especially of one's mind or powers; it may connote unusual but measurable range, scope, or breadth of ability or intellect but often depends on qualification to supply a standard of reference or comparison or to indicate the direction of deviation from the norm <a man of high moral caliber> <the milieu of her youth where the size of the engagement ring determines the caliber of the bridgegroom—Geisman> is at his relaxed best because he is accompanied by musicians of the first caliber—John Hammond> <punctuds of big and little caliber—Craig Thompson>

**Ana** *excellence, virtue: value, *worth

**qualm**, scrupe, compunction, demur can all denote a feeling of doubt or hesitation as to the rightness or wisdom of something one is doing or is about to do. Qualm implies an uneasy, often a sickening, sensation that one is not following the dictates of his conscience or of his better judgment <have no qualms at all in committing adultery —Book-of-the-Month Club News> <how few little girls can squash insects and kill rabbits without a qualm—Rose Macaulay> we go on spreading culture as if it were peanut butter ... but we feel qualms about the result —Barson> Scruple denotes mental disturbance occasioned by doubt of the rightness, the propriety, the fairness, or, sometimes, the outcome of an act; it often implies a principle as the source of the disturbance, and it may imply an overnice conscience or an extremely delicate sense of honor <she has no scruples about carrying away any of my books> <began to have scruples, to feel obligations, to find that veracity and honor were ... compelling principles—Shaw> <he has not pretended an apprehension which he does not feel, but has candidly disclosed his conscientious scruples—Meltzer>

**Compunction** (see also penitence) implies a usually transitory prickle or sting of conscience that warns a person that what he is about to do or is doing is wrong, unfair, unjust, or improper; it may additionally suggest a degree of concern for a potential victim <showed no compunction in planning devilish engines of military destruction—Ellis> <he has to be taught ... to feel compunction when he has wantonly caused tears—Russell> Demur stresses hesitation to such an extent that it carries a stronger implication of delay than any of the other terms; it usually suggests, however, a delay caused by objections or irresolution rather than by an awakened conscience or by a scruple or compunction <he doubts with a persistence of demur and question that might well have surprised Descartes himself—Times Lit. Sup.> <with some misgivings but without demur his committee accepted the decision—Time>

**Ana** misgiving, *apprehension, foreboding, presentiment: doubt, mistrust, suspicion, *uncertainty

**quandary** *predicament, dilemma, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle

**Ana** *juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, crisis: *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude: puzzling or puzzle, mystification, perplexity, bewilderment (see corresponding verbs at puzzle)

**quantity** amount, *sum, aggregate, total, whole, number

**quarrel n** Quarrel, wrangle, altercation, squabble, bicker- ing, spat, tiff are comparable when they mean a dispute marked by anger or discord on both sides. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding verbs, quarrel, wrangle, altercate, squabbles, bicker, spat, tiff. Quarrel usually implies heated verbal contention, but it stresses strained or severed relations which may persist even after verbal strife has ceased <patch up a quarrel> <she hated any kind of quarrel ... she shuddered at raised voices and quailed before looks of hate—Stafford> The middle class had taken over the reins. It quarreled with James I, beheaded Charles I—Barr> Wrangle implies undignified and often futile disputation with noisy insistence on each person's opinion <a vulgar wrangle was unknown and indeed it was only among the upper servants that ... jealous friction existed—Sackville-West> <makes them wrangle interminably about petty details—Laski> Altercation and the rare verb altercate imply fighting with words as the chief weapons, though blows may also be connotated <i>have an extreme aversion to public altercation on philosophic points—Franklin> <Lydia, foreseeing an altercation, and alarmed by the threatening aspect of the man, attempted to hurry away—Shaw> <it becomes us not ... to altercate on the localities of the battle—Lytton> Squabble stresses childish and unseemly wrangling over a petty matter; it does not necessarily imply anger or bitter feeling <they had always squabbled ... but their scenes, with the shouting, the insults, the threats, and the flare-ups of mutual revulsion had gradually increased—Farrell> a mere squable in the children's schoolroom—Moorehead> Bickering and bicker imply constant and petulant verbal sparring or interchanges of cutting remarks; they suggest an irritable mood or mutual antagonism <the tearing worries of political snarls, of strife between capital and labor, of factional bickering—Salzberger> <though men may bicker with the things they love, they would not make them laughable in all eyes, not while they loved them—Tennyson> Spat also implies an insignificant cause but, unlike squabble and bicker, it suggests an angry outburst and a quick ending without hard feelings <it wasn't a fight, really—more of a spat than anything else—Heggen> <a teen-ager who ... is spattering with her mother over unchaperoned dates—Time> Tiff differs from spat chiefly in implying a disagreement that manifests itself in ill humor or temporarily hurt feelings <at the trial circumstantial evidence piled up against him, including his earlier tiff ... which was offered as a motive—Hilton>
quarrel vb 1 wrangle, altercate, squabble, bicker, spat, tiff (see under QUARREL n)
Ana *brawl, broil, fracas, melee, row, rumpus, scrap; contention, dissention, conflict, difference, variance, strife, *discord

quarrelsome pugnacious, combative, bellicose, *belligerent, contentious
Ana antagonistic, *adverse, counter: hostile, inimical, antipathetic, rancorous (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY)

quarry *victim, prey

quash 1 *annul, abrogate, void, vacate
2 Q. A. "Professor Quinlan, how does spade differ from quash?"
2 •quash: *annul, abrogate, void, vacate

quaver vb *shake, tremble, shudder, quake, totter, quiver, *shiver, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither
Ana falter, waver, vacillate, *hesitate: vibrate, fluctuate, sway (see SWING)

quay *wharf, dock, pier, slip, berth, jetty, levee

queenly regal, royal, *kingly, imperial, princely

quest *adventure, enterprise, expedition, *exploit, *feat, achievement
Ana *venture, quest, enterprise, adventure, *expedite, *expedient

questing vb *ask, interrogate, query, inquire, examine, quiz, catechize

questing adj *ascertaining, investigatory

repress: *deaden, *dull

quench vbr *extinguish, suppress, quench, quell
Ant *prevent

quenchvb *quench: *dry: *dampen

quicken vb animate, enliven, vivify can mean
Ana *activate, *vitalize, energize: rouse, arouse, *stir
Ant *deaden

quick vb 1 fleet, swift, rapid, *fast, speedy, expeditious, hasty
Ana brisk, nimble, *agile: abrupt, impetuous, *precipitate, headlong

quick, prompt, ready, apt are comparable when they apply to persons, their mental operations, their acts, and their words and mean having or manifesting the ability to respond without delay or hesitation. Quick stresses the immediacy of response to such an extent that it usually connotes native rather than acquired power (quick eyes), *quick in perception (examined the hall and the men who passed, with the same quick, sharp cunning—O’Flaherty)

Very often the word suggests marked capacity for learning or for absorbing what is taught (even as a child she had had a quick mind, a gift of mimicry, an excellent memory—Wouk) Prompt also implies instance of response, but it may or may not imply native quickness. Often it carries a suggestion of preparation (as by training or discipline) that fits one for quick response when the occasion demands

it (prompt service) (prompt eloquence) (prompt insight into the workings of complex apparatus—F. H. Garrison)

Sometimes the word carries so strong an implication of willingness or eagerness that a lack of normal inhibitions is also suggested (they press so eagerly to savor the purity, the heroism, that matches their prompt imaginings—Hackett) Ready, like prompt, implies previous training or a strong predisposition as well as instance of response, but it more often characterizes the person or his powers than his performance or his expression of thought or feeling. It therefore often implies, as prompt does not, skill, facility, fluency, or ease in attainment (reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man—Bacon) (he was not a ready speaker, and so . . . had written out what he had to say—Scudder) The word is often applied to the bodily organ or to the instrument one uses in manifesting skill or fluency (he has a ready tongue) (a pair of ready hands) Apt (see also FIT; APT 2) does not throw the emphasis on the quickness of the response, though that is involved in its meaning, but on the possession of qualities (as a high degree of intelligence, a particular talent or gift, or a strong bent) which make for such quickness. It is therefore especially appropriate when the person in mind responds quickly only to particular stimuli or shows a capacity for a definite kind of work (she is apt at drawing but not at arithmetic) (supple, sinew-corded, apt at arms—Tennyson) (apt as he was in attack or report . . . [he] was readier still to give mercy—Maxwell Anderson)

Ana *intelligent, clever, smart, quick-witted: deft, adroit, *dexterous: *sharp, acute, keen
Ant sluggish

quicken vb 1 Quicken, animate, enliven, vivify can mean to make alive or lively, but the words diverge more or less widely in their implications. Quicken stresses the renewal of life, especially of suspended life or growth, or the rousing of what is inert into fullness of activity. Sometimes the rekindled life is physical but more often it is spiritual, intellectual, or imaginative (it is the Spirit that quickeneth . . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life—Jn 6:63) its characters never quicken with the life one feels lurks somewhere within them—Jerome Stone) Animate (compare animated under LIVING and LIVELY) emphasizes the imparting of vitality or of motion and activity or the giving of liveliness or of the appearance of life to something previously deficient in or lacking such a quality (that which animates all great art—spiritual ferment—Clive Bell) (vendors and shoppers . . . animate its lanes—W. R. Moore) Enliven suggests a stimulating influence that kindles, exalts, or brightens; it therefore presupposes dullness, depression, or torpidity, in the thing affected (the sun . . . was wonderful and enlivening—D. H. Lawrence) (bought the paint on the canvas begins to enliven his mind; and the mind thus quickened conceives a livelier curiosity about the creature before him—Montague) Vivify sometimes, like quicken, implies the renewal of life and at other times, like animate, implies the giving of the appearance of life. In each case it usually also suggests a freshening or energizing effect and implies vitality more often than activity or motion (in . . . the Elizabethan age, English society at large was accessible to ideas, was permeated by them, was vivified by them—Arnold) (the room was dead. The essence that had vivified it was gone—O. Henry) (that Promethean fire, which animates the canvas and vivifies the marble—Reynolds)

Ana activate, *vitalize, energize: rouse, arouse, *stir
Ant deaden

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
2 excite, stimulate, *provok e, pique, galvanize

*Ana* activate, actuate, motivate: spur, goad, induce

(see corresponding nouns at *MOTIVE*): *incite, foment

*Ant* arrest

3 hasten, hurry, *speed, accelerate, precipitate

*Ant* slacken

**quick-witted** clever, bright, smart, *intelligent, alert, knowing, brilliant

*Ana* ready, prompt, *quick, apt: *sharp, keen, acute: *witty, humorous, facetious

*quiescent* *latent, dormant, potential, abeyant

*Ana* quiet, *still; silent: inert, *inactive, passive, supine

*quiet adj*. silent, noiseless, *still, stillly

*Ana* calm, serene, placid, tranquil, peaceful

*Ant* unquiet—*Con* rough, harsh: disturbed, agitated, upset, disquieted, perturbed (see *DISCOMPOSE*): *vociferous, clamorous, boisterous, blatant, strident

*quiet, quieten* vb *calm, compose, still, lull, soothe, settle, tranquilize

*Ana* allay, alleviate, assuage, *relieve: abate, lessen, *decrease

*Ant* disquiet: arouse, rouse —*Con* stir, awaken, rally: excite, stimulate, *provoke, quicken

*quip* *joke, jest, jape, witticism, wisecrack, crack, gag

*quiet* 1 acquit, comport, deport, demean, conduct, *behave

*Ana & Con* see those at *ACQUIT

2 *go, leave, depart, withdraw, retire

*Ana* forsake, desert, *abandon: *relinquish, surrender, resign: *escape, flee, fly, abscond

3 *stop, cease, discontinue, desist

*quiver* vb *shake, shiver, shudder, quaver, totter, tremble, quake, wobble, teeter, shimmery, dither

*Ana* *pulsate, pulse, beat, throb, palpitate: flutter, flicker, flutter (see *FLIT

*quixotic* chimerical, fantastic, visionary, fanciful, *imaginary

*Ana* *sentimental, romantic: utopian, *ambitious: ideal, transcendental, *abstract

*quiz* vb *ask, question, interrogate, examine, catechize, query, inquire

*quote, cite, repeat* are not close synonyms, though all mean to speak or write again something already said or written by another. *Quote* usually implies a use of another's words, commonly with faithful exactness or an attempt at it, for some special effect like adornment, illustration, close examination *(I will quote a passage which is unfamiliar enough to be regarded with fresh attention—* T. S. Eliot)*. But sometimes *quote* is applied to a more general referral to someone as the author or source of information without implication of precise reproduction of an original statement *(don't quote me as your authority)* *(in one sense we are quoting all the time. To whistle Tin Pan Alley's latest inanity is to quote...)*. To transmit the tired gag of a television comic is to *quote—Fadiman*

Cite is likely to stress the idea of adding, bringing forward, or mentioning for a particular reason, like substantiation or proof, with or without the idea of uttering another's words *(the critic cited in the opening of this chapter—Leavis)* *(ask a senator if he could cite a single piece of legislation enacted solely for the benefit of the public—Armbrister)*. Repeat stresses the fact of a saying or writing over again of someone else's words often with no reference to the source *(repeat a rumor)*. Typically it carries none of the implication of formal or dignified reasons for the procedure that attaches to *quote* and cite *(unrealistic to go on repeating phrases about the connection of industry with personal independence—Dewey)*

*Ana* *adduce, allege, advance

*quotid ian* *daily, diurnal, circadian

**R**

**rabbit** *furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, frenetic, delirious

*Ana* maddened, enraged, infuriated, angered *(see *ANGER* vb): violent, compulsive (see corresponding nouns at *FORCE*): *insane, crazed, crazy, demented, deranged

**race** 1 *Race, nation, people*, even though in technical use they are commonly differentiated, are often used popularly and interchangeably to designate one of a number of great divisions of mankind, each made up of an aggregate of persons who are thought of, or think of themselves, as comprising a distinct unit. In technical discriminations, all more or less controversial and often lending themselves to great popular misunderstanding or misuse, *race* is anthropological and ethnological in force, usually implying a distinct physical type with certain unchanging characteristics (as a particular color of skin or shape of skull) *(the Caucasian race) (the Mongolian race)*. Sometimes, and more controversially, other presumed common factors are chosen, as place of origin *(the Nordic race)* or common root language *(the Aryan race)*. In popular use *race* can apply to any more or less clearly defined group thought of as a unit usually because of a common or presumed common past *(the Anglo-Saxon race) (the Celtic race) (the Hebrew race)*. *Nation*, primarily political in force, usually designates the citizenry as a whole of a sovereign state and implies a certain homogeneity because of common

mon laws, institutions, customs, or loyalty *(the British nation) (the French nation) (the house must have been built before this country was a nation—Tate)* *(what is a nation? A group of human beings recognizing a common history and a common culture, yearning for a common destiny, assuming common habits, and generally attached to something significantly in common <the children of the world are one nation; the very old, another—John Struther>* *(for the two nations that inhabit the earth, the rich and the poor—Sitwell)* *(the Gypsy nation)*. *People*, sometimes interchangeable with *nation* though stressing a cultural or social rather than a national unity, can apply to a body of persons, as a whole or as individuals, who show a consciousness of solidarity or common characteristics suggesting a common culture or common interests or ideals and a sense of kinship *(the Mexican people—Prewett)* *(the British and American peoples—Sir Winston Churchill)* *(we, the people of the United States—U. S. Constitution)* *(we, the peoples of the United Nations—U. N. Charter)*. *(a new government, which, for certain purposes, A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.*
rally vb torment, torture, try, *afflict

Ana persecute, oppress (see WRONG vb): harry, harass, *worry, annoy

racket *din, uproar, pandemonium, hullabaloo, babel, hubbub, clamor

racking *excruciating, agonizing

Ana torturing, tormenting (see AFFLICT): intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: *fierce, ferocious, barbarous, savage, cruel, inhuman

racy *pungent, piquant, poignant, spicy, snappy

Ana exciting, stimulating, quickening, provoking or provocative (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): *spirited, merrymaking, fiery, giddy, peppery

Con *insipid, flat, jejune, banal, inane

radiant brilliant, *bright, luminous, lustrous, effulgent, refugent, beaming, lambent, lucent, incandescent

Ana *splendid, resplendent, glorious, sublime: sparkling, glittering, gleaming, flashing, scintillating (see FLASH vb)

radiate *spread, circulate, disseminate, diffuse, propagate

Ana *distribute, dispense: disperse, *scatter, dissipate: diverge (see SWERVE)

radical adj 1 *fundamental, basic, basal, underlying

Ana cardinal, *essential, vital: *inherent, intrinsic, constitutional

Ant superficial

2 advanced, progressive, *liberal

radius *range, gamut, reach, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview

rag vb *banter, chaff, kid, rib, josh, jolly

rage n 1 *anger, ire, fury, indignation, wrath

Ana *acrimony, asperity, acerbity: frenzy, *mania, hysteric, agitation, upset, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

2 *fashion, style, mode, vogue, craze, cry, dernier cri, fade

Ana *caprice, fancy, conceit, vagary, whim, chintz, whim

raids n *invasion, incursion, inroad

Ana *attack, assault, onslaught, onset

rail vb revile, vituperate, rate, berate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig

Ana censure, denounce, condemn, reprehend, *attack, assault, onslaught, onset

rancid *malodorous, stinking, fetid, rank, noisome, putrid, rancid

Ana hatred, hatred, detestation, abhorrence, abomination (see under HATE vb): spite, *malice, malevolence, malignity, malignancy, spleen, grudge

random, haphazard, chance, chance, casual, desultory, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky are comparable when they mean having a cause or a character that is determined by accident rather than by design or by method. What is random comes, goes, occurs, or is done or made without a fixed or clearly defined aim, purpose, or evidence of method or system or direction; the term implies an absence of guidance by a governing mind, eye, or objective (a random shot) (a random answer to a question) (my choice was as random as blindman's buff—Burns) (the tail end of the conference was becoming frayed and random—Rand) (the clerks became tired and bored and start making random mistakes—Martin Gardner) What is haphazard is done, made, arranged, used, or said without concern or without sufficient concern for its fitness, its effectiveness, or its possible ill effects, and is more or less at the mercy of chance or whim or of natural or logical necessity (a haphazard policy) (the disorder . . . the haphazard scattering of stray socks, shirts and colsars, old shoes, and unpressed trousers—Wolf) (not a collection of haphazard schemes, but rather the orderly component parts of a connected and logical whole—Roosevelt) What is described as chance comes or happens to one or is done or made by one without prearrangement or preawareness or without preparation; the term is applicable not only to things but to persons with whom one comes into contact more or less by accident (a chance acquaintance) (a chance meeting with an old friend) (found it increasingly difficult to welcome chance visitors with his usual affability—Graves) What is chancy involves uncertainty and risk because its results, actions, responses, or condition cannot be predicted; the term applies more often to situations and things than to persons (a chancy road to take at night) (a chancy appeal, at best, to the shifting and unguessable sympathies of their readers—Morse) (despite recent advances in geophysics, oil drilling is still a chancy business—Kane) What is casual (see also ACCIDENTAL) leaves or seems to leave things to chance, and works, acts, comes, or goes haphazardly or by chance, or without method or deliberation or indication of intent or purpose; the term often also suggests off-handedness (a casual remark) (his treatment of his friends is casual) or lightness or spontaneity (she was constantly referring to dear friends . . . in a casual and familiar way—Ellis) or lack of definiteness in terms or intention (their policy was opportunistic at home and casual abroad—Spectator) (the casual allusion, the chance reference to her—Henry Adams) What is desultory is not governed by method or system but jumps or skips erratically from one thing to another; the term may imply additionally such consequences as irregular or inconsistent performance or lack of continuity or plan or persistence (make reading have a purpose instead of being desultory—Russell) (its growth from 1900 to 1950 had been desultory—Michener) (a dragged-out ordeal of worry,
aimless wandering, and desultory shopping—Wook> What is hit-or-miss is so haphazard in its character or operation as to be or appear so wholly lacking in plan, aim, system, or care that one is indifferent as to how it turns out or as to what pattern or arrangement it makes <hit-or-miss patchwork> <hit-or-miss policy was pursued by the Department of Justice—Ripley> <his . . . training had given him a profound prejudice against inexact work, experimental work, hit-or-miss work—Forester> A person is happy-go-lucky who leaves everything to chance or who accepts with happiness or easy indifference whatever comes; a thing is happy-go-lucky that is governed by such a disposition <a radical pragmatist on the other hand is a happy-go-lucky . . . sort of creature—James> <a funny little happy-go-lucky native-managed railway—Kipling> Ana fortuitous, •accidental, casual: vagrant, vagabond, truant (see corresponding nouns at vagabond) range n 1 *habitat, biotype, station 2 Range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview can denote the extent that lies within the powers of something to cover, grasp, control, or traverse. Range is the general term indicating the extent of one's perception or the extent of powers, capacities, or possibilities <safe, well out of the range of the pursuers> <a beautiful voice with a wide range between the high and the low tones—Ellis> <a creative writer can do his best only with what lies within the range and character of his deepest sympathies—Cather> <the whole range of Greek political life—Dickinson> Gamut suggests a graduated series running from one extreme possible to another <types of light each occupying its particular place in that far-reaching roster or gamut which is called the spectrum—Darrow> Reach suggests an extent of perception, knowledge, ability, or activity attained to or exceeded by or as if by stretching out <moving step by step toward the widest generalizations within his reach—L. J. Henderson> <out of reach of the first invading forces> <anything like sustained reasoning was beyond his reach—Stephen> Radius suggests a usually circular area (as of activity) implied by a known or determined center <the town's history has been the history of coal; within a radius of five miles are 12 large mines—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.> Compass implies an extent, sometimes more limited than that suggested by range, of perception, knowledge, or activity; it is likely to connote a bounding circumference <the powers expressly granted to the government are to be contracted . . . into the narrow circumference <the powers expressly granted to the <here we get in the application of such terms as> rank, rank; and implies vigorous, luxuriant, and often unchecked or unbridled growth. Rank, when it is applied to personal or individual range of perception or cognition <they seemed trivial at the time they came into his ken—White> <the bulk of his known reading, until the great Italians swam into his ken, was French—Lowest> Purview may indicate either range of perception or knowledge or range of authority or competence <the inclusion of dependent areas within the purview of Point Four—Rupert Emerson> <the problem of ethnic variation falls very definitely within the purview of the student of the social life of man—Ashley Montagu> Ana extent, area (see size): *field, domain, province, sphere, territory: spread, stretch, *expanse, amplitude range vb 1 *line, line up, align, array Ana arrange, *order, marshal: *assort, sort, classify: *incline, dispose, predispose, bias 2 *wander, rove, ramble, roam, stray, prow, gawl, gallivant, trapeze, meander rank adj 1 Rank, rampant mean growing or increasing at an immoderate rate. Rank applies primarily to vegetation and implies vigorous, luxuriant, and often unchecked or excessive growth; to hold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good—Gen 41.5> <its garden was rank, too thickly crowded with trees and bushes and plants—West> The term is common in metaphoric extension <weed your better judgments of all opinion that grows rank in them—Shak.> Rampant is more widely applicable than rank; it implies rapid, often unrestrained or wild, spreading and is frequently applicable not only to what literally grows but to what extends or increases by contagion or diffusion <it grieved him to see ignorance and impiety so rampant—Fuller d. 1661> <that curiosity which is so rampant, as a rule, in an Indian village—Kipling> <rumor ran rampant . . . the other day—Breit> Ana *coarse, gross, vulgar: exубerant, *profuse, lavish, luxuriant 2usty, musty, rancid, *malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid Ana dank, humid (see wet): *offensive, loathsome, repulsive: decomposed, decayed, spoiled (see decay) Ant balmy 3 *flagrant, glaring, gross Ana conspicuous, outstanding, *noticeable: foul, filthy, squalid, nasty (see dirty): *outrageous, heinous, atrocious, monstrous rank n *line, row, file, echelon, tier vb *class, grade, rate, graduate, gradate Ana *order, arrange: classify, *assort, sort, divide, *separate ransack search, hunt, rummage, *seek, scour, comb, ferret out Ana investigate (see corresponding noun at inquiry): penetrate, pierce, probe (see enter): examine, inspect, scrutinize ransom vb *rescue, deliver, redeem, reclaim, save Ana *free, release, liberate, emancipate, manumit: *expire, atone rant n *bombast, fistian, rodomontade, rhapsody Ana inflatedness or inflation, turgidity, tumidity, flatulence (see corresponding adjectives at inflated) rap n tap, knock, thump, thud (see under tap vb) Ana beating, pummeling, pounding (see beat vb) rap vb *tap, knock, thump, thud Ana *smite, *strike: pummel, *beat rapacious ravenous, ravenous, glutinous, *voracious
rapture

ecstasy, transport

value, evaluate, appraise, estimate, assess

absorbed, engrossed, intent

thin, attenuate, extenuate, dilute

vb

scrape, scratch, grate, grind

daring, daredevil, reckless, foolhardy, adventurous,

villain, scoundrel, miscreant

fast, swift, fleet, quick, speedy, hasty

adj

rare

greed, cupidity, avarice

rapscallion

analogous words

Ana calculate, compute, reckon, estimate:

Ant deliberate: leisurely

rapsomation • inference

rational

ratiocinative inferential (see under INFERENCE)

An intimation

ration ration, allowance, dole, pittance denote the amount of food, supplies, or money allotted to an individual. Ration implies apportionment and, often, equal sharing. Specifically it is applied in military and naval use to the daily supply of provisions given each man, and in stock-breeding to the daily or periodical supply of food for each animal. In these uses it generally implies dietary variety and restricted amounts of each food. When used of a particular food or commodity (as meat or gasoline) it implies a shortage in the supply and a limitation on the amount allowed each person. Allowance, though often interchangeable with ration, is wider in its range of application. Both imply restriction in amount, but allowance stresses granting rather than sharing and is applicable to money and many other things besides food or commodities. A daily allowance of tobacco for the old pensioners; a schoolboy's weekly allowance; The court determines an heir's allowance during his minority; Dole tends to imply a grudging division and needy or sometimes grasping recipients. Cold charity's unwelcome dole—Shelley; No rich man's largess may suffice his soul, nor are the plundered succored by a dole—E. V. Cooke; In current, chiefly British, use dose is applied to a payment to unemployed workers, whether in the form of relief or insurance, by the national government. Pittance is likely to suggest, or even stress, scantiness or meagerness. It is applicable to a ration, an allowance, a dole, or a wage, the context usually making the reference clear (and gained, by spinning hemp, a pittance for herself—Wordsworth; in England, such a dowry would be a pittance, while elsewhere it is a fortune—Byron)

ana apportionment, portioning or portion (see corresponding verbs at APPORTION): sharing or share, participation, partaking, passing (see corresponding verbs at SHARE)

rational, reasonable may be applied to men, their acts, utterances, or policies in the senses of having or manifesting the power to reason, or of being in accordance with what reason dictates as right, wise, or sensible. Rational usually implies a latent or active power to make inferences from the facts and to draw from such inferences conclusions that enable one to understand the world about him and to relate such knowledge to the attainment of personal and common ends; often, in this use, rational is opposed to emotional or animal (we are rational; but we

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
rattle faze, *embarrass, discomfit, disconcert, abash

*loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, strident, ravage, devastate, waste, sack, pillage, despoil, spoliate

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

are animal too—Cowper) (the rational, the intelligent, the orderly processes of behavior—Mumford) (to cure this habit of mind, it is necessary . . . to replace fear by rational prevision of misfortune—Russell) When the term is applied to policies, projects, systems, or to something conceived or formulated, rational is preferred when justification on grounds that are satisfactory to the reason is specifically implied (the advantages of a rational orthography—Grandgent) (let’s just entertain the notion as a rational hypothesis which may or may not be true—Mailer) Reasonable usually carries a much weaker implication than rational of the power to reason in general, or of guidance by conclusions drawn by the reasoning powers; typically it applies to actions, decisions, choices, or proposals that avoid obvious mistakes and that are practical, sensible, just, or fair (if that belief, whether right or wrong, may be held by a reasonable man, it seems to me that it may be enforced by law—Justice Holmes) (asking me some reasonable if openly ignorant questions about the nature of the bullfight—Mailer) (the formation of reasonable habits, of method, of punctuality . . . makes enormously for the happiness and convenience of every one about us—Benson).

Ant irrational: animal (of nature): demented (of state of mind): absurd (of actions, behavior)

rationalize *explain, account, justify

rattle faze, *embarrass, discomfit, disconcert, abash

Ana *confuse, muddle, addle: agitate, upset, perturb, the city Ana *rough, harsh: gruff, brusque (see BLUFF)

raucous *loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, strident, stertorous

Ana *rough, harsh: gruff, brusque (see BLUFF)

ravage, devastate, waste, sack, pillage, despoil, spoliate are comparable when they mean to lay waste or bare by acts of violence (as plundering or destroying). Ravage implies violent, severe, and often cumulative destruction accomplished typically by depredations, invasions, raids, storms, or floods (four major disasters had ravaged the country—Leakey) (the psychic disease which ravaged the country—Day Lewis) (an Indian hunt was never a slaughter. They ravaged neither the rivers nor the forest—Cather) Devastate stresses the ruin and desolation which follow upon ravaging; it suggests eradication of buildings, of forests, and of crops by or as if by demolition or burning (behind him were the ruins of a city, shattered, devastated, crumbled piles of concrete and stone that glowed—Styron) (a succession of cruel wars had devastated Europe—Macaulay) (had devastated the neighboring county to get timber—Ellis) Waste may be a close synonym for devastate but it tends to suggest a less complete destruction or desolation, produced more gradually or less violently (he fell suddenly on the Nervii with four legions, seized their cattle, wasted their country—Froude) (the broad gray summit is barren and desolate-looking . . . wasted by ages of gnawing storms—Muir) Sack basically suggests the acts of a victorious army entering a town that has been captured and stripping it of all its possessions of value by looting or destruction (we sacked the city after nine months’ siege—Heywood) (the retreating Federals sacked and burned as they went—Amer. Guide Series: La.) The term may be extended to other than military activity but consistently retains the notion of stripping of valuables and usually of destruction (a crowd sympathetic with the employees sacked the newspaper’s offices—Dillard) (men . . . who’ll sack a railroad or lay siege to a corporation with the idea they’re ordained to grab the other fellow’s property—Everybody’s Mag.)

Pillage stresses ruthless plundering such as is characteristic of an invading or victorious army, but it carries a weaker implication of devastation than sack (he pillaged many Spanish towns, and took rich prizes—Fuller d.1661> (the houses, first pillaged, were then fired—Prescott) In nonmilitary use pillage still implies ruthlessness but it carries a stronger implication of appropriation to oneself of something that belongs to another (as by fleecing, plagiarizing, or robbing) (humbled by their doctors, pillaged by their tradesmen—Shaw) (libraries pillaged to supply grocers with paper—Schultz) Despoil, like sack, implies a stripping of valuables (the English buccaneers . . . fell upon their cities and despoiled them—Haskin) but it does not so often refer to a violent ransacking for booty; it more often suggests a pillaging, sometimes under a guise of legality, or a heedless or inadvertent destruction (magnificent stands of pine . . . despoiled by naval-stores operators and loggers—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.) (a law which restored . . . an immense domain of which they had been despoiled—Macaulay) (the despoiling of the English monasteries in the 16th century) (despoiled of innocence, of faith, of bliss—Milton) Spoliate is chiefly a legal term; in its meaning it comes close to despoil and is particularly applicable to destruction inflicted on a neutral, a noncombatant, or a victim of piracy (from the ages, from the barbarians, the land has been burnt and spoliated—Richard Llewellyn) or, in more general use, when the gaining of spoils by means of exactions, graft, or various venal practices is suggested (the Tweed Ring was charged with spoliating the people of New York City) Ana *destroy, demolish, raze: plunder, loot, *rob: *ruin, wreck: invade, *trespass, encroach

ravaging ravenous, ravenous, glutinous, voracious

Ana greedy, acquisitive, grasping, *covetous

ravenous ravaging, ravenous, glutinous, voracious

Ana grasping, greedy, acquisitive, *covetous: *fierce, ferocious

ravish *transport, enrapture, entrance

Ana rejoice, delight, regale (see PLEASE)

raw crude, callow, green, *rude, rough, uncouth

Ana *elementary, elemental: *ignorant, untaught, untutored: *immature, unmatured, unripe

Con practiced, exercised, drilled (see PRACTICE vb): seasoned, hardened (see HARDEN): *mature, matured, ripe, adult, grown-up

rawboned gaunt, angular, *lean, lank, lanky, spare, scrawny, skinny

ray, beam are comparable when they denote a shaft of light. This conception of light as a shaft is fixed in our language but is not always in keeping with modern scientific views of the nature of light. Ray suggests emanation from a center or point in the manner of the spokes of a wheel; its typical application is to one of the apparently thin lines of light that seem to extend from a radiant body (as the sun or a candle) or that are flashed from a reflective surface (as of steel or a mirror glittering in the sun) (the more numerous the facets of a diamond the more numerous the rays of light it reflects) Beam implies not a line but a long bar; it suggests therefore a bar made up of a bundle of rays of light; thus, a beam of white light is split by a prism into rays of light of the various colors of the spectrum (the beam of an automobile headlight) (a searchlight throws a narrow beam) (where a sunbeam enters, every particle of dust becomes visible—Ruskin) (how far that little candle throws his rays—Shak.) A small beam is sometimes called a ray (a tiny hole in the window shade admitted a ray of sunlight into the room)

raze demolish, *destroy

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
reach

**reach** vb Reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain can mean to arrive at a point by effort or work. Reach is the most general term, being capable of reference to whatever can be arrived at by exertion of any degree and applicable to such diverse matters as a point in space, in time, or in a development, or as a destination, a goal, or a position of eminence <φ> they reached the city that night <φ> after a long discussion they reached an understanding In extended use reach may be predicated even of inanimates things <the hour hand has reached two <φ> the depression has reached bottom> Gain usually implies a struggle to reach a contemplated or desired destination or goal <φ> gained the confidence of the mountain people by his sympathetic approach—Persons <φ> I had gained the frontier and slept safe that night—Browning> Compass implies efforts to get around difficulties or to transcend limitations; it often connotes skill or craft in management <φ> a writer who is attempting a higher strain of elevation or pathos than his powers can compass—Montague> <φ> if you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers—Austen> Achieve can stress the skill or the endurance as well as the efforts involved in reaching an end <φ> some are born great, some achieve greatness—Shak.> <φ> no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it—Heiser> Often it implies accomplishment of something that is in itself a feat or triumph <φ> a complete moral unity such as England achieved—Belloc> Attain connotes more strongly than any of the others the spur of aspiration or ambition <φ> his constant efforts to attain his ends> It is therefore especially referable to ends beyond the vision, the scope, or the powers of most men <φ> this indispensable condition of the safety and civilization of the world is, indeed, very difficult to attain—Hobson> <φ> a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit such as but once or twice has been attained in the world's history—Binyon> Ana effect, fulfill, execute, accomplish, *perform: *get, obtain, procure, secure

**reach** n *range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview Ana extent, area, magnitude (see size): spread, stretch, *expa(nse: capacity, capability, *ability react operate, work, function, *act, behave

**readiness, ease, facility, dexterity** are comparable when they mean the power of doing something without evidence of effort, or the quality of work that manifests such effortlessness. Readiness lays stress on the quickness or promptitude with which something is done <φ> his readiness in repartee> <φ> a happy readiness of conversation—Austen> Ease, which is probably more often used of the quality than of the power, suggests not only a lack of all signs of strain or care but an absence of signs of hesitation or uncertainty, with resulting evenness in performance and, especially in spoken or written discourse, fluency, directness, grace, and simplicity in expression <φ> true ease in writing comes from art, not chance—Pope> <φ> ease and strength, effort and weakness, go together—Shaw> <φ> Constance was surprised at the ease which he displayed in the conduct of practical affairs—Bennett> Facility is sometimes used in a derogatory sense nearly equivalent to shallowness <φ> his facility in language has been fatal only too often to his logic and philosophy—J. C. Van Dyke> More frequently this feeling is lost and facility may be interchangeable with ease, though it tends more often than ease to express the power, proceeding from practice and use, of performing an act or dispatching a task with

lightness and address <φ> by the use of a few English words and the dramatic facility to express complex thoughts in pantomime, she was quite capable of carrying on extended conversations—Mailer> <φ> I loathed algebra at first, although afterwards I had some facility in it—Russell> Dexterity implies both readiness and facility, but it carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding words of previous training or practice and of proficiency or skill <φ> his amazing dexterity in argument> <φ> absorbed in his own dexterity and in the proposition of trying to deceive a fish with a bird's feather and a bit of hair—Cheever>

**Ana** quickness, promptness, aptness (see corresponding adjectives at quick): alacrity, *celerity, legerity: fluency, eloquence, volubility (see corresponding adjectives at vocal)

Con *effort, exertion, pains, trouble

**ready** adj *quick, prompt, apt Ana expert, adept, skilled, skillful, *proficient, masterly: *active, live, dynamic

**ready** vb *prepare, fit, qualify, condition

real, actual, true, and their derivative nouns reality, actuality, truth are often interchangeable in general, as distinct from technical philosophical or critical language without marked loss when they mean correspondent to or what is correspondent to all the facts known and knowable; thus, one may say the real, or the actual, or the true state of affairs in the foregoing sense without evident and inherent difference in meaning. The terms are also often used interchangeably, but with distinct loss in clearness and precision, when their common implication is merely that of having or constituting substantial objective existence. Real, in this more inclusive sense, implies genuineness, or correspondence between what the thing appears or pretends to be and what it is <φ> this is a real diamond> <φ> the British sovereign has little real power> <φ> he has a real interest in art> <φ> to know the difference between real and sham enjoyment—Shaw> Actual emphasizes occurrence or manifest existence often in contrast with possible or theoretical or expected occurrence or existence; it is applied to what has emerged into the sphere of action or fact and is inapplicable to abstractions <φ> actual events> <φ> give me an actual instance of the workings of this law> <φ> the actual tests of the new airplane are yet to be made> <φ> sculpture and painting are not . . . capable of actual movement, but they suggest movement—Binyon> <φ> I'm no judge of the feelings of actual or prospective parents—Rose Macaulay> <φ> the possible way—I am far from asserting it was the actual way—in which our legendary Socrates arose—Ellis> True implies conformity either to what is real or to what is actual. If the former is intended, the term presupposes a standard, a pattern, a model, a technical definition, or a type by which what is true is determined <φ> a true Christian> <φ> the ladybug is not a true bug, but a beetle> <φ> the whale is not a true fish, but a mammal> <φ> in the seventh and eighth centuries there were no true kings of England—Malone> <φ> the true refinement . . . that in art . . . comes only from strength—Wilde> When true stresses conformity to what is actual, it presupposes the test of correspondence to what exists in nature or to all the facts known and knowable <φ> true sidereal time> <φ> run true to type> <φ> a true story> <φ> the true version of a story> <φ> fiction is truer than history, because it goes beyond the evidence—Forster>

**Ana** being, existing or existent, subsisting or subsistent (see corresponding verbs at be): *certain, necessary, inevitable

**Ant** unreal: apparent (sense 2): imaginary

realize 1 Realize, actualize, embody, incarnate, material-
ize, externalize, objectify, hypostatize, reify are the chief words in English meaning to give concrete or objective existence to something that has existed as an abstraction or a conception or a possibility. They are seldom freely interchangeable, because their implications vary widely and their applications are largely determined by idiom. 

Realize commonly implies emergence into the sphere of actual things (as of something that has been a dream, an ideal, a hope, or a plan) <the project was never realized owing to a lack of funds> <he did not realize his ambition until he was past middle life> The implication of attainment, of achievement, or of fulfillment is at times so strong in realize as to obscure or subordinate this fundamental idea of coming into existence <to achieve a beautiful relation to another human being is to realize a part of perfection—Binyon> <however evolution ... is effected, a divine purpose is being realized in it—Inge> Actualize, though sometimes used interchangeably with realize, is found chiefly in philosophical or technical writings with the implication of emergence (as of something that has existed only in potentiality) either into fullness or perfection of existence <powers of the mind never actualized> or into act or action <potential energy becomes kinetic energy when it is actualized by motion> Embody and incarnate sometimes imply investment with an outward or visible form of something abstract (as a principle, an idea, a trait, or a quality) <the poet cannot embody his conceptions so vividly and completely as the painter—Binyon> <Dickens incarnated hypocrisy in his Uriah Heep>

Materialize stresses emergence into the sphere of what is perceptible or tangible and usually presupposes prior vagueness, haziness, or elusiveness <I had the glimmering of an idea, and endeavored to materialize it in words—Hawthorne> Externalize and objectify emphasize the projection of what is subjective (as a thought, an emotion, or a desire) so that it takes form apart from the mind. Externalize often suggests a conscious or unconscious urge for expression or relief <madness has produced ... valuable art ... ; the artist attempts to rid himself of his abnormality ... by externalizing it into the work of art—Day Lewis> Objectify is more likely to suggest a conscious attempt to overcome the limitations of subjectivity and sometimes to contemplate one's own mental processes <art has always attempted to express, to objectify the dynamic processes of our inner life—Robert Humphrey>

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the argument which is not an argument but an appeal to the emotions—\textit{Woolf}\rangle  Proof in much of its use (see proof under PROVE) emphasizes not an intent but an effect: that of conclusive demonstration; therefore, a proof is a piece of evidence (as a fact or a document) or of testimony (as of a witness or expert) or an argument that evokes a feeling of certainty in those who are to be convinced \langle these arguments [for the existence of God] are sometimes called proofs, though they are not demonstrations; they are, however, closely inwoven with the texture of rational experience—\textit{Inge}\rangle  Euclid, the author of the Elements, who gave irrefutable proofs of the looser demonstrations of his predecessors—\textit{Farrington}\rangle

\textit{Ana} explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at \textit{EXPLAIN})

2 *cause, determinant, antecedent, occasion

\textit{Ana} *motive, incentive, inducement, impulse: basis, foundation, ground (see \textit{BASE} n)

3 Reason, understanding, intuition can all denote that power of the intellect by which man arrives at truth or knowledge. \textit{Reason} centers attention on the faculty for order, sense, and rationality in thought, inference, and conclusion about perceptions (\langle the maintenance of reason—the establishment of criteria, by which ideas are tested empirically and in logic—\textit{Dorothy Thompson}\rangle  \textit{reason} is logic; its principle is consistency; it requires that conclusions shall contain nothing not already given in their premises—\textit{Kallen}\rangle  \textit{Understanding} may sometimes widen the scope of reason to include both most thought processes leading to comprehension and also the resultant state of knowledge \langle understanding is the entire power of perceiving and conceiving, exclusive of the sensibility; the power of dealing with the impressions of sense, and composing them into wholes—\textit{Coleridge}\rangle  \textit{philosophy} is said to begin in wonder and end in understanding—\textit{Dewey}\rangle

\textit{Intuition} (see under \textit{intuitive} at \textit{INSTINCTIVE}) stresses quick knowledge or comprehension without orderly reason, thought, or cogitation \langle all this . . . I saw, not discursively, or by effort, or by succession, but by one flash of horrid simultaneous intuition—\textit{De Quincey}\rangle  \textit{do we not really trust these faint lights of intuition}, because they are lights, more than reason, which is often too slow a \langle a councillor—\textit{EA} \rangle  Used in connection with 19th century literary and philosophic notions, understanding often suggests the cold analytical order usually associated with reason and reason in turn suggests the spontaneity of intuition \langle the understanding was the faculty that observed, inferred, argued, drew conclusions . . . . the cold, external, practical notion of life . . . . \textit{The reason} was the faculty of intuition, warm, perceptive, immediate, that represented the mind of young New England—\textit{Brooks}\rangle

\textit{Ana} *mind, intellect, intelligence, brain: rationalization, *inference

\textit{reason} \textit{vb} reflect, *think, deliberate, speculate, cogitate

\textit{Ana} *infer, deduce, conclude, judge, gather

\textit{reasonable} *rational

\textit{Ana} sensible, sane, prudent, judicious, *wise: *fair, equitable, just

\textit{Ant} unreasonable

\textit{rebate} *deduction, abatement, discount

\textit{rebel} n Rebel, insurgent, iconoclast are comparable when they denote one who rises up against constituted authority or the established order. Rebel carries the strongest implication of a refusal to obey or to accept dictation and of actual, often armed, resistance to what one opposes; the term does not necessarily imply antagonism to a government but is comprehensive enough to cover one who defies a generally accepted authority (as of a law, a tradition, or a custom) \langle all their friends were protesters and rebels and seceders—\textit{H. G. Wells}\rangle  \langle one is a rebel or one conforms, one is a frontiersman in the Wild West of American night life, or else a Square cell, trapped in the totalitarian tissues of American society—\textit{Mailer}\rangle  \textit{Insurgent} applies chiefly to a rebel who rises in revolt but who is not regarded by the authorities as having the status of an enemy or belligerent; thus, rebels in a colony or dependency of an empire may, from the imperial point of view, be designated as insurgents, even though they call themselves rebels \langle at the beginning of the war Lincoln held the idea that the Southerners were insurgents and that those captured in arms should be punished as traitors—\textit{Muzzey}\rangle  In a more extended use insurgent applies to a rebel (as in a political party, a church, or a group of artists or writers) who rises in revolt not so much in an attempt to destroy the organization or institution or its laws or conventions as in the hope of effecting changes or reforms believed to be necessary \langle the progressives, who favored giving the voters more control over the nation’s political and economic life, were called insurgents—\textit{Canfield \& Wilder}\rangle  \langle the free verse movement was led by a group of insurgents\rangle  \textit{Iconoclast}, historically applicable to one of a party of insurgents in the Eastern Church in the 8th and 9th centuries who opposed the use of images, is applied in an extended sense to a person who, especially in the capacity of a reformer, violently attacks an established belief, custom, tradition, or institution \langle I have become a reformer, and, like all reformers, an iconoclast . . . . I shatter creeds and demolish idols—\textit{Shaw}\rangle  \langle the blundering crudity of the tough-minded iconoclast—\textit{Garvin}\rangle

\textit{Ana} *opponent, antagonist, adversary: assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at \textit{ATTACK})

\textit{rebellion}, revolution, uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup can all denote a war or an armed outbreak against a government or against powers in authority. \textit{Rebellion} implies open, organized, and formidable armed resistance to constituted authority or to the government in power; the term is usually applied after the event to an instance of such resistance as has failed to overthrow the powers that be \langle \textit{Jack Straw’s Rebellion}\rangle  \langle the Jacobeite rebellions of 1715 and 1745\rangle  \textit{Revolution} applies to a rebellion that has been successful to the extent that the old government is overthrown and a new one substituted \langle the French Revolution\rangle  \langle the American Revolution\rangle  The term, however, does not invariably imply a war or a warlike outbreak \langle effected a bloodless revolution by a coup d’etat\rangle  The words are often applied to the same event according to the point of view of the user or sometimes according to the time in which it is used; thus, the American Civil War of 1861-1865 was called the “War of the Rebellion” by Northerners, not only during its progress but for a long time after; a \textit{revolution} is often called a \textit{rebellion} by the overthrown government or its supporters until bitterness has faded \langle the English Civil War (1642-1652) was, after the Restoration (1660), and still sometimes is, called the Great Rebellion\rangle  \textit{Uprising} is a somewhat general term applicable to an act of violence that indicates a popular desire to defy or overthrow the government; it is often used in reference to a small and ineffective movement that flares up suddenly and violently among an insurgent class or section of the people but it is applicable also to the first signs of a general or widespread rebellion \langle there was fear of uprisings in different parts of the country\rangle  \langle whenever the whole nation should join together in one sudden and vigorous uprising—\textit{Freeman}\rangle  \textit{Revolt} and \textit{insurrection} apply to an armed uprising which does not attain the extent of a rebellion, either because it is quickly put down or is
immediately effective. Revolt, however, carries a stronger suggestion of a refusal to accept conditions or continue in allegiance than does insurrection, which often suggests such a seditious act as an attempt to seize the governing power or to gain control for one's party (the Reformation . . . was no sudden revolt, but the culmination of a long agitation for national independence in religious matters—Inge) (Baltazar's tyranny grew little by little, and the Acoma people were sometimes at the point of revolt—Cather) (insurrections of base people are more furious in their beginnings—Bacon) (excess of obedience is . . . as bad as insurrection—Meredith) Mutiny applies chiefly to an insurrection against military or especially maritime or naval authority (the ship's master feared mutiny long before it occurred) (the mutiny of a regiment made the situation desperate for the invaders) Putsch may apply to a small popular uprising or demonstration, or a planned attempt to seize power (the Munich beer hall Putsch of Hitler's supporters in 1923) Coup, in full coup d'état, applies to a sudden overthrowing of a government by other than normal constitutional means; typically it implies careful planning on the part of a comparatively small opposition that usually has such backing from the military forces as insures the success of its effort, often without the need for bloodshed (General Naguib's coup, peaceful only because of the lack of resistance on the part of the faltering king . . . well illustrates the old definition of a dictator—one who takes a bankrupt country—Ayteo) (it's not in our usual tradition of coups d'état at all. Normally, nobody is killed in a coup d'état. A certain amount of firing, yes, but over the heads of the crowds, just to show people they are serious—Rama Rao) (Czechoslovakia was absorbed by a coup under the direct threat of nearby Russian military force—Isaacs)

Ant acquiescent, resigned: submissive
rebellious *insubordinate, mutinous, seditious, factious, contumacious
rebound, reverberate, recoil, resile, repercuss are comparable when they mean to spring back to an original position or shape. Rebound basically implies a springing back after a collision or impact (the ball readily rebounds when thrown against a wall) In extended use the term implies a springing back from one extreme to another or from an abnormal condition to one that is normal (literature is rebounding again from the scientific-classical pole to the poetic-romantic one—Edmund Wilson) Reverberate is used chiefly of rays or waves, most typically of sound waves, which are forced back in the manner of an echo or series of echoes or are repelled or reflected from side to side or from one surface to another (the evening gun thundered from the fortress, and was reverberated from the heights—Hawthorne) but it may be extended to other matters giving a similar effect (presents even simple suggestions of a return to the poetic-romantic one—Edmund Wilson) Recoil (see also recoil 1) often implies a springing back after being stretched, strained, or depressed (a spring recoiling after pressure has been removed) or a sudden or violent backward movement (a gun recoils when it is fired) Sometimes it carries the suggestion of a return to the source or point of origin in the manner of a boomerang (that evidence missed the mark at which it was aimed, and recoiled on him from whom it proceeded—Macaulay) But recoil often implies a springing back in the sense of being forced back by or as if by a blow; it then may denote a retreat, a recoiling, or a reeling (ten paces huge he back recoiled—Milton) (as deep recoiling surges foam below—Burns) (commentators recoiled from the spectacle as if it were too loathsome for remark—S. L. A. Marshall) Resile, much less common than its corresponding adjective resilient, like recoil may imply a springing back (as of an elastic body) into the original state or position, but in practice it is largely restricted to an essentially legal use in which it implies a withdrawing from something to which one has previously committed oneself (the suggestion which he had brought . . . meant that India was seeking to resile from its solemn international commitments—Pakistan Affairs) Repercuss, also much less common than its corresponding noun repercussion and adjective repercussive, is a close synonym of reverberate and rebound, for it implies the return of something moving ahead with great force or, in extended use, set in motion or operation, back to or toward the starting point. However it distinctively suggests repulsion upon impact and a return with undiminished force, or sometimes even greater force, and often, when persons are involved, with a marked effect upon the ones who initiated the action (the waves dashed against the rocks and repercussed with a great roar) (sickness produces an abnormally sensitive emotional state . . . and in many cases the emotional state repercussions . . . on the organic disease—Peabody)

Ana bound, *skip, ricochet
rebuild *mend, repair, patch
Ana *renew, restore, renovate, refresh
rebuke *reprove, reproach, admonish, reproach, chide
Ana rate, upbraid, *scold, berate: *criticize, reprehend, reprobrate
rebut *disprove, refute, confute, controvert
recaclitrant refractory, intractable, headstrong, willful, *unruly, ungovernable
Ana rebellious, *insubordinate, factious, contumacious: *obstinate, stubborn: resisting, opposing, withholding (see RESIST)
Ant amenable (sense 2)
recall vb 1 recollect, *remember, remind, reminisce, be-think, mind
Ana evoke, elicit, extract, *educe: *stir, rouse, arouse, waken, awaken
2 *revoke, reverse, repeal, rescind
Ana *annul, abrogate, void: retract, *abjure, recant
recant retract, *abjure, renounce, forswear
Ana withdraw, remove
recede, retreat, retrograde, retract, back can all mean to move or seem to move in a direction that is exactly the opposite of ahead or forward. Recede stresses marked and usually gradually increasing distance from a given point, line, or position, but it implies movement on the part of what recedes only when a fixed point of view is indicated or understood (the tide is receding) (until the flood waters recede) (while I stood gazing, both the children gradually grew fainter to my view, receding, and still receding—Lamb) When the point of view is that of a traveler or the distance is in time rather than in space, the receding thing is perspective and the point of view changes. In such a case either a gradual disappearance (as from view or consciousness) or a change in perspective is implied (he stood at the ship's stern watching the shore recede from view) (past events as they recede appear in truer proportions—L. P. Smith) (the possibility of certain ultimate solutions has rather receded than approached as the years went by—Krutch) When used of persons and their ideas or attitudes, recede suggests departure from a
fixed idea, or determined attitude, or a definite stand \( \langle \text{he was far too self-willed to recede from a position, especially as it would involve humiliation—Hardy} \rangle \) Retrograde implies withdrawal from a point or position reached, usually because of uncertainty, or of imminent defeat or danger, or in obedience to orders (after the failure of the first attack, the army retreated) \( \langle \text{he had retreated inside himself, as into a dense thicket—Hervey} \rangle \) they frequently approached this theme, and always retreated from it—Meredith \( \langle \text{Retrograde implies movement contrary to what is expected, normal, or natural; thus, a planet retrogrades when it moves or seems to move from east to west, or in a direction opposite to that of the usual planetary course. The verb is also used to imply the reverse of progress in the course of development (as of an institution, a species, or an individual) \langle \text{some races have been stationary, or even have retrograded—Lubbock} \rangle \langle \text{in his Latin and Greek he was retrograding—Meredith} \rangle \langle \text{we have no control over the process by which the arts or sciences advance or retrograde—Whitehead} \rangle \rangle \) Occasionally it is used to imply a going backward in time or an inversion of the chronological order (our narrative retrogrades to a period shortly previous to the incidents last mentioned—Scott) \( \langle \text{Retroact suggests a drawing backward or inward from a forward or exposed position, often in reference to those parts of an organism which can be thrust forward or drawn backward \langle \text{a cat retracting its claws} \rangle \langle \text{throwing out and retracting their left fists like pawing horses—Shaw} \rangle \rangle \) Back applies to any retrograde motion and is often qualified by an adverb (as up, out, or down) \( \langle \text{back an automobile} \rangle \langle \text{the water in a drain backs up when a pipe cannot carry it off} \rangle \langle \text{back out of a room} \rangle \langle \text{a wind backs when it shifts to a counterclockwise direction} \rangle \) Often when followed by out or down it implies a receding from a standpoint or attitude, or a retreating from a promise or an engagement \( \langle \text{he will never back down once his word is given} \rangle \langle \text{he is trying to back out now that he sees how much work the project entails} \rangle \langle \text{the opposition forced the governor to back down and to recall his recommendations} \rangle \langle \text{Ana withdraw, retire, depart (see go): *rebound, recoil} \rangle \) proceed: advance (sense 2) receipt

2 Receipt, recipe, prescription are comparable when they mean a formula or set of directions for the compounding of ingredients especially in cookery and medicine. Receipt is often employed as a designation of a formula for making a homemade medicine \( \langle \text{she has an excellent receipt for a cough syrup} \rangle \) Though also often used in reference to cookery formulas, the term in this sense is commonly felt as old-fashioned or dialectal and is being gradually displaced by recipe. Recipe is perhaps the most general of these terms since it can apply not only to a formula or set of instructions for making or doing something but to a method or procedure for attaining some end \( \langle \text{recipes are used in making steel, and each ingredient is measured to a fraction of one percent—Hot-Metal Magic} \rangle \langle \text{reading good books . . . is the recipe for those who would learn to read—Adler} \rangle \) In application to medicinal formulas recipe may come close to receipt or it may suggest an old-fashioned empirical remedy, as distinct from a modern pharmaceutical product \( \langle \text{some of his recipes are printed in pharmacopoeias of today—Norman Douglas} \rangle \) In cookery recipe is the usual and standard English term for a set of directions for preparing a made dish \( \langle \text{a family recipe for plum pudding} \rangle \) The usual term for a physician's direction to a pharmacist for the compounding or dispensing of a medicine is prescription. That term is also applied to a medicine which is compounded or dispensed according to such a direction \( \langle \text{his doctor gave him three prescriptions} \rangle \langle \text{he is still taking the prescription for bronchitis} \rangle \)

receive, accept, admit, take can all mean to permit to come into one's possession, presence, group, mind, or substance. They are seldom interchangeable except within a narrow range and, even then, rarely without modification of the thought expressed. Receive very often implies nothing more than what has been stated in the common definition; it may be predicated of persons or of things \( \langle \text{he did not receive the news gladly} \rangle \langle \text{the barrel receives excess rain water} \rangle \) In general receive implies passiveness in the receiver even when the subject is a person and his response is indicated in the context (an infant merely receives impressions, for he does not understand them) \( \langle \text{soft wax receives the impression of anything that touches it} \rangle \langle \text{Only when it implies welcoming or recognition does receive connote activity in the receiver} \langle \text{after some delay, the king received the ambassador} \rangle \langle \text{the social leaders refused to receive the newcomers} \rangle \langle \text{the indifference and hostility with which his earlier work was received—Day Lewis} \rangle \) Accept adds to receive an implication of some measure of mental consent, even of approval; thus, a person may be received but not necessarily accepted in society; an idea may be received but not accepted by the mind; one may receive an apology without necessarily accepting an apology. Frequently accept suggests tacit acquiescence rather than active assent or approval. Sometimes it connotes an uncritical attitude \( \langle \text{the man who . . . accepted simply, as a matter of course, the tradition—Dickinson} \rangle \) Sometimes it implies a surrender to the inevitable \( \langle \text{it is the business of the sensitive artist in life to accept his own nature as it is, not to try to force it into another shape—Huxley} \rangle \) Admit is synonymous with receive only when the agent (the one that lets in) is the one that receives rather than introduces \( \langle \text{the king admitted the ambassador to his presence} \rangle \langle \text{the heart admits fluid through these apertures} \rangle \) Admit, in this restricted sense, is distinguishable from receive by slight syntactical differences but chiefly by its strong implications of permission, allowance, or sufficiency; thus, a judge admits evidence only after its admissibility has been questioned and he has allowed its entrance. The situation remains the same when the subject is impersonal \( \langle \text{the archway was wide enough to admit ten men abreast} \rangle \) Admit, in contrast with accept, often adds the implication of concession; thus, one who admits the truth of a contention accepts it more or less unwillingly; one can accept a proposition without question, but one admits it only after he has questioned it. Take is a synonym of receive only when it suggests no reaching out on one's own part or of one's own initiative to get hold of something \( \langle \text{see also TAKE 1} \rangle \) or when it suggests an offering, presenting, conferring, or inflicting by another: it then implies merely a letting something be put into one's hands, mind, possession, or control. This gift was meant for you: take it or leave it as you please \( \langle \text{he takes whatever fortune sends him} \rangle \langle \text{the British showed that they can take the German bombing} \rangle \langle \text{what was it that made men follow Oliver Cromwell and take at his hands that which they would not receive from any of his contemporaries?—Crothers} \rangle \langle \text{you don't have to take anything from him, or to stand his bad manners—Cather} \rangle \langle \text{Ana *enter, penetrate: seize, *take, grasp} \rangle \langle \text{recent} \rangle \langle \text{modern, late} \rangle \langle \text{Ana fresh, *new, new-fashioned} \rangle \langle \text{reception, receipt} \rangle \langle \text{both mean a receiving, but they are not often interchangeable, their use being dependent upon accepted idiom. Reception is the more appropriate term when what is received is a person, especially a caller, a visitor, or a guest; the term may then apply to the act,\rangle \langle \text{prescriptions} \rangle \langle \text{he is still taking the prescription for bronchitis} \rangle \rangle \)
fashion, or manner of receiving (she gave all her friends a warm reception) or the manner of being received (much pleased with the reception she had—Pepys) or a ceremonious receiving or entertaining (invite one's circle of friends to a reception) (hold a reception for the out-of-town delegates and their wives) or an admission or entrance (as into a place, a society, or a company) (the house is ready for the reception of its new tenants) (call attention to the reception of several new members into the society) When what is received is a thing, reception is employed when the idea of receiving is added the idea of admitting into or as if into a space or enclosure (the tower is large enough for the reception of several bells) or of apprehension (as by a sense, the senses, or the mind) (their minds are not ready for the reception of such ideas) (the proposal met a favorable reception) (television reception was poor during the storm) Receipt (see also receipt 2) stresses the simple fact of receiving and is the customary term when what is received is a thing (as money, goods, or a letter) given or sent by another and delivered into one's custody or possession (acknowledge the receipt of goods ordered) (I am awaiting the receipt of your answer) (making my decision) (Receipt is also applied to a signed paper or document testifying to the receiving of money due or of goods delivered.

**recess n.** *pause, respite, lull, interruption*  
_Ana_ withdrawal, retirement (see corresponding verbs at go): *break, interruption, interval, gap: relaxation, leisure,* *rest*

**recherché** elegant, *choice, exquisite, delicate, dainty, rare*  
_Ana_ fresh, original, *new, novel: select, exclusive, picked*  
_Ant_ banal

**recipe** *receipt, prescription*

**reciprocal**  
1 Reciprocal, mutual, common mean shared, experienced, or shown by each of the persons or things concerned. Reciprocal has for its distinctive implication the return in due measure by each of two sides of whatever is offered, given, or manifested by the other. Usually therefore it implies not only a quid pro quo but an equivalence in value, though not necessarily in kind, on each side (as of love, hate, understanding, courtesies, concessions, or duties) (the connection between law and political theory has not been one-sided; it has been completely reciprocal—Cairns) (the reciprocal feelings of man and woman towards each other—T. S. Eliot) Mutual is often used in place of reciprocal when the idea of return or interchange is suggested and that of sharing equally or jointly is stressed (mutual affection) (mutual enthusiasm) But mutual is applicable, as reciprocal is not, to two persons who entertain reciprocal feelings toward each other (mutual friends) (mutual foes) When there is little or no suggestion of a reciprocal relation (as between thoughts or feelings) and the emphasis is upon the fact that the two persons or things involved entertain the same feelings toward each other, perform the same actions, or suffer the same results, mutual is more appropriate than reciprocal (their eyes held and the air was eloquent of mutual suspicion—Hervey) (even Shelley sometimes mingles poetry and propaganda to their mutual disaster—Lowes) Both reciprocal and mutual are sometimes used when more than two persons, classes, or things are involved (mutual recriminations, long suppressed, broke out between the Fueler's captains—Shirer) but when there is no implication of reciprocity, common is the more usual term; thus, one says "we (two, three, or more persons) are mutual friends," meaning that all are friends each of the other but "they have common friends," meaning that each has friends who also are friends of the others; the members of a group may have a common purpose. Common (see also common 3; universal 2) implies joint participation or possession by two or more persons, and differs from mutual in not being restricted as to the number involved and in not carrying a suggestion of a reciprocal relation or of an equivalence of feeling, performance, or effort (make common cause against an enemy) (their common fund of intellectual interests and curiosities made their talks exhilarating—Wharton) (death and other incidents of our common fate—Cohen)  
_Ana_ shared, participated, partaken (see Share): interchanged, exchanged (see Exchange): balancing, compensating, counterpoising (see compensate)

2 Reciprocal, corresponding, correlative, complementary, complemental, convertible are not close synonyms, although in some instances they are interchangeable, and all are comparable in meaning like, equivalent, or similarly related to each other (as in kind, quality, or value). Reciprocal (see also reciprocal 1) implies that the likeness or equivalence of two things or of one thing to another rests on the fact of their being returns or its being a return in kind, value, or quality for what one side has given to the other (reciprocal courtesies) (a treaty providing for reciprocal trade privileges) (each flexor muscle which contracts has its reciprocal extensor muscle which operates in the reverse direction—Wier) (public and private systems engage in reciprocal services—Lepawsky) Corresponding implies a likeness or equivalence proceeding from the fact that one answers to the other or conforms to it so that they are fitted to each other, or proportionate to or commensurate with each other, or in perfect accord with each other (corresponding sides of similar triangles are in proportion—G. F. Wilder) (the light, with its corresponding shadow—Kitson) (all rights carry with them corresponding responsibilities—Paepe) Correlative implies a close relationship rather than a likeness and is applicable chiefly to two things, or one of two things, which cannot exist independently of each other either because one logically implies the other (husband and wife, father and child, are correlative terms) or one cannot exist without the other (the "right" of the worker to demand work on reasonable terms, and the correlative obligation of the organized community to provide it—Hobson) In more usual use correlative may imply nothing more than so close a correspondence or relation between two or sometimes more things that they come naturally, necessarily, or logically together (two correlative rules: first, that no one shall be allowed to undertake important work without having acquired the necessary skill; secondly, that this skill shall be taught to the ablest of those who desire it—Russel) (disorder in any one of nature's correlative hierarchies—physical, political, psychological—automatically produces disorder in the others—Bingham) Complementary also implies a close relationship rather than a likeness; the term carries a strong suggestion that one thing is so necessary to another or to others that without it an entire or perfect whole is not possible (it is important to recognize that these two uses of the surplus are complementary and not competitive—Hobson) (the corpuscular and undulatory concepts of light must be regarded as complementary rather than antithetical—Jeans) Complemental has essentially the same meaning, differing only in applying usually to a quantitative completing (revelation is regarded by many theologians as complemental to reason) Convertible implies so strong a likeness that the things, though not identical, are virtually interchangeable (the law, and the opinion of the judge, are not always con-
reckless daring, daredevil, rash, foolhardy, venturesome

recite rehearse, recount, *relate, narrate, describe, state

vrb calculate, compute, estimate

reclaim save, ransom, redeem, deliver, *rescue

reckon vb 1 *calculate, compute, estimate

recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cenobite all designate a person who lives apart from the world usually in order to devote himself to prayer, contemplation, and penance. Recluse and hermit are also applied to persons who avoid intercourse with men for other than religious motives, but even in such extended use they retain their original distinguishing implications, for recluse stresses retirement from the world and the life of the world into seclusion but not necessarily into physical isolation and hermit, a solitary life lived apart from men and usually in a place or under conditions where there is little likelihood of intrusion. Recluse is the broader term; it may be applied to a hermit or to a religious who lives in a cloistered community. Hermit is often applied to a member of one of the very few religious orders (as the Carthusians) whose members dwell alone and meet other members of the community only in church and in the refectory on Sundays. Eremite, archaic as a variant of hermit, is sometimes chosen to unequivocally designate a solitary who is under a religious vow. Anchorite and cenobite are contrasted terms for the two leading types of recluses in the Eastern and in the Western Church. Anchorite designates the type known as hermit or eremite; cenobite, the type that dwells in a community, especially a strictly cloistered community of monks or nuns.

recognition, identification, assimilation, apperception are comparable when they designate a form of cognition which relates a perception of something new to knowledge already acquired. Recognition implies that the thing now perceived (as by seeing, hearing, or smelling) has been previously perceived, if not in itself then in another instance of the same kind, and that the mind is aware that the two things are identical or of the same kind. Identification implies not only recognition, but such previous knowledge as permits one to recognize the thing as an individual member of a class of things. Assimilation implies that the mind responds to new facts, new ideas, or new experiences by interpreting them in the light of what is already known, thereby making them also an integral part of one's body of knowledge. Apperception differs from assimilation in implying that the mind responds to new facts, ideas, or situations when and only when it can relate them to what is already known.

calculate, compute, estimate

recoil vb 1 Recoil, shrink, flinch, wince, flinch, quail can all mean to draw back from something, usually through fear, faintheartedness, or disgust. Recoil more than any of the succeeding terms suggests the physical signs of such drawing back or the sensations that accompany it. The term may imply a start or a sudden movement away <had so great a dread of snakes that he instinctively recoiled at the sight of one—Costain> <she makes a gesture as if to touch him. He recoils impatiently—Shaw> but often the term suggests an inner or not outwardly apparent shaking or stirring that affects one mentally more than physically <she was principally aware of the sentiment of fear. She recoiled from the future—Bennett> <the tendency to recoil from the expression of repressed feelings, such as hate—Garvin> Shrink implies an instinctive recoil (as from something painful or unpleasant or horrible); it often implies cowardice, but it may imply extreme sensitiveness or scrupulousness <guilt and misery shrink, by a natural instinct, from public notice—De Quincey> <she shrank from the words which would have expressed their mutual consciousness, as she would have shrunk from flares of fire—George Eliot> <he might have shrunk from defending himself at the expense of a frightened, unhappy girl—Rose Macaulay> Flinch implies a failure in resolution or an inability to overcome one's desire to avoid or evade something that is painful, difficult, or abhorrent <he looked his fate in the face without flinching—Burroughs> <she read and took notes incessantly, mastering facts with painful laboriousness, but never flinching from
her self-imposed task—Hardy> (the process of purgation is always perilous, though it is . . . still more perilous to flinch from making the attempt—Toynbee> Flinch is sometimes used but wine more often when by some involuntary, often slight, physical movement (as starting or recoiling) one manifests pain, fear, disgust, or acute sensitiveness (cannot bear the slightest touch without flinching—Smollett) > His horse stands wincing at the flies, giving sharp shivers of his skin—Hunt > Old Lady Kew’s tongue was a dreadful thong which made numbers of people wince—Thackeray > Mr. Warburton winced when he heard so young a man call him by nickname—Purdy> Blench may be indistinguishable from flinch; it often, however, carries a stronger suggestion of faint-heartedness or of signs of fear (this painful, heroic task he undertook, and never blenched from its fulfillment—Jeffrey) > Though his death seemed near he did not flinch—Masefield> To quail is to shrink cowardly, as from something, which strikes terror > the most formidable woman I have ever known . . . . eminent men invariably quailed before her—Russell> I am never known to quail at the fury of a gale—Gilbert> Ana waver, falter, *hesitate: shy, balk, stick, stickle (see DEMUR) > Ant confronted: defy > 2 *rebound, reverberate, resile, repercuss Ana retreat, *recede, back, retract: *return, revert > recolect *remember, recall, remind, reminisce, bethink, mind > Ana *stir, raise, arouse, rally, waken, awaken > recollection *memory, remembrance, reminiscence, mind, souvenir > recommend *commend, compliment, applaud Ana *approve, endorse, sanction: *praise, extol, acclaim > recommendation testimonial, *credential, character, reference > Ana approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE): commendation (see corresponding verb at COMMAND) > recom pense vb reimburse, indemnify, repay, satisfy, remunerate, compensate, *pay Ana award, accord, vouchsafe, *grant: balance, offset, *compensate > reconcile conform, accommodate, adjust, *adapt Ana harmonize, accord, square, *agree: *correct, rectify, amend, revise > recondite, abstruse, occult, esoteric can all mean being beyond the power of the average intelligence to grasp or understand. Recondite stresses difficulty resulting from the profundity of the subject matter or its remoteness from ordinary human interest. It often, especially as applied to persons, implies scholarly research carried beyond the bounds of apparent usefulness (the recondite and occult in human nature alike attract the insurgent temper—Lowes) > profound and scholarly, but often recondite to the point of obscurity—Woodring> Abstruse suggests extreme complexity or abstractness in the material as well as its remoteness from the ordinary range of human experience or interest (the vast army of illiterate or semi- literate people who distrust the learned world, especially the abstruse world of science—Meyer) > the last quartets and piano sonatas of Beethoven, which are some of the most abstruse music ever written—Whitehead> Occult basically implies secret, mysterious knowledge purporting to be attainable only through special and often supernatural or magical agencies and not through ordinary channels of human reason (the occult sciences) > whether it be from natural predisposition or from some occult influence of the time—J. R. Lowell> But often the word is used with much weakened force to mean little more than mysterious (the sense of occult rivalry in suitorship was so much superadded to the palpable rivalry of their business lives—Hardy) > juries selected by some occult procedure satisfactory to the judges—Amer. Guide Series: Nev.> Esoteric basically implies knowledge guarded by, and imparted only to, members of a cult or inner circle of initiates (the esoteric sects, which guard a mystery known only to the initiated—Sperry) > but it is extended in general use to describe knowledge in the possession only of adepts, students, and specialists (as far as the general public was concerned the museum was an esoteric, occult place in which a mystic language was spoken—Saarinen) > Ana scholarly, erudite, *learned: *pedantic, scholastic, academic

record vb Record, register, list, enroll, catalog can mean to commit to writing for the sake of immediate or future use. Record usually implies as its purpose the making of an exact or official entry or statement which gives evidence of the facts involved; the act serves as an aid or a check to memory or as a means of supplying details unlikely to be remembered indefinitely (record the proceedings of a meeting) > (record the events of each day in a diary) > (record a deed in the county clerk’s office) > (in all recorded history, nothing like this has happened before) Register usually implies accurate entry into a formal record of facts or particulars of a certain kind which require or deserve recording (required by law to register all births) > (all purchases are registered in our books) Sometimes register carries a further or a slightly different implication; thus, one registers a letter by payment of a special fee and obtaining a receipt to ensure its safe delivery by requiring a record of each person who handles it; a thermometer registers the temperature when the mercury expands or contracts to a certain mark in degrees. List implies an entering in a list (as of names, figures, needs, or events) > list the achievements of an athlete > list alphabetically the books you have read > list the survivors of an accident > list the food needed for the party > list your expenses carefully > Enroll may add to list the notion of setting apart those entered in a distinctive category (as members of a body or adherents of a person or cause) and therefore may connote a winning over, an enlisting, or an admission to membership (interested persons are invited to enroll themselves as members of the society) > those who are . . . . tempted to enroll themselves as soldiers—Malthus> (as he goes on, he . . . . enrols a following—Montague) Enroll is sometimes also used of things in the sense of record, but in its more usual extended sense, it also includes the connotation of honoring (enroll your triumphs o’er the seas and land—Pope) Catalog commonly implies an enumeration of all items making up a class or group, usually with descriptive or defining details (catalog the books in a library) > (the porcelains in the collection needed to be cataloged) > (allowing time to catalog the items to be sold at auction) Catalog may also imply assignment of an item to its proper place in a list or sometimes in a category (the book has not yet been cataloged) > a specimen impossible to catalog in the existent classification often turns out to be a new species >

recount vb recount

record n *document, monument, archive

recount recount

record

record n *document, monument, archive
recrudesce •return, revert, recur

amusement, diversion, entertainment (see recreation)
*amuse, divert, entertain
*renegade, apostate, turncoat, backslider

recover 1 Recover, regain, retrieve, recoup, recruit can mean to get back something that has been let go or lost. Recover, the most comprehensive of these terms, may imply a finding or obtaining something material or immaterial that has been lost <recovery a lost watch> <recovered his health> <recovered peace of mind> <recovered his balance> or a getting of something in reparation or compensation <recovery damages in a lawsuit> Regain, though often used interchangeably with recover, carries a stronger implication of winning back or getting once more into one's possession something of which one has been deprived <regain a fortune> (regain a person's good will) <regained his sight> <regained freedom> Regain also may imply, as recover seldom implies, success in reaching again a place or point at which one has been before <in his efforts to regain his hotel—Meredith> <the trench allowed the performers, after being thrust down into perdition, to regain the greenroom unobserved—Quiller-Couch> Retrieve implies a recovering or regaining after assiduous effort or search <desperate efforts to retrieve lost territory> <it now seemed impossible to retrieve the foreign trade lost by war> <his desire to retrieve his military reputation—Bello> <marveling at the silent untriniting activity with which her popularity had been retrieved—Wharton> But retrieve sometimes takes for its object such words as loss, error, failure, or disaster, then implying not recovery but a setting right or a making what is bad good, or a reparation by making up for what was wrong or unsuccessful <life is not long enough to retrieve so many mistakes> <one false step is never retrieved—Gray> <he is to retrieve his father's failure, to recover the lost gentility of a family that had once been proud—Brooks> 
Recoup, basically a legal term implying a rightful deduction by a defendant of part of a claim awarded to a successful plaintiff in a lawsuit, can in its general and extended use imply recovery or retrieval, usually in equivalent rather than identical form, of something lost <able to recoup his gambling losses by more careful play> <Elizabeth had lost her venture; but if she was bold, she might recoup herself at Philip's cost—Meredith> —recruit, basically a military term carrying a stronger implication of fresh additions; in military use it can imply an increase in numbers through drafting and enlistment or a filling of vacancies in a force resulting from casualties <it was his custom to recruit his army with conquered people—Newton> In more general use it may imply a regaining of what has been lost (as vigor through illness, or money through extravagance or heavy expenditures) by fresh additions or replenishment of the supply <recruiting his strength with a good plain dinner—Dickens> <(the middle class) is continually recruited from the capitalist families—Shaw>—analogous words

redundancy

recoup vb recruit, retrieve, regain, *recover
AnA *compensate, balance, offset, counterpoise

recovery 1 Recover, regain, retrieve, recoup, recruit can mean to get back something that has been let go or lost. Recover, the most comprehensive of these terms, may imply a finding or obtaining something material or immaterial that has been lost <recovery a lost watch> <recovered his health> <recovered peace of mind> <recovered his balance> or a getting of something in reparation or compensation <recovery damages in a lawsuit> Regain, though often used interchangeably with recover, carries a stronger implication of winning back or getting once more into one's possession something of which one has been deprived <regain a fortune> (regain a person's good will) <regained his sight> <regained freedom> Regain also may imply, as recover seldom implies, success in reaching again a place or point at which one has been before <in his efforts to regain his hotel—Meredith> <the trench allowed the performers, after being thrust down into perdition, to regain the greenroom unobserved—Quiller-Couch> Retrieve implies a recovering or regaining after assiduous effort or search <desperate efforts to retrieve lost territory> <it now seemed impossible to retrieve the foreign trade lost by war> <his desire to retrieve his military reputation—Bello> <marveling at the silent untriniting activity with which her popularity had been retrieved—Wharton> But retrieve sometimes takes for its object such words as loss, error, failure, or disaster, then implying not recovery but a setting right or a making what is bad good, or a reparation by making up for what was wrong or unsuccessful <life is not long enough to retrieve so many mistakes> <one false step is never retrieved—Gray> <he is to retrieve his father's failure, to recover the lost gentility of a family that had once been proud—Brooks> 
Recoup, basically a legal term implying a rightful deduction by a defendant of part of a claim awarded to a successful plaintiff in a lawsuit, can in its general and extended use imply recovery or retrieval, usually in equivalent rather than identical form, of something lost <able to recoup his gambling losses by more careful play> <Elizabeth had lost her venture; but if she was bold, she might recoup herself at Philip's cost—Meredith> —recruit, basically a military term carrying a stronger implication of fresh additions; in military use it can imply an increase in numbers through drafting and enlistment or a filling of vacancies in a force resulting from casualties <it was his custom to recruit his army with conquered people—Newton> In more general use it may imply a regaining of what has been lost (as vigor through illness, or money through extravagance or heavy expenditures) by fresh additions or replenishment of the supply <recruiting his strength with a good plain dinner—Dickens> <(the middle class) is continually recruited from the capitalist families—Shaw>—analogous words

adjectives at INFLATED): *bombast, rant, festian

redundant *wordy, verbose, prolix, diffuse

Ana *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare: repeating or repetitious, iterating, reiterating (see corresponding verbs at REPEAT)

Ant concise — Con terse, succinct, laconic, pithy, summary (see CONCISE): compact, *close

reef vb Reel, whirl, stagger, totter are comparable when they mean to move or seem to move uncertainly or uncontrollably (as in weakness, in giddiness, or in intoxication). Reel usually implies a turning round and round, or a sensation of so turning or being turned (for, while the dagg gleamed on high, reeled soul and sense, reeled brain and eye—Scott) (in these lengthened vigils his brain often reeled—Hawthorne) But it may also imply a being thrown off balance (as an army that recoils before a mighty attack, a ship that has lost its equilibrium, or a person affected by exhaustion, a wound, faintness, or intoxication) *giddy and restless, let them reel like stubble from the wind—(Milton) when Church and State were reeling to their foundations—(Stanley) he . . . placed his open palm gently against the breast of Lucian, who instantly reeled back as if the piston rod of a steam engine had touched him—(Shaw) Whirl (see also TURN) is often used like reel, especially when referred to the head or to the brain (the dim brain whirls dizzy with delight—Shelley) but it more frequently implies swiftness or impetuosity of movement often by someone or something being carried along blindly or furiously (in popular commotions, each man is whirled along with the herd—Lytton) Stagger stresses uncertainty or uncontrollability of movement, typically of a person walking while weak, giddy, intoxicated, or heavily burdened, but sometimes of whatever meets with difficulty or with adverse conditions; thus, a boat that labors, a mind that is perplexed, confused, or bewildered, and a faith, opinion, or purpose that meets heavy opposition can all be said to stagger a porter half my size who . . . staggered through the shallow water under what must have been an almost overwhelming weight—(Heiser) (at whose immensity even soaring fancy staggered—Shelley) Totter (see also SHAKE) implies not only weakness or unsteadiness as a cause of uncertain movement but often also suggests an approaching complete collapse (from the day of Cressy feudalism tottered slowly but surely to its grave—J. R. Green) (the waning moon) like a dying lady, lean and pale, who totters forth, wrath in a gauzy veil—(Shelley)

Ana *turn, spin, revolve, rotate: sway,wavering, *swing: wobble, teeter, quiver (see SHAKE)

refer 1 assign, credit, accredit, *impute, attribute, ascribe

reformer n *umpire, arbiter, *judge, arbitrator

reference testimonial, recommendation, character, *credential

referendum initiative, *mandate, plebiscite

refinement *culture, cultivation, breeding

Ana suavity, urbanness (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE): courtesy, politeness, civility (see corresponding adjectives at CIVIL): *elegance, grace, dignity

Ant vulgarity

reflect *think, cogitate, reason, speculate, deliberate

Ana *consider, contemplate, study, weigh: *ponder, muse, meditate, ruminate

reflection *animadversion, stricture, aspersion

Ana imputing or imputation, ascribing or ascription (see corresponding verbs at ASCRIBE): criticizing or criticism, reprehending or reprehension, blaming or blame (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE): *attack, assault, onslaught, onset: disparagement, derogation, depreciation (see corresponding verbs at DECAY)

reflective *thoughtful, contemplative, meditative, pensive, speculative

Ana thinking, reasoning, deliberating, cogitating (see THINK): analytical, *logical, subtle

reform vb *correct, rectify, mend, amend, remedy, repress, revise

Ana *mend, repair, rebuild: better, *improve, help, ameliorate

reformer n *reformation

reformation, reformation can both denote a making better or a giving of a new and improved form or character and are sometimes interchangeable without loss (the reformation of a criminal) (the reformation of society) Reformation is the more usual term as a designation of a movement that has brought about many revolutionary amendments or improvements, especially in morals or religious practices (the Protestant Reformation) It is also appropriate when the idea of making over so as to eradicate defects is sometimes interchangeable without loss 

redaction at INFLATED): *bombast, rant, festian

roundabout or covert method of expression, or a figure of speech; it may suggest mere casual interest, modesty, timidity, or reticence in the one who alludes (fruit . . . gives him that intestinal condition I alluded to—(Stafford) (the traveling facilities alluded to . . . would date the story as between 1842 and 1844—O. S. Nock) Sometimes, however, it connotes bias or ill will (proposals, which were never called proposals, but always alluded to slightingly as innovations—Mackenzie) Advert, which basically means to turn the mind or attention to something (see ADVERT), is sometimes interchangeable with refer but in such use it may distinctively imply a slight or glancing reference interpolated in a text or utterance (regards as truly religious certain elevated ethical attitudes and cosmologies that Freud, when he adverted to them at all, regarded as so highbrow to be given the name of religion—(Kiesman) letters from Franklin to his wife's grandmother . . . in which he adverted to having had to do with her education—(Justice Holmes)

Ana *introduce, insert, interpolate: *quote, cite

reference interpolated in a text or utterance <regards as a heady currance, scouring faults—(Scott) or as a giving of a new and improved form or character and are sometimes interchangeable without loss <the reformation of a criminal) <Boeotia, choose or civil war! Reformation—Shelley) had passed over such use it may distinctively imply a slight or glancing reference interpolated in a text or utterance (regards as truly religious certain elevated ethical attitudes and cosmologies that Freud, when he adverted to them at all, regarded as so highbrow to be given the name of religion—(Kiesman) letters from Franklin to his wife's grandmother . . . in which he adverted to having had to do with her education—(Justice Holmes)

Ana *introduce, insert, interpolate: *quote, cite
refractory 673 regard

refractions in the government (a reform worthy of a good prince and of a good parliament—Macaulay)

refractory recalcitrant, intractable, unguerverable, *unruuly, headstrong, willful

Ana *contrary, perverse, froward, wayward: *insubordinate, rebellious, contumacious

Ant malleable: amenable (sense 2)

refrain, abstain, forbear are comparable when they mean to keep or withhold oneself voluntarily from something to which one is moved by desire or impulse. Refrain is especially suitable when the checking of a momentary inclination is implied (refrain from laughter) At times, to refrain from an action implies merely its nonperformance (no tolerable parent could refrain from praising a child when it first walks—Russell) Abstain is more emphatic than refrain, because it usually stresses deliberate renunciation or self-denial on principle and often implies permanence of intent (early Christians ... abstained from the responsibilities of office—Acton) I have ... abstained from the use of many expressions, in themselves proper and beautiful, but which have been foolishly repeated by bad poets—Wordsworth) It is used especially in reference to those natural appetites and passions whose control or renunciation are a part of self-discipline (from this personal blow stemmed, I believe, an act of renunciation, his decision to abstain from meat—Shirer)

Forbear usually implies self-restraint rather than self-denial, be it from patience, charity, or clemency, or from discretion, or from stoicism (he was so poison-mean that the marsh mosquitoes forbore to bite him—S. H. Adams) (wherever he has not the power to do or forbear any act according to the determination or thought of the mind, he is not free—Thilly) But often forbear is but vaguely distinguishable from refrain (I cannot forbear quoting what seems to me applicable here—Justice Holmes)

Ana check, *arrest, interrupt: *restrain, curb, inhibit

refresh *newen, restore, rejuvenate, renovate, refurbish


Ant jade, addle

refuge asylum, sanctuary, *shelter, cover, retreat

Ana safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at safe): stronghold, casrtel, *fort, fortress: *harbor, haven, port

refulgent effulgent, luminous, radiant, lustrious, *bright, brilliant, beamish, lamplight, lucent, incandescent

refurbish renovate, *newen, refresh, restore, rejuvenate

refuse vb *decline, reject, repudiate, spurn

Ana *deny, gainsay: balk, baffle, *frustrate, thwart, foil: debar, *exclude, shut out

refuse n Refer, waste, rubbish, trash, debris, garbage, offal can all mean material that is regarded as worthless and fit only for throwing away. Refuse, ordinarily the most comprehensive term of the group, stresses the rejection of the matter, or its uselessness from the point of view of the owner (as a manufacturer, processor, builder, or housekeeper) and usually implies its being cast aside or thrown away. The term includes anything covered by this description without regard to whether another will find use for it (a stream polluted by refuse from a manufacturing plant) (heaps of refuse left by the former tenant) (arrangements made by the city to collect refuse) (a road surfaced with the hardened refuse from a neighboring tannery) Waste may also be a comprehensive term approaching refuse in meaning, but it typically applies to material that is unused by its producer but can or could be useful in other ways or in other circumstances or to other people (wiped his hands on a wad of cotton waste) Rubbish is likely to mean an accumulation of useless material and worn-out, broken-down, used up, worthless things (throw it in the rubbish barrel) (her closets heaped with rubbish) Trash stresses material of no account (as something worn-out or exhausted of what was good in it or parts discarded in shaping, trimming, or clipping). In general use trash is often employed in place of rubbish as a name for waste materials requiring disposition, but both terms in this sense usually exclude refuse that is animal or vegetable matter. Debris usually applies to what remains from the breaking up, the disintegration, or the destruction of something (as a building, a wall, or a tree); the term usually suggests a loose accumulation of detritus or broken fragments (a pile of debris was the only sign that a house was once there) (the sandstone cliffs ... are battered down and their debris carried out to sea—Geikie) (after the air raid nothing was left of the building but a pile of rubble and debris) Garbage chiefly applies to organic refuse (as from a kitchen, a store, or a market) including waste of animal or vegetable origin or animal or vegetable matter that is or is regarded as unfit for human food. Offal may refer to something (as chips of wood or pieces of leather) cut off in dressing or fitting for use, but the term is usually applied specifically to the parts of a butchered animal that are removed in dressing the carcass, that consist chiefly of viscera (as liver, kidneys, and heart) and of trimmings (as tail, hooves, blood, and head meat), and that include edible meats and raw materials for processing as well as refuse. But offal may also be applied to carrion and other worthless or distasteful refuse and tends then and in extended use to stress offensiveness or disagreeableness.

All these terms except waste also have extended use; refuse refers usually to something left after the available supply has been thoroughly picked over and therefore implies the worst, the meanest, or the least desirable of the lot (the refuse of society) Rubbish may be applied to something (as inferior merchandise or a ridiculous or nonsensical idea, argument, or discussion) that in its worthlessness suggests a heap of trash (much of the goods in bargain sales is mere rubbish) (most of the stuff talked about Nordics and Aryans is simply rubbish—Huysay) Trash retains its implication of relative worthlessness (who steals my purse steals trash—Shak.) (most of these paintings are trash, but there are two or three good things) Debris may be applied to something inanimate or intangible that remains as evidence of what the original thing once was (those eastern lands which were the debris of Alexander’s empire—Buchan) Garbage also may be applied to something that in comparison with other things of the same sort may be described as filthy or foul (she flew with voracious appetite to sate herself on the garbage of any circulating library—Porter) Offal ordinarily applies to persons considered as the lowest or meanest of refuse or as scoffsours (wretches ... whom everybody now believes to have been ... the offal of gaols and brothels—Macaulay)

refute confute, rebut, *disprove, controvert

Ana contradict, impugn, traverse, negative, controvenerate (see DENY)

regain *recover, recruit, recoup, retrieve

regal royal, *kingly, queenly, imperial, princely

regale tickle, gratify, delight, *please, rejoice, gladden

regard n Regard, respect, esteem, admiration, and their
regard

regard vb 1 respect, esteem, admire (see under regard n)

regard n (regard, respect, esteem, admire) are comparable when they mean a feeling, or to have a feeling, for someone or something which involves recognition of that person's or thing's worth and some degree of liking.

Regard is the most colorless as well as the most formal of these words. It usually requires qualification to reinforce and orient its meaning.

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relate
1 Relate, rehearse, recite, recount, narrate, reiterate
reissue n *edition, impression, reprinting, printing
reiterate vb repudiate, spurn, refuse, *decline
Ana *discard, cast, shed: ousted, expel, dismiss, *eject:
*exclude, debar, shut out, eliminate
Ant accept: choose, select
rejoice delight, gladden, *please, gratify, tickle, regale
rejoin answer, respond, reply, retract
Con question, interrogate, *ask, inquire, query, catechize, examine
rejoinder answer, response, reply, retract (see under
ANSWER vb 1)
Ana returning or return, reverting or reversion (see under
RETURN vb); *retaliation, reprisal
rejuvenate *newen, restore, refresh, renovate, refurbish
relapse n lapse, backsliding (see under LAPSE vb)
Ana *reversion, atavism, throwback: degeneration, decline,
decline, declension, decadence, *deterioration
Ant *revival, revivification, regenerate:
rebirth, revolute, rejuvenate
relapse vb *lapse, backslide
Ana revert, *return: degenerate, decline, deteriorate
(relate) (see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION)
relate vb 1 Relate, rehearse, recite, recount, narrate,
describe, state, report are comparable when they mean to
tell orally or in writing the details or circumstances necessary to
render understanding or knowledge of a real or imagined situation or combination of events. Relate implies the giving of a usually detailed or orderly account of something one has witnessed or experienced <related the story of his life> <then Father Junipero and his companion related fully their adventure—Cather>
Rehearse usually suggests a repetition; it may imply a summary of what is known <let us rehearse the few facts known of the inconspicuous life of Thomas Traherne—Quiller-Couch> or a second or third or oft-repeated telling <designed to fool the easily fooled . . . it rehearsed all the lies with which we are now familiar—Shirer> or a going over and over something in one's mind, or with another person, or in privacy before relating or sometimes performing or presenting it to others or to an audience <Mr. Hynes hesitated a little longer . . . He seemed to be rehearsing the piece in his mind—Joyce>
 felt certain . . . that his smile was as he had rehearsed it, polished and genially satanic—Hervey> Recite and the more common recount imply greater particularity of detail than the preceding terms; in fact, the implication of enumeration or of mention of each particular is so strong that both verbs usually take a plural object; thus, one relates an experience, but he recites or recounts his experiences <recite the events of the day> <as with all mysteries, it describes state and what one means, and be able to relate to each other>
Narrate suggests the employment of devices characteristic of the literary narrative such as plot, creation of suspense, and movement toward a climax <what verse can sing, what prose narrate the butcher deeds of bloody Fate—Burns> <the discovery of Madeira is narrated with all the exaggerations of romance—Southey>
Describe usually implies emphasis upon details that give the hearers or readers an actual or pictorial or that give not only a visual representation but one that appeals to the other senses <bitter sea and glowing light, bright clear air, dry as dry,—that describes the place—Jeffries> described her . . . as "a dear little thing. Rather brainy, but quite a nice little thing"—Gibbons> State stresses particularity, clearness, and definiteness of detail, and suggests the aim of presenting material (as facts, ideas, or feelings) in their naked truth so that they will be distinctly understood or fixed in others' minds <Dryden's words . . . are precise, they state immensely, but their suggestiveness is often nothing—T. S. Eliot> <one should know what one thinks and what one means, and be able to state it in clear terms—Rose Macaulay>
Report implies a recounting and narrating, often after investigation, for the information of others <report the progress on defense projects to the cabinet> <he was assigned to report the murder trial for the local newspaper> <in his letters Thaddeus reported approaching an island in an outrigger one evening—Cheever>
Ana tell, *reveal, disclose, divulge: detail, itemize, particularize (see corresponding adjectives at CIRCUMSTANTIAL)
2 associate, link, connect, *join, conjoin, combine, unite
Ana attach, *fasten, fix: refer, assign, credit, impute, *ascibe
Con disengage, *detach, abstract: divorce, sever, undo, *separate
3 bear, pertain, appertain, belong, apply
related, cognate, kindred, allied, affiliated can all mean connected by or as if by close family ties. Related, when referred to persons, usually implies consanguinity, but sometimes implies connection by marriage <the royal families in Europe are nearly all related to each other> When applied to things, related suggests and often close, particular nature of which is to be gathered from the context <related species> <related activities> <every part of an organism is related to the other parts> <body and soul are contrasted, but related, concepts> Cognate differs from related chiefly in being referable only to things that are genetically alike or that can be shown to have a common ancestor or source or to be derived from the same root or stock <cognate races> <cognate languages> <cognate words in various languages, such as pater, Father, father> <physics and chemistry are cognate sciences> Kindred, in its primary sense, stresses blood relationship <kindred members of a community> In its more common extended sense, it implies such likenesses as common interests, tastes, aims, or qualities that might be characteristic of a family. When the reference is to persons, congeniality is usually connotated <he would never be popular . . . but he might appeal to a little circle of kindred minds—Joyce>
When applied to things, a more obvious connection or a closer likeness is implied than in related kindred qualities in two otherwise alien tongues [Hebrew and English]—Lowes> Allied more often implies connection by union than by origin, and especially by marriage or by voluntary association. It often connotes a more remote family connection than related <the Raycie blood was . . . still to be traced in various allied families: Kents, Huzzards, Cosbys—Wharton> In its extended use it usually stresses relation based on the possession of common characters, qualities, aims, or effects which lead either to union or to inclusion in the same class or category <allied physical types> <allied societies> <allied diseases> Affiliated also stresses connection by union, but it may imply a dependent relation such as that of a child to a parent. Sometimes it implies the adoption of the weaker by the stronger <a small college affiliated to a university> Sometimes it connotes a loose union in which the affiliating units retain their independence, but derive support or strength from the main, central, or parent body, or cooperate in its work <Monte Cassino and affiliated monasteries> <the CIO and its affiliated unions>
Ana associated, connected (see JOIN): *reciprocal, corresponding, correlative, convertible, complementary: akin, identical, alike, analogous (see LIKE): *relevant,
germane, pertinent
relative *dependent, contingent, conditional
Ant absolute
relaxation *rest, repose, leisure, ease, comfort
Ana amusement, diversion, recreation (see under AMUSE vb): relieving or relief, assuagement, alleviation, mitigation (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE)
relaxed *loose, slack, lax
Ana mitigated, lightened, alleviated, assuaged, relieved (see RELIEVE): flexibleus, sinuous (see WINDING): *soft, mild, gentle, lenient
Ant stiff —Con strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent: *severe, stern, austere, ascetic
release vb *free, liberate, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise
Ana *detach, disengage: *exculpate, exonerate, acquit: surrender, resign, yield, *relinquish
Ant detain (as a prisoner): check (as thoughts, feelings): oblige
relegate vb *commit, entrust, confide, consign
Ana refer, assign, credit, accredite, charge (see ASCRIBE)
reliant *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, defier, bow, cave
Ana comply, acquiesce (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLIANT): forbear, *refrain, abstain: *abate, subside, wane, ebb
re lentless unrelenting, merciless, implacable, *grim
Ana inexorable, obdurate, adamant, *inflexible: strict, stringent, *rigid, rigorous: *fierce, ferocious, cruel, inhuman
Con *soft, lenient, mild, gentle: *tender, compassionate: yielding, submitting or submissive (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)
relevant, germane, material, pertinent, apposite, applicable, apropos are comparable when they mean having a relation to or a bearing upon the matter in hand or the present circumstances. Something relevant has a traceable connection, especially logical connection, with the thing under consideration and has significance in some degree for those who are engaged in such consideration (the judge decided that the evidence was relevant and therefore admissible) (great books are universally relevant and always contemporary: that is, they deal with the common problems of thought and action that confront men in every age and every clime—Adler) Something germane is so closely related (as in spirit, tone, or quality) to the subject, the matter, the occasion, or the issue that the fitness or appropriateness of their association is beyond question (enliven his lecture by introducing amusing anecdotes germane to his subject) (an interesting point but not germane to the issue) (the passionate cravings which are germane to the hermit life—H. O. Taylor) Something material is so closely related to the matter in hand that it cannot be dispensed with without having an evident and especially a harmful effect (the motion is supported by an affidavit showing that the evidence is material—B. F. Tucker) (certain passages material to his understanding the rest of this important narrative—Scott) Something pertinent is so decisively or significantly relevant that it touches the real point at issue or contributes materially to the understanding of what is under discussion or to the solution of what is in question (once a thing did become pertinent, he had an amazing faculty for absorbing it wholly—Terry Southern) (it is more pertinent to observe that it seems to me that logically and rationally a man cannot be said to be more than once in jeopardy in the same cause, however often he may be tried—Justice Holmes) Something apposite is relevant and germane to such a degree that it strikes one both by its pertinency and by its felicitousness (an apposite illustration) (apposite quotations. . . came easily to his pen to grace the lucid flow of his English—Parrington) (whatever she did, she made her circumstances appear singularly apposite and becoming—Sackville-West) Something applicable may be brought to bear upon or be used fittingly in reference to a particular case, instance, or problem (the word tool is applicable to a plow only when used in a general sense) (the principle is not applicable to the case in question) (although. . . I do not get much help from general propositions in a case of this sort, I cannot forbear quoting what seems to me applicable here—Justice Holmes) Something apropos is both appropriate and opportune (a person who is not aware of an undercurrent of feeling may make remarks that are far from apropos) (we . . . find a new pleasure in the hackneyed words. They are really not quite apropos—Julian Huxley) Sometimes it can suggest relevancy rather than appropriateness or opportuneness (he is not witty but Frenchily apropos—Flanner)
Ana *related, cognate, allied: fitting, appropriate, proper (see FIT): important, significant, weighty (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE)
Ant extraneous —Con alien, foreign, *extrinsic
reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, tried can be applied to persons, their utterances, views, methods, or instruments to mean having or manifesting qualities which merit confidence or trust. Reliable describes what one can count upon not to fail in doing what is expected (she is a very reliable servant) (one of the most reliable of our employees) (a reliable washing machine) or to give or tell the exact truth (a reliable work of reference) (reliable testimony) Dependable is very close to reliable: it may suggest steadiness or trustworthiness in time of need or in an emergency (ask a friend to recommend a dependable physician) (he is the most dependable of our friends) (a dependable source of information) Dependable is also used merely as a descriptive term implying a character that is predictable or that is the antithesis of what is fickle or capricious (Laura wasn't pretty, but . . . healthy-looking and dependable—Mary Austin) A person or occasionally a thing is trustworthy that merits or has earned one's complete confidence in his or its soundness, integrity, veracity, discretion, or reliability (a trustworthy confidant) (a trustworthy witness) (a trustworthy wife) (the most trustworthy comment on the text of the Gospels and the Epistles is to be found in the practice of the primitive Christians-Macaulay) Trusty applies to a person or thing that has been found by experience to be reliable and trustworthy (a trusty guide) (a trusty servant) or that has been found never to have failed one in need or in an emergency or that has been found dependable whenever needed (his trusty sword—Spenser) (he wrapped the trusty garment about him—Cather) Tried also stresses proved reliability, dependability, trustworthiness, or trustiness (a tried and true friend) (a tried remedy) (a tried soldier) (his tried expedients—Bagehot) Ana *safe, secure: *infallible, inerrable, inerrant, unerring: cogent, *valid, sound, convincing, compelling, telling
Ant dubious —Con *doubtful, problematic, questionable
reliance *trust, confidence, dependence, faith
Ana credence, credit, *belief, faith: assurance, conviction, certitude, *certainty
relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage, mitigate, allay are comparable when they mean to make something tolerable or less grievous. Though they are often used interchangeably, they are clearly distinguishable. Relieve implies

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
religion

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relinquish

a lifting of enough of a burden to make it definitely endurable or temporarily forgotten<br>drugs that relieve pain<br>taking steps to control the fire and relieve the suffering it entailed—Milner<br>Occasionally relieve, when used in the passive, implies a release from anxiety or fear<br>they were greatly relieved when her letter came<br>Sometimes it suggests a break in monotony or in routine<br>I’ve had some trouble to get them together to relieve the dullness of your incarceration—Meredith<br>Alleviate stresses the temporary or partial nature of the relief and usually implies a contrast with cure and remedy<br>oil of cloves will alleviate a toothache<br>to help alleviate New York’s chronic traffic problem—Current Biol.<br>Lighten implies a reduction in the weight of what oppresses or depresses; it often connotes a cheering or refreshing influence<br>his interest in his work lightened his labors<br>that blessed mood<br>in which the heavy and the weary weight of all this unintelligible world is lightened—Wordsworth<br>Assuage suggests the moderation of violent emotion by influences that soften or mollify or sometimes sweeten<br>the good gods assuage thy wrath—Shak.<br>the life-giving zephyrs that assuage the torment of the summer heat—Cloete<br>Mitigate suggests a general reduction in the force, violence, or intensity of something painful; it does not, as assuage does, imply something endured but something inflicting or likely to inflict pain<br>mitigate the barbarity of the criminal law—Inge<br>group friction and conflict are generally mitigated when people realize their common interests—Cohen<br>Allay, though it seldom implies complete release from what distresses or disquiets, does suggest an effective calming or quieting<br>the report allayed their fears<br>his suspicions were allayed<br>these . . . words . . . allayed agitation; they composed, and consequently must make her happier—Austen

Ana<br>Comfort, console, solace: moderate, qualify, temper: diminish, reduce, lessen, decrease

Ant<br>Intensify: embarrass: alarm

religion, denomination, sect, cult, communion, faith, creed, persuasion, church can all denote a system of religious belief and worship or the body of persons who accept<br>the beliefs and ritual or to its adherents. It is likely to suggest a great or excessive devotion and a fervent observance by a usually small group of what appear bizarre or spurious or strangely foreign and unseemly rites to persons who follow other beliefs<br>ever since the close of the Punic War foreigners had been thronging to Rome, bringing with them their foreign cults—Buchan<br>the romantic error has been . . . in short, to turn the nature cult into a religion

—Babbitt<br>Communion stresses not difference from others but union in essentials (as of religious belief and discipline); the term can apply not only to a large body<br>the Roman Catholic communion but to one comprising several smaller bodies or organizations (as national churches) which exhibit such union<br>the Anglican communion includes all who are united with the Church of England in matters of faith and order) or to small sects and cults isolated by their special beliefs or practices.

Faith and creed apply to a system of belief and worship that is clearly formulated and definitely accepted<br>men of all faiths were present<br>creeds are often a cause of division

Persuasion may suggest the conviction produced by evangelism and exhortation; it is frequently equivalent to faith or denomination. Church usually has implications that closely relate it to denomination. Distinctively it suggests a clearly defined character, both as a system of beliefs or as a body of persons, and often carries a stronger connotation of organization than denomination carries; it may imply specifically Christian as contrasted with non-Christian worship (to what church does he belong?)<some churches that forbade dancing now countenance it)

religious adj 1 devout, pious, pietistic, sanctimonious<br> devoted, staunch, steadfast, true: virtuous, righteous, noble.<br>faithful, moral, ethical: upright, just, honorable, honest<br>irreligious—Con ungodly, godless (see irreligious)

2 spiritual, holy, sacred, divine, blessed

Ant secular (of schools, journals, authorities): profane (of music, drama)

Religious, monk, friar, nun all mean a member of a religious order whose members are bound by the monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience who lead to a greater or lesser extent a cloistered life. Religious is the comprehensive term applicable either to a man or a woman; it implies a living apart from the world either in a cloistered community formed of members of the same order or as a hermit (see reclusion) under the governance of the superior of an order. Monk in general use may designate a male religious; in precise technical use the term applies to a member of a religious order for men (as the Benedictine or Cistercian order) whose members live an ascetic life in a cloistered community, and devote themselves mainly to contemplation and prayer and liturgical observances, and to some assigned and usually scholarly, artistic, or scientific employment. Friar applies to a member of a mendicant order under whose original regulations neither personal nor community tenure of property was allowed and whose members lived by alms and wandered from place to place preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments or to a member of an order patterned after them, whether he lives as a mendicant or in a cloistered community and whether he serves as a pastor, a curate, a missionary, a preacher, or a teacher. Nun applies only to a female religious; since there are no terms to distinguish nuns according to the severity of their discipline, the rigor of their cloistered life, and the nature of their duties, the word is generally applied to any member of a religious order of women who devote themselves to prayer, contemplation, and work, and may wear a habit.

relinquish, yield, leave, resign, surrender, cede, abandon, waive are comparable when they mean to let go from one's control or possession or to give up completely. Relinquish in itself seldom carries any added implication, but it often acquires color from the words with which it is associated or from the character of the thing given up <disinclined to relinquish his command>—Relinquished his...
relish

vb fancy, dote, enjoy, *like, love

Ana appreciate, *understand, comprehend; *approve, endorse, sanction

relishing *palatable, appetizing, savory, sapid, tasty, toothsome, flavorsome

Ana pleasing, gratifying, delighting, relishing, tickling, regaling (see PLEASE)

Con flat, *insipid, jejune, banal, inane

reluctant *disinclined, indisposed, hesitant, loath, averse

Ana *cautious, circumspect, chary, wary, calculating; *antipathetic, unsympathetic

Con inclined, disposed, predisposed (see INCLINE vb); *eager, avid, keen

rely, trust, depend, count, reckon, bank can all mean to have or place full confidence. One relies on or upon some- one or something that one believes will never fail in giving or doing what one wishes or expects. Rely usually connotes a judgment based on previous experience and, in the case of persons, actual association. The relays on his father to help him out of trouble. The relays on the opinions of others. A physician upon whom all his patients rely. Bitter experience soon taught him that lordly patrons are fickle and their favor not to be relied on. One is entitled to one or two men whose personal loyalty he can rely upon. One trusts, or trusts in or to, when one is completely assured or wholly confident that another will not fail one in need.

Trust stresses unquestioning faith which need not be based on actual experience. Take short views, hope for the best, and trust in God. Because he trusted his own individual strength, he was hostile to planning. One depends on or upon someone or something when one, with or without previous experience, rests confidently on him or it for support or assistance.

Depend may connote a lack of self-sufficiency or even weakness; it often implies so strong a belief or so confident an assumption that the hoped-for support or assistance is forthcoming that no provision for the contrary is made. His confidence had prevented his depending on his own judgment. But his reliance on mine made everything easy.

Abandon a group of words discriminated. A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
remain

remain *stay, wait, abide, tarry, linger

Ant depart

remainder, residue, residuum, remains, leavings, rest, balance, remnant can all mean what is left after the subtraction or removal of a part. Remainer is the technical term for the result in the arithmetical process of subtraction (subtract 8 from 10 and the remainder is 2). It is otherwise a comprehensive term for things that remain after the others of a collection, assemblage, or stock have been taken away, used up, or accounted for, or for any persons that remain after the others of the group have departed (he spent the remainder of his life in seclusion) (it took a week to eat up the remainder of their Thanksgiving feast) (the remainder of the exploring party turned homeward) Residue and residuum are often interchanged with remainder, but they usually imply whatever may be left of a former whole, often a previously intact whole, after it has been subjected to some process which depletes or diminishes it but does not annihilate it. Both terms, but especially residue, have acquired specific meanings; thus, a testator, after making certain bequests and providing for the payment of all his debts and charges, usually leaves the residue of his estate to a legatee, or to legatees, of his choice; water after evaporation often leaves a residue of mineral material; the residue of something destroyed by burning is called ash or ashes. Residuum is frequently used in place of residue, especially when evaporation or combustion is implied, and it may be preferred to residue when what is left after a process, whether physical or chemical or mental, is such that it cannot be ignored or left out of account or may have value as a product or significance as a result (the residuum of the process by which sugar is extracted from cane is called molasses) (there is always a residuum of air in the lungs after the most forcible expiration possible) (one might say that every fine story must leave in the mind of the sensitive reader an intangible residuum of pleasure—Cather) Remains is chiefly used of what is left after death, decay, decline, disintegration, or consumption; the term is specifically applied to a corpse, to the unpublished works of a dead author, and to the ruins of an ancient civilization (they buried Keats's remains in the Protestant cemetery in Rome) (appointed executor of a friend's literary remains) (the remains of Pompeii) (the remains of a meal) Leavings usually implies that the valuable or useful parts or things have been culled out and used up or taken away or that what is left has been rejected or discarded (how like the leavings of some vast overturned scrap basket—Brooks) Rest is seldom distinguishable from remainder (except in the latter's technical arithmetical sense), and the two are commonly used interchangeably without loss. However it may be preferred to remainder when it means simply the persons or things not previously referred to or mentioned (as in an enumeration or list) and carries no implication of subtraction, deduction, or depletion (England, as well as the rest of Europe, awaited the effect of the ultimatum with anxiety) (only two stories in this book are interesting and the rest are uniformly dull) Balance is sometimes used in the simple sense of remainder or rest (answers will be given in the balance of this chapter—R. W. Murray) But balance is more often found in technical and especially commercial use; thus, in reference to a banking account, balance usually is applied only to the amount left after withdrawals and other charges have been deducted from the deposits and accumulated interest; in a mercantile charge account, balance is usually applied to the amount owed after credits have been deducted from the debits (a balance in the bank is a sum of money to the depositor's credit) (a balance of a bill is an amount still owed by the debtor) (a balance in hand is an amount left when all assets are reckoned after all liabilities have been discharged) Remnant and its plural remnants are applied to a remainder that is small in size or numbers or that represents only an insignificant part or piece left from a former whole (the remnant of a once powerful army) (a sale of remnants of cloth) (living in Santa Fe on the remnants of the family fortune—Mary Austin) (sleeping bits of woodlands—remnants of the great forests in which Tom had worked as a boy—Anderson) remains leavings, residue, *remainder, residuum, rest, balance, remnant

remark vb 1 notice, note, observe, perceive, discern, *see, behold, descry, espys, view, survey, contemplate 2 Remark, comment, commentate, animadvert are comparable when they mean to make observations or to pass judgment but they diverge in their implications regarding the motive and the nature of these observations and judgments. Remark usually implies little more than a desire to call attention to something (a bore remarks upon everything he sees) (a metropolitan newspaper remarked that no one today hopes for progress—Bierstedt) Comment stresses interpretation (as by bringing out what is not apparent or by adding details that help to clarify) (the dramatic reader frequently interrupted his performance to comment upon a scene) (neither could be induced to make an oral report on his country or to comment during general discussions—Boesen) Occasionally the word carries some hint of the unfavorable interpretation that is often a feature of the related noun (we cannot help commenting on a certain meaning of culture—T. S. Eliot) Commentate is sometimes used as a substitute for comment to suggest a purely expository or interpretative intent (commentating upon and collating of the works of former times—H. E. Cushman) (emerged from routine commenting to dramatic . . . reporting and interpreting—Life) but the verb is less frequently used than its agent noun, commentator (radio commentators on the news of the day) Animadver (compare animadversion) implies a remarking or commenting on something that may be based on careful judgment (I went to an old-fashioned school. All those who wish to animadver on education ought to be able to begin that way—Calisher) but this basic implication is often obscured by an emphasis on passing an adverse judgment (we talked of gaming, and animadverted on it with severity—Boswell)

remark n Remark, observation, comment, commentary, note, obiter dictum can all denote a brief expression intended to enlighten, clarify, or express an opinion. A remark is a more or less casual expression in speech or writing of an opinion or judgment (as of something seen in passing, something read for the first time, or something to which one's attention has been called); the term usually carries no implication of a final or considered judgment (comments I have to make . . . on the man . . . Brief remarks, absolutely not exhaustive—Mallier) (had a genius for remembering the most telltale gestures as well as the least self-revealing remarks . . . of his master—Krutch) Observation may suggest a reasoned judgment based on more or less careful scrutiny of the evidence (the apparently was impressed by my observation that disease had made it largely impossible for Indians to smile—Heiser) (intimate letters . . . even when containing valuable critical observations, should not be published in the same volume as achieved works—Wyndham Lewis)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
remarkable

*noticeable, prominent, outstanding, conspicuous, salient, signal, signal, signal

remedy

*curative, sanative, corrective

remedial

restorative, curative, sanative, corrective

remedy

*healing, curing

remedies

specific, physic are comparable when they mean something

remarkable

*noticeable, prominent, outstanding, conspicuous, salient, signal, striking, arresting

remember

*beauty, recall, remind, reminisce, bethink

remember

recollect, recall, remind, reminisce, bethink

remembrance

recollected

recollect

remedies

specifics

remedies

remedies

remedies

remedies

remedies

remedies

rememba...
own recent experience—Menchken—\{I will permit my memory to recall the vision of you, by all my dreams attended—Millay\} But recall may imply, as recollect does not, an agent or an agency other than oneself, and in such use suggests the awaking or evocation of a memory \(\text{forty years later Mr. Wilson recalled this circumstance to my memory—Replier}\) \{that tree always awakened pleasant memories, recalling a garden in the south of France where he used to visit young cousins—Cather\} Remind implies the evocation of something forgotten, or not at the time in one’s mind, by some compelling power or agent. Often also it strongly implies a jogging of one’s memory. Usually the agent or agency is someone or something external that causes one to remember \(he reminded me of my promise\) \{this incident reminded him of another and similar one\} \{he reminded himself that he had made an appointment for eight o’clock\} \{he found it necessary to keep on reminding himself that the time was short and the work must be finished according to schedule\} Reminiscise can imply the process of recollecting or of recalling something \{how do people remember anything? How do they reminisce?—Lang\} but often it suggests a nostalgic dredging up and retelling of events and circumstances of one’s past life \{well, anyhow, we old fellows can reminisce—Garland\} \{he cut me short to reminisce of his schoolmates—Hervey Allen\} Bethink, a commonly reflexive verb little used today, can distinctly imply recollection or recalling after reflection or a reminding oneself by thinking back \{I have behought me of another fault—Shak.\} \{to be-think themselves how little they may owe to their own merit—Helps\} Mind \{see also TEND\} in the sense of remember is sometimes chosen to convey a dialectal feeling of simplicity or quaintness \{I mind him coming down the street—Tennyson\} \{the lads you leave will mind you till Ludlow tower shall fall—Housman\} \{I can mind her well as a nursing mother—a comely woman in her day—Quiller-Couch\} Ant forget—Con ignore, disregard, *neglect, overlook

remembrance 1 *memory, recollection, reminiscence, mind, souvenir

remembrance 2 Remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir denote something that serves to keep a person or thing in mind. Remem-brance and the less common remembrancer are applied to an object which causes one to call back to mind someone or something, especially someone dead or far away or an event or occurrence of the past, often the distant past \{I desire your acceptance of a ring, a small remembrancer of my father—Housman\} \{he had made an appointment for eight o’clock\} \{he found it necessary to keep on reminding himself that the time was short and the work must be finished according to schedule\} Reminiscence can imply the process of recollecting or of recalling something \{how do people remember anything? How do they reminisce?—Lang\} but often it suggests a nostalgic dredging up and retelling of events and circumstances of one’s past life \{well, anyhow, we old fellows can reminisce—Garland\} \{he cut me short to reminisce of his schoolmates—Hervey Allen\} Bethink, a commonly reflexive verb little used today, can distinctly imply recollection or recalling after reflection or a reminding oneself by thinking back \{I have behought me of another fault—Shak.\} \{to be-think themselves how little they may owe to their own merit—Helps\} Mind \{see also TEND\} in the sense of remember is sometimes chosen to convey a dialectal feeling of simplicity or quaintness \{I mind him coming down the street—Tennyson\} \{the lads you leave will mind you till Ludlow tower shall fall—Housman\} \{I can mind her well as a nursing mother—a comely woman in her day—Quiller-Couch\} Ant forget—Con ignore, disregard, *neglect, overlook

remembrance 1 *memory, recollection, reminiscence, mind, souvenir

remembrance 2 Remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir denote something that serves to keep a person or thing in mind. Remem-brance and the less common remembrancer are applied to an object which causes one to call back to mind someone or something, especially someone dead or far away or an event or occurrence of the past, often the distant past \{I desire your acceptance of a ring, a small remembrancer of my father—Housman\} \{he had made an appointment for eight o’clock\} \{he found it necessary to keep on reminding himself that the time was short and the work must be finished according to schedule\} Reminiscence can imply the process of recollecting or of recalling something \{how do people remember anything? How do they reminisce?—Lang\} but often it suggests a nostalgic dredging up and retelling of events and circumstances of one’s past life \{well, anyhow, we old fellows can reminisce—Garland\} \{he cut me short to reminisce of his schoolmates—Hervey Allen\} Bethink, a commonly reflexive verb little used today, can distinctly imply recollection or recalling after reflection or a reminding oneself by thinking back \{I have behought me of another fault—Shak.\} \{to be-think themselves how little they may owe to their own merit—Helps\} Mind \{see also TEND\} in the sense of remember is sometimes chosen to convey a dialectal feeling of simplicity or quaintness \{I mind him coming down the street—Tennyson\} \{the lads you leave will mind you till Ludlow tower shall fall—Housman\} \{I can mind her well as a nursing mother—a comely woman in her day—Quiller-Couch\} Ant forget—Con ignore, disregard, *neglect, overlook
renew, *renovate, *redecorate, *refurbish, rejuvenate: comparable when they mean to give a person or thing that has become old, worn, or exhausted the qualities or a remaking so that it seems like new or fresh or young. Renew implies the supplying of something necessary to restore lost strength, animation, or power (sleep refreshes both body and mind) or to make up for what has been lost through forgetfulness or disuse (he made it his business to see Dr. Lavendar, and be refreshed as to facts—Deland). Equally often the term implies the imparting of freshness to something by or as if by cooling, wetting, or allaying thirst; it then usually connotes an enlivening, invigorating, or exhilarating effect (the springs... under the earth... break forth to refresh and gladden the life of flowers and the life of man—Binyon) (it refreshes me to find a woman so charmingly direct—Bromfield). Renovate and refurbish differ from the preceding terms chiefly in being referred almost exclusively to material things and as a consequence in not having the poetic connotations so often found in renew, restore, and refresh. Renovate is often used in place of renew when cleansing, repairing, or rebuilding is implied (renovate an old colonial house) (drawn into a sequence of violent episodes that cause him to renovate his attitudes toward life and death—Martin Levin) while refurbish implies the restoration of newness or freshness by or as if by scouring or polishing and suggests here little more than a freshening up of the appearance or the external aspects of a thing (refurbish an old table by sandpapering and waxing it) and therefore occasionally is used in depreciation (hoped to reform national conduct... by reforming our vocabulary... but it does seem a good bit to achieve with nothing more tangible than a refurbished vocabulary—Laird) (the refurbishing of trite thoughts is the sole accomplishment of many would-be poets). Rejuvenate implies a restoration of youthful vigor, powers, appearance, or activities; sometimes it merely suggests giving a youthful aspect to something old (he... had the air of an old bachelor trying to rejuvenate himself—Irving) (outworn themes may be rejuvenated by taking on contemporary garb—Lowes). *Ana *mend, repair, rebuild: reform, revise, rectify, correct

Con exhaust, *deplete, drain, impoverish, bankrupt

renunciation 1 *abdicate, resign

Ana sacrifice, abnegate, *forgo, forbear, eschew

Ant arrogance: covet (sense 2)—Con usurp, preempt, appropriate (see ARROGATE)

2 *abjure, forswear, recant, retract

Ana reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE vb): *forgo, forbear, eschew

Ant confess: claim

renovate refurbish, rejuvenate, *renew, restore, refresh

Ana *mend, repair, patch: *clean, cleanse

renew *name, honor, glory, celebrity, reputation, repute, notoriety, éclat

Ana prestige, authority, *influence, weight, credit

Con contempt, despite, disdain, scorn (see under DE-)

spise: disrepute, *disgrace, dishonor, obloquy

renowned *famous, famed, celebrated, eminent, illustrious

Ana praised, acclaimed, lauded, extolled (see PRAISE): outstanding, signal, prominent (see NOTICEABLE)

rent vb *hire, let, lease, charter

rent nbreach, break, split, schism, rupture, rift

Ana separation, severance, division (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE): tearing or tear, cleaving or cleavage (see corresponding verbs at TEAR): interruption, gap, hiatus (see BREAK)

renunciation, abnegation, self-abnegation, self-denial can all mean voluntary surrender or putting aside of something desired or desirable. Renunciation (see also under renounce at ABDICATE) commonly connotes personal sacrifice for a higher end (as the good of others, or moral

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
repair

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replace

discipline, or the attainment of the highest good) <she had learnt the lesson of renunciation, and was as familiar with the wreck of each day's wishes as with the diurnal setting of the sun—Hardy> Historically abnegation is scarcely distinguishable from self-abnegation, although the trend is toward preference for the latter or its equivalent abnegation of self. Both words more often denote a quality of character than an act, and both imply a high degree of unselfishness or a capacity for putting aside all personal interests or desires <individuals who are willing to abandon the pleasures of the world for lepers are rare, but, when found, usually exhibit complete abnegation of self—Heiser> <his self-abnegation prevented him from taking credit for the victory—Patrick> Self-denial, unlike abnegation, is usually applied to an act or a practice. Though it means denial of oneself or forbearance from gratifying one's own desires, it does not necessarily connote nobility in the act, its motive, or its end and is therefore applicable to a larger range of instances than either abnegation or renunciation <her still face, with the mouth closed tight from suffering and disillusion and self-denial—D. H. Lawrence>

Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forgiving, forbearing, eschewing (see FORGO)

repair vb mend, patch, rebuild

Ana remedy, redress, amend, emend, rectify, correct; *renew, renovate, refurbish, restore

reparation, redress, amends, restitution, indemnity are comparable when they mean a return for something lost or suffered, usually through the fault of another. Reparation implies an attempt to restore things to their normal or sound condition. It is chiefly applied to recompense for material losses or damages or reimbursement for repairs <wishes that my father's present flood damages), but it is applied also to atonement for an offense, especially one incurring injury to others <educated . . . at royal expense as reparation for the death of his father—Nixon> <I am sensible of the scandal I have given by my loose writings, and make what reparation I am able—Dryden> Redress heightens the implications of a grievance and therefore connotes compensation or satisfaction, or even, at times, retaliation or vengeance <victims of the swindle sought redress in the courts> <redress is always to be had against oppression, by punishing the immediate agents—Johnson> <the civil law by which contracts are enforced, and redress given for slanders and injuries—Shaw> <particular grievances call not only for redress, but also for the formulation of universally valid reasons why they should be redressed—Huxley> Amends is as strong as redress in its suggestion of due satisfaction but weaker in its implication of a grievance. It often implies a correction or restoration of a just balance (if I did take the kingdom from your sons, to make amends, I'll give it to your daughter—Shak.). <love, freedom, comrades, surely make amends for all these thorns through which we walk to death—Masefield> Restitution implies the restoration in kind or in value of what has been unlawfully taken <a restitution of civil rights> <expressing willingness to offer restitution to those Jews who had been robbed . . . by the Third Reich—Hirsch> indemnity is the specific term for money given (as by an insurance company) in reparation for losses (as from fire, accident, illness, or disaster) or for payments made by a defeated country for losses caused by war <an attempt to make palatable to the country what . . . amounts to imposing a war indemnity upon it—Schumpeter>

Ana expiation, atonement (see under EXPIATE): compensation, remuneration, recompense or recom pense (see corresponding verbs at PAY)

repartee *wit, humor, irony, sarcasm, satire

Ana retort, rejoinder, response (see under ANSWER vb); *badinage, persiflage, raillery

repay *pay, compensate, remunerate, recompense, satisfy, reimburse, indemnify

Ana balance, offset, *compensate: accord, award (see GRANT vb)

repeat vb *revoke, reverse, rescind, recall

Ana abrogate, *annul, void: cancel, expunge (see ERASE)

repeat vb 1 Repeat, iterate, reiterate, ingeminate can all mean to say again. Repeat, the word in ordinary use, may apply to what is said or uttered or done again, whether once or many or an indefinite number of times <repeat a command> <the teacher repeated her question not once but three times> <wondered what would have happened if he had repeated his earlier tantrum—Purdy> <repeat an attempt to swim the river> <repeat a step in a process> <wish to repeat a pleasant experience> Repeat sometimes implies a change in the speaker or doer <please do not repeat what I have told you> <the teacher asked the children to repeat the verses after her> <falsehoods and half-truths . . . uncritically repeated from writer to writer—Alcock> Iterate usually implies one repetition after another, especially of something that is said <the bird in the dust iterating, iterating, his one phrase—Aiken>

There is very little difference between iterate and reiterate, except that iterate occasionally refers to a second saying or uttering or sometimes doing and reiterate carries an even more emphatic implication of manifold repetitions; consequently the two words are often used together when insistence is implied <scientific research iterates and reiterates one moral . . . the greatness of little things—Sat. Review (London)> When only one term is desired to make this point, reiterate is especially appropriate <over and over again, in a somber, bullfrog voice, he reiterates his favorite theme—Armbrister> Ingeminate, a somewhat uncommon term, implies reiteration for special emphasis or impressiveness. It therefore seldom implies indefinite repetition but rather duplication or triplication for the sake of the effect produced <that peace-loving habit of mind . . . which made so many nations, in the years before 1939, ingeminate “Peace” when there was no peace—Ernest Barker> <“He was the tramp,” he ingeminated. “He was the tramp.”—Buchan>

Ana *return, recur, revert, recrudesce: rehearse, recite, recount, *relate

2 *quote, cite

repellent *repugnant, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious

Ana *offensive, loathsome, repulsive, revolting

Ant attractive: pleasing —Con alluring, charming, captivating, bewitching (see under ATTRACTION): enticing, seductive, tempting, luring (see corresponding verbs at LURE)

repetance *penitenice, contrition, attrition, remorse, compunction

Ana regret, sorrow, grief

Con complacency, self-complacency, self-satisfaction (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT)

repercuss reverberate, recoil, *rebound, resile

replace, displace, supplant, supersede are rarely interchangeable terms, but they can carry the same basic meaning—to put a person or thing out of his or its place or into the place of another. Replace implies supplying a substitute for what has been lost, destroyed, used up, worn out, or dismissed (a broken toy should not be immediately replaced if it has been broken by the child's carelessness—Russell) replace a servant> <constant flow of conversation from dawn till dark . . . only to be re-
placed by a night shift of resounding snores—Theodore Sturgeon or it may imply a preferring of one of two or more things that could satisfy a need (nor would I admit that the human actor can be replaced by a marionette— T. S. Eliot) and sometimes it implies a putting back into a proper or assigned place (replace a book on a shelf) (the guard soon replaced his blunderbuss in his arm- chest—Dickens) Displace implies a dislodging, outing, or putting or crowding out followed by a replacing. This dual implication of putting out of place and of replacing is the chief distinction of displace in contrast with replace (the weight of water displaced by a floating body is equal to that of the displacing body) However one of these ideas is sometimes stressed more than the other so that the emphasis is either on outing (American democracy was the response to challenge of Europeans displaced to a continental wilderness and cut loose from many ancient ties—Dorothy Thompson) or on replacing (as he became more conscious of the bar accounts, of the kitchen expenses, the benevolence was displaced by calculation—Gorer) Supplant basically implies a displacing or occupying by craft, fraud, or treachery and a taking or usurping of the place, possessions, or privileges of the one dispossessed or ousted (you three from Milan did supplant good Prospero—Shak) (the pretty young wife finds herself in the humiliating position of having been supplaned by a brisk, unlovely woman—Bullett) (eager to succeed Louis and even to supplant him—Bellocc) But supplant sometimes implies an uprooting and replacing rather than a dispossessing and usurping, in such cases trickery or treachery is no longer implied (his tutor tried to supplant his fears by arousing his sense of curiosity) (don’t claim that the Divine revelation has been supplaned . . . but that it has been amplified—Mackenzie) (the architect, to serve the vogue, uproots and displaces stone thirty stories high on stilts, supplanting walls of stone with sheets of glass—Hillyer) Supersede implies a causing of another to be set aside, abandoned, or rejected as inferior, no longer of use or value, or obsolete (the old-fashioned fishing luggers with their varicolored sails have been superseded by motorboats—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (the worst is the erudition—that the next scholar sucks the few drops of honey that you have accumulated, sets right your blunders, and you are superseded—Benson) Ana restore, *renew: *change, alter: *recover, regain, recoup, retrieve replete *full, complete, plenary Ana abundant, *plentiful: sated, satiated, surfeited (see SATIATE) replica facsimile, *reproduction, duplicate, copy, carbon copy, transcript reply vb *answer, respond, rejoinder, retort Con *ask, question, interrogate, query, inquire, cate chize, examine: *accuse, charge, impeach, indict: salute, greet, *address reply n answer, response, rejoinder, retort (see under ANSWER vb 1) Ana acknowledgment, recognition (see corresponding verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE) Con asking requesting or request, solicitation (see corresponding verbs at Ask) (see corresponding verbs at ACCUSE): *argument, dispute: *greeting, salute report n 1 Report, rumor, gossip, hearsay are comparable when they mean common talk or an instance of it that spreads rapidly. Report is the most general and least explicit of these terms; it need not imply an authentic basis for the common talk, but it often suggests some ground for the belief unless specifically qualified (as by false, untrue, or wild) (my brother Jaques he keeps at school and report speaks goldenly of his profit—Shak) (denies the common report that he ghosted the whole document—Bliven b.1889) (spread a false report) Rumor applies to a report that flies about, often gains in detail as it spreads, but lacks both an evident source and clear-cut evidence of its truth (almost every newspaper issue brought rumors of reduction in their salaries—Heiser) (we make our blunders . . . as rumor has it that you make your own—Cardozo) Gossip applies to idle talk, chiefly about personal affairs and behavior, that is the source of or means of promoting rumors or reports, and is sometimes used in the sense of a rumor or report (neighborhood gossip) (my presence killed the gossip on her tongue—Barrie) (gossip about the party leader and his beautiful blond niece was inevitable—Shirer) (this girl’s . . . intimate gossip about well-known people—Wouk) Hearsay carries a strong implication of the means by which a report or rumor comes to one, that is, by hearing rather than by seeing or knowing directly (the qualifications and doubts that distinguish critical science from hearsay knowledge—Cohen) It is sometimes extended to a report or rumor based upon such hearsay (the hearsays bandied about by the medievalists—Behrman) Ana talking or talk, conversing or conversation, speaking or speech (see corresponding verbs at SPEAK): chatting, chattering or chatter, prating (see CHAT): *news, tidings, intelligence, advice 2 *account, story, chronicle, version 3 dispatch, message, note, *letter, epistle, missive, memorandum report vb *relate, narrate, describe, state, recite, recount, rehearse Ana *communicate, impart: *reveal, disclose, discover, tell, divulge repose n 1 rest, relaxation, leisure, ease, comfort Ana calmness, tranquillity, serenity, placidity, peacefulness (see corresponding adjectives at calm): refreshment, restoration, renewal (see corresponding verbs at renew) Con *work, labor, toil, grind, drudgery: *stress, strain: agitation, perturbation, discomfort (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE) reprehend *criticize, censure, reprobate, condemn, denounce, blame Ana *reprove, rebuke, reprimand, admonish, reproach, chide: *scold, upbraid, berate, rate represent, depict, portray, delineate, picture, limn can mean to present an image or lifelike imitation of (as in art). Represent implies a placing before the mind as if real or as if living through the medium of one of the arts (as painting, sculpture, or literature); the term may imply either a presentation of reality or of imagined reality or a treatment of an abstraction or a spiritual being in terms of real things (the painting represents a spring scene) (the Holy Ghost is represented as a dove in the Pentecostal window) (there are several classic procedures for representing visual images by means of music—Virgil Thomson) (paintings . . . to produce a specific aesthetic sensation rather than merely to represent nature—Current Biol.) Depict, primarily meaning to represent in terms of painting, may stress the implication of graphic, vivid representation more than the form of art employed; it is applied to such arts as literature or drawing which suggest color and detail in some other way than by pigments (painters are sometimes accused of calling upon their imagination when they are really depicting fact—Jeffries) (a novelist noted especially for his skill in depicting character) (drama may be achieved by action
as well as by speech. Action can tell a story . . . and depict every kind of human emotion, without the aid of a word—Justice Holmes) Portray suggests the making of a detailed representation of individual persons, or of specific characters, emotions, or qualities (as by drawing, engraving, painting, acting, or describing) (in literature they are portrayed all human passions, desires, and aspirations—Elliot) (a star who unquestionably conveyed to audiences the very essence of the character he was portraying—J. F. Wharton) Delineate (see also SKETCH) basically implies representation by an art (as engraving or drawing) that uses lines to gain its effects, but, like portray, it is often used to stress care for accuracy of detail and fullness of outline (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials. He could delineate whatever he elected with technical skill—Jeffries) Picture less than any of these terms implies the employment of a particular art; it emphasizes the ability to realize a thing in a pictorial or vivid way and may either imply graphic description (of those villages Mark Twain . . . has pictured for us—Brooks) or sensible representation in any form (her emotions are all pictured in her face) or, sometimes with "to oneself," mere imaginative power (the girl was in his mind a lot . . . he had always had a good imagination. He pictured her as she came down the stairs in the morning—Malamud) (they tried, in their sympathetic grief, to picture to themselves all that she had been through in her life—Bennett) Limn is used chiefly as an equivalent of depict or delineate, often implying the art of painting vividly and with color (since not every ancestral likeness had been limned by the brush of a maestro, dignity . . . sometimes seemed merely bovine—Warren) (had too much taste to bare all these grubby secret details, but she limned a general picture for him—Stafford)

Ana exhibit, display, *show: *suggest, hint: *sketch, outline, draft, delineate: describe, narrate, *relate

representative n *delegate, deputy

repress *suppress

reprimand vb *reprove, rebuke, reproach, admonish, chide

reproach vb chide, admonish, *reprove, rebuke, reprimand

reprehend vb (see CONQUER)

reproach adj *abandoned, profligate, dissolve

reproduction, duplicate, copy, carbon copy, facsimile, replica, transcript are comparable when they mean one thing which closely or essentially resembles something that has already been made, produced, or written. Reproduction may imply identity in material or substance, in size, and in quality, or it may imply differences, provided that the imitation gives a fairly true likeness of the original; thus, a reproduction of an Elizabethan theater may be on a very small scale; a reproduction of a Sheraton chair may be in cherry rather than in the mahogany of the original (the present director, on tour in Western Canada, discovered the need for reproductions of Canadian pictures—Report on Nat'l Development (Ottawa)) (the late works look finer in reproduction than they do in the original—Kitson) A duplicate is a double of something else: the word may be used of something that exactly corresponds to or is the counterpart of any object thatsoever (a duplicate of a bill of sale) (this postage stamp is a duplicate of one in my collection) (make out a receipt in duplicate) (plans a movie of the salvage operations, and will sail a duplicate vessel on the course taken—Current Biog.) A copy is a reproduction of something else, often without the exact correspondence which belongs to a duplicate; however copy, rather than duplicate (which logically implies that there is but a single reproduction), is applicable to any one of a number of things printed from the same type format, struck off from the same die, or made in the same mold (a thousand copies of a magazine) (production costs of popular records vary, of course, but a sales figure of sixty thousand copies is the . . . break-even point—Robert Rice) (modern copies of sixteenth-century chess sets—New Yorker) (mimeographed copies of a letter) Carbon copy stresses the idea of exactness found in duplicate (the full moon rising like an immense red carbon copy of the earth seen from a distance—Peggy Bennett) (the civilians . . . seem well-content to let our foreign policy be a carbon copy of the strategy worked out by the military—Atlantic) A facsimile is a close but usually not exact reproduction; the term may imply differences (as in scale) but it implies as close an imitating in details and material as possible or feasible (the heavy chandeliers were loaded with flattened brass balls, magnified facsimiles of which crowned the uprights of the . . . massively-framed chairs—Shaw) (a screen cast . . . presses hard for emotional impact. What results is less a facsimile than a parody of the original—Hatch) (looking for an intellectual equal, or at least the facsimile of an intellectual equal—Mailer) Replica applies specifically to an exact reproduction of a statue, a painting, or a building made by or under the direction of the same artist, architect, or artisan; thus, one does not speak accurately of a modern replica of the Winged Victory, but of a modern reproduction; one may speak of the confusing tendency of some Renaissance artists to make replicas of their paintings. However the word is often used merely to emphasize very close likeness (collection of miniature sports cars. Tiny, Swiss-made replicas, they were precision machined and finely detailed, all scaled to perfection—Terry Southern) Transcript applies only to a written, typed, or printed copy made directly from an original or from shorthand notes (a stenographer's transcript of a letter) (ask for a transcript of a will)

reprove, rebuke, reprimand, admonish, reproach, chide can all mean to criticize adversely, especially in order to warn of or to correct a fault. To reprove is to blame or censure, often kindly or without harshness and usually in the hope of correcting the fault (his voice sounded so bright and cheerful . . . that she could not find it in her
heart to reprove him—Rölvaag> Rebuke implies sharp or stern reproof <he could not evade the persistent conviction that she was the Church speaking, rebuking him—Hervey> Reprimand suggests reproof that is formal, and often public or official <a word ... which the Duke of Wellington, or Admiral Stopford, would use in reprimanding an officer—Macaulay> Admonish stresses the implication of warning or counsel <count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother—2 Thess 3:15> <a highly sensitive dog, and cannot bear reproof. Perhaps this is because he is not admonished sufficiently at home—Littell> Reproach and chide imply dissatisfaction or displeasure; reproach usually connotes criticism or faultfinding; chide implies mild reproof or a slight scolding <if he came home late, and she reproached him, he frowned and turned on her in an overbearing way—D. H. Lawrence> (it is not fitting for men of dignity to threaten and reproach because women have had a falling out—Shirley Jackson> <the gentle irony with which he chides the overzealousness of modern critics—Joseph Frank> Ana *criticize, reprehend, censure, reprobrate: chasten, correct, discipline, *punish

repudiate 1 spurn, reject, refuse, *decline Ana renounce, *abjure: *forgo, forbear, eschew, sacrifice Ant adopt — Con *acknowledge, own, admit, avow, confess: embrace, espouse (see ADOPT) 2 *disclaim, disavow, disown, disallow Ana *abandon, desert, forsake: *discard, cast Ant own — Con *acknowledge, admit, avow, confess: *grant, concede, allow

repugnant 1 Repugnant, repellent, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious are comparable when they mean so alien or unlikable as to arouse antagonism and aversion. Repugnant is applied to something so incompatible with one's ideas, principles, or tastes as to stir up resistance and loathing <soon the pressures of male eyes, eyes expressing sex ... became repugnant to her—Peggy Bennett> <the nonlegal methods of the magistrates in dispensing judgment, so repugnant to the spirit of the common law—Parrington> Repellent usually implies a forbidding or unlovely character in something that causes one to back away from it <the mediocre was repellent to them; cant and sentiment made them sick—Rose Macaulay> <what he does say is that hanging is barbarous and sickening, that electrocution and the gas chamber are no less brutal and repellent—Rover> Abhorrent (see also HATEFUL) is applied to something that is incapable of association or existence with something else, and it often implies profound antagonism <dictatorial methods abhorrent to American ways of thinking—Forum> Distasteful is applied to something that one instinctively shrinks from not because it in itself is necessarily unlikable but because it is contrary to one's particular taste or inclination <even the partition of the world into the animate and the inanimate is distasteful to science, which dislikes any lines that cannot be crossed—Inge> <she felt it to be rude to think of using their personal belongings of ... previous occupants—Kenneth Roberts> Obnoxious is applied to what is so highly objectionable, usually on personal grounds, that one cannot endure the sight or presence of it or him with equanimity <the nation had sunk itself into a state of tacit rebellion against the obnoxious Volstead Law—S. H. Adams> <an opportunity to ... make himself generally obnoxious—Simeon Ford> Invidious is applied to something that cannot be used as (a word) or made (as a distinction) or undertaken (as a task or project) without arousing or creating ill will, envy, or resentment <the invidious word usage—Hume> <what I would urge, therefore, is that no invidious distinction should be made between the Old Learning and the New—J. R. Lowell> <undertake the invidious task of deciding what is to be approved and what is to be condemned—Daniel Jones> Ana foreign, alien, extraneous, *extrinsic: uncongenial, incompatible, incongruous, *inconsonant: *antiathetic, aversive, unsympathetic Ant congenial 2 repellent, revolting, *offensive, loathsome Ana odious, *hateful, abominable, detestable: foul, nasty (see DIRTY): vile, *base, low repulsive repugnant, revolting, *offensive, loathsome Ana repellent, *repugnant, abhorrent, obnoxious Ant alluring, captivating reputation repute, *fame, renown, honor, glory, celebrity, éclat, notoriety Ana credit, weight, *influence, authority, prestige repute n reputation, *fame, renown, celebrity, notoriety, éclat, honor, glory Ana disrepute reputed *supposed, supposititious, suppositional, putative, purported, portended, hypothetical Ana assumed, presumed (see PREASSUME)

request vb *ask, solicit Ana *beg, entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate, impune: appeal, petition, sue, pray (see under PRAYER) require 1 exact, claim, *demand Ana *prescribe, assign, define: warrant, *justify 2 *lack, want, need

requirement, requisite, prerequisite can all mean something that is regarded as necessary to fulfill the purpose or perfection of a thing. Although requirement, the more general term, may be employed in place of requisite, it is the customary term when the idea to be conveyed is of something more or less arbitrarily demanded or expected, especially by those who lay down conditions (as for admission to college, for enlistment in the army or navy, for membership in a church, or for entrance into a course) <college entrance requirements> <a list of requirements for all campers> (action was instituted ... to compel the school board to revoke the oath requirement—Clinton) Requisite is the customary term when the stress is on the idea of something that is indispensable to the end in view, or is necessitated by a thing's nature or essence or is otherwise essential and not arbitrarily demanded <the first requisite of literary or artistic activity, is that it shall be interesting—T. S. Eliot> <the requisites of our present social economy are capital and labor> <intellectual freedom ... is the prime requisite for a free people—Science> Prerequisite differs from requisite only in a stress on the time when something becomes indispensable; it applies specifically to things which must be known, or accomplished, or acquired as preliminaries (as to the study of a subject, the doing of a kind of work, or the attainment of an end) <answered the questions put to him by the Senators as a prerequisite to his confirmation—Current Biog,> <he possesses the prerequisite of an original poem—a percursor unifying, exact and exhilarating—Day Lewis> requisite adj *needful, necessary, indispensable, essential Ana compelled or compulsory, constrained, obliged or obligatory (see corresponding verbs at FORCE): fundamental, *essential, cardinal, vital requisite n *requirement, prerequisite requisite *reciprocate, retaliate, return Ana repay, recompense, compensate (see PAY): *satisfy, content: revenge (see AVENGE)

rescind *revoke, reverse, repeal, recall Ana cancel, expunge, *erase: abrogate, *annul, void

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**resemblance**  * likeness, similarity, similitude, analogy
**research**  * investigation, inquiry, inquisition, inquest

*Rescue, deliver, redeem, ransom, reclaim, save* are comparable when they mean to free a person or thing from confinement, danger of death or destruction, or a serious evil. One *rescues* a person who is in imminent danger (as of death, of capture, or of assault) by prompt or vigorous action (we are beset with thieves; *rescue* thy mistress—Shak.) *<rescue the crew of a sinking ship>* *<rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them in pity from sin and the grave—Crosby>* Less often one *rescues* a thing that is in danger of destruction, or that has been forcibly seized, by freeing it from danger or from its captors (*diamonds that I rescued from the tarn—Tennyson*) *<a main object of his teaching to rescue the idea of justice from identification with the special interest of the strong—Dickinson>* One delivers a person by setting him free from something (as prison, confinement, suffering, temptation, or embarrassment) *<lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil—Mt 6:13>*  *<to deliver mankind from the paralyzing grip of determinism—Inge>* *<the population of Russia had only just been delivered, nominally at least, from servitude—Ellis>* One *redeems* a person from bondage, from captivity, from suffering the consequences of his sin or crime, or a thing from pawn or from neglect, deterioration, or decay by making some commensurate expenditure (as of money, of effort, or of time) *<let me redeem my brothers both from death—Shak.>* *<a plot of land redeemed from the heath, and after long and laborious years brought into cultivation—Hardy>* *<labored for eighty years, redeeming them to Christianity—Norman Douglas>* One *ransoms* a person who has been captured, enslaved, or kidnapped by paying the amount that is demanded by his captor or owner *<he was back in Quebec with a number of Iroquois captives whom he had ransomed—Wyane>* *<ransom>* is often employed in place of *redeem* in religious use, especially in reference to Christ as the Redeemer, when the emphasis is on the price he paid in accepting crucifixion (*his brethren, ransomed with his own dear life—Millon*) One *reclaims* what has become debased, wild, savage, waste, or desert by bringing it back to its former state of usefulness. Specifically one *reclaims* a person who has wandered from rectitude or has become a sinner, a reprobate, or a degenerate when one reforms him or restores him to moral, decent ways of life *<I fear he is not to be reclaimed; there is scarcely a hope that anything in his character or fortunes is repairable now—Dickens>* or one *reclaims* a thing that has been abandoned or neglected when one works with it so that it becomes productive or finds a new use or is made to give up what is still usable in it *<reclaim long-abandoned farms>* *<filled in valleys, diverted creeks and reclaimed swamps—G. R. Gilbert>* *<reclaim discarded wool>* One *<saves also see SAVE 2>*  *<a person when one rescues, delivers, redeems, ransoms, or reclaims him and enables him not only to be free from the evil that involves or threatens but to continue in existence, to enjoy security or happiness, or to be of future use or service>* *<his life was saved by an operation>* *<the lifeguard saved him from drowning>* *<the book he had written himself, the Navigator, had saved countless lives—Brooks>* *<Ana>* *<free, release, liberate, emancipate, manumit: preserve, conserve (see SAVE): extricate, disentangle, disembarrass>*

**research**  * investigation, inquiry, inquisition, inquest

*Resemblance*  * likeness, similarity, similitude, analogy, affinity

*<correspondence, agreement, harmonizing or harmony, conformity (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)>*

*<comparison, parallel>*

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**reside**  * live, dwell, sojourn, lodge, stay, put up, stop can all mean to abide in a particular place as one's habitation or domicile. *Reside* and *live* express this idea, often without further implications. Usually, however, when the term is intended to suggest the fixed, settled, or legal abode of a person or group such as a family, *reside* is the more appropriate word; when the idea to be emphasized is the spending of one's time in a given place and the carrying on of the normal activities of one's way of life, *live* is more explicit (*the senator resides in San Francisco but he lives for the better part of the year in Washington*) When the reference is not to persons but to things, *reside* is the term to be used when the thing referred to is a dwelling, an appurtenance, or a condition *<the power of decision resides in the electorate>* *<his peculiar merit as a critic and . . . resided in the combination of this personal gusto and curiosity—T. S. Eliot>* *<when we have in our minds the idea of art as imitation, we are prone to think of beauty as residing in particular objects, particular colors—Binyon>* When the thing is something concrete and the idea of making one's abode or home is suggested, *live* may be used *<they say that sherry ought to live for a while in an old brandy-cask, so as to contract a certain convincing quality from the cask's genial timbers—Montague>* *<Dwell>* is a close synonym of these words (*more people than he could count (and yet, he thought, less than had dwelled in his own town)—Forester*) but it is more frequently found in elevated language (she dwelt among the untrodden ways beside the springs of Dove— *Wordsworth*) In extended use *dwell* carries a stronger implication of abiding (as in thought or in spirit) (*the bad poet dwells partly in a world of objects and partly in a world of words, and he never can get them to fit—T. S. Eliot)* *<these men had dwelt so long in that weariness they called success—R. H. Newman>* *<sojourn>* differs from the preceding terms in usually implying a temporary habitation or abode or a more or less uncertain place or way of living (*for what purpose, it may be asked, was the world created, and immortal spirits sent to sojourn in it—Inge>*  *<Lodge>* (see also *HARBOR*) also implies an abode for a time or for the time being; it typically also implies having restricted accommodations (as in a hotel or rooming house) often without meals (*the lodges at the Y.M.C.A. when he is in town>* *<a convenience to me as well as to him if he would lodge on the cot in the spare room—Davis>* *<stay>* is the term commonly used in language in place of *sojourn* and often of *lodge* (*he is staying at Miami Beach for the winter>* *<whenever he was in Paris he stayed at that hotel>*  *<Put up is also a common equivalent for lodge>*
and usually suggests the status of a guest either in a hotel or in a private home (two seasons ago I put up at a farmhouse—T. H. White) (where does he put up when he is in Chicago?) Stop, which is often used in the sense of stay (he is stopping at the largest hotel in the city) often specifically implies the breaking of a trip or journey by a short stay (where shall we stop for the night?)

Ana remain, abide (see stay): *continue, endure

residence *habitation, dwelling, abode, domicile, home, house

resident n *inhabitant, denizen, citizen

residue residuum, remains, leavings, *remainder, rest, balance, remnant

residuum residue, *remainder, remains, leavings, rest, balance, remnant

resign 1 yield, surrender, leave, abandon, *relinquish, cede, waive

Ana *forgo, eschew, sacrifice, forbear, abnegate: *abjure, renounce, forswear

2 *abdicate, renounce

resignation 1 compliance, acquiescence (see under COMPLY)

Ana submitting or submission, yielding, deferring or deference (see corresponding verbs at yield): meekness, modesty, humbleness or humility, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at humble)

2 *patience, long-suffering, longanimity, forbearance

Ana endurance, toleration, suffering or sufferance (see corresponding verbs at bear): *fortitude, backbone, pluck

resigned *compliant, acquiescent

Ana submissive, subdued (see tame): reconciled, adjusted, adapted, accommodated, conformed (see adapt)

Ant rebellious

resile recoil, *rebound, reverberate, repercuss

resilient 1 *elastic, springy, flexible, supple

Ana recoiling, resilient, rebounding (see rebound): recovering, regaining, retrieving (see recover)

Con rigid, *stiff, inflexible, tense

2 *elastic, expansive, buoyant, volatile, effervescent

Ana responsive, sympathetic (see tender): *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome

Ant flaccid

resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, combat, conflict, antagonize are comparable when they mean to set one person or thing against another in a hostile or competing way, and they may be roughly distinguished according to the degree to which one of the things or forces takes the initiative against the other. Resist and withstand suggest generally that the initiative lies wholly with the person or force competed against. Resist implies an overt recognition of a hostile or threatening force and a positive effort to counteract it, repel it, or ward it off (the very region which had resisted and finally destroyed the Roman Empire—Malone) (it is hard to resist the thought that metaphor is one of the most important heuristic devices—R. M. Weaver) (resist the pressure of political orthodoxy)

Withstand may suggest a more passive yet often successful resistance in which if nothing is gained, at least nothing is lost (most plants cannot withstand frost) (built to withstand work and worry—Yoder) (having withstood the pressure of her parents—Rose MacAulay)

Contest and oppose suggest a more positive action against a threatening or objectionable force. Contest often stresses the raising of the issue or the bringing into open question of the matter over which there is conflict (the board's power to inspect private welfare agencies was later contested and restricted—Amer. Guide Series: N. Y.) (it is impossible to contest your principle—Meredith)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
resonant, sonorous, ringing, resounding, vibrant, orotund

resonant 1 (see INTENSIFY) resonant 2 vbr Resound, refer, apply, go, turn are comparable when they mean to betake oneself or to have recourse when in need of help or relief. Resound often implies that one has encountered difficulties or has tried ineffectually to surmount them; when it carries the latter implication, it often also connotes an approach to desperation (he found he could not get relief, unless he resorted to the courts) (most powers conceivably may be exercised beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resorted to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Refer usually suggests a need of authentic information and recourse to someone or something that will supply such information (every time he comes across a new word he refers to the dictionary) (most men refer to their own watches when someone reports the time) Apply suggests having direct recourse (as in person or by letter) to one having the power to grant a request or petition (apply to a hospital for aid) (apply to the court for relief) (determined, that if he persisted in considering her repeated refusals as flattering encouragement, to apply to her father, whose negative might be uttered in accomplish as must be decisive—Austen) Go and turn are more general but often more picturesque or dramatic terms than the words previously considered, for they directly suggest action or movement (the president decided to go to the people with his plan for reorganization) (there was no one to whom she could go for sympathy) (she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad)

Ana *direct, address, devote: *use, employ, utilize

resounding *resonant, sonorous, ringing, vibrant, orotund

Ana *loud, stentorian, earsplitting: intensified, heightened (see INTENSIFY)

resource 1 in plural form resources assets, belongings, effects, *possessions, means 2 Resource, resort, expedient, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate can all denote something to which one turns for help or assistance in difficulty or need when the usual means, instrument, or source of supply fails one, is not at hand, or is unknown to one. Resource applies to an action, activity, person, method, device, or contrivance upon which one falls back when in need of support, assistance, or diversion (he has exhausted every resource he can think of) (I must e'en hasten to matters beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resort to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Frankfurter (see INTENSIFY) resorted *resort 2 *court, refer, apply, go, turn are comparable when they mean to betake oneself or to have recourse when in need of help or relief. Resort often implies that one has encountered difficulties or has tried ineffectually to surmount them; when it carries the latter implication, it often also connotes an approach to desperation (he found he could not get relief, unless he resorted to the courts) (most powers conceivably may be exercised beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resorted to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Refer usually suggests a need of authentic information and recourse to someone or something that will supply such information (every time he comes across a new word he refers to the dictionary) (most men refer to their own watches when someone reports the time) Apply suggests having direct recourse (as in person or by letter) to one having the power to grant a request or petition (apply to a hospital for aid) (apply to the court for relief) (determined, that if he persisted in considering her repeated refusals as flattering encouragement, to apply to her father, whose negative might be uttered in accomplish as must be decisive—Austen) Go and turn are more general but often more picturesque or dramatic terms than the words previously considered, for they directly suggest action or movement (the president decided to go to the people with his plan for reorganization) (there was no one to whom she could go for sympathy) (she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad)

Ana *direct, address, devote: *use, employ, utilize

resort *resonant, sonorous, ringing, vibrant, orotund

Ana *loud, stentorian, earsplitting: intensified, heightened (see INTENSIFY)

resource 1 in plural form resources assets, belongings, effects, *possessions, means 2 Resource, resort, expedient, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate can all denote something to which one turns for help or assistance in difficulty or need when the usual means, instrument, or source of supply fails one, is not at hand, or is unknown to one. Resource applies to an action, activity, person, method, device, or contrivance upon which one falls back when in need of support, assistance, or diversion (he has exhausted every resource he can think of) (I must e'en hasten to matters beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resort to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Frankfurter (see INTENSIFY) resorted *resort 2 *court, refer, apply, go, turn are comparable when they mean to betake oneself or to have recourse when in need of help or relief. Resort often implies that one has encountered difficulties or has tried ineffectually to surmount them; when it carries the latter implication, it often also connotes an approach to desperation (he found he could not get relief, unless he resorted to the courts) (most powers conceivably may be exercised beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resorted to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Refer usually suggests a need of authentic information and recourse to someone or something that will supply such information (every time he comes across a new word he refers to the dictionary) (most men refer to their own watches when someone reports the time) Apply suggests having direct recourse (as in person or by letter) to one having the power to grant a request or petition (apply to a hospital for aid) (apply to the court for relief) (determined, that if he persisted in considering her repeated refusals as flattering encouragement, to apply to her father, whose negative might be uttered in accomplish as must be decisive—Austen) Go and turn are more general but often more picturesque or dramatic terms than the words previously considered, for they directly suggest action or movement (the president decided to go to the people with his plan for reorganization) (there was no one to whom she could go for sympathy) (she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad)

Ana *direct, address, devote: *use, employ, utilize

resorting *resonant, sonorous, ringing, vibrant, orotund

Ana *loud, stentorian, earsplitting: intensified, heightened (see INTENSIFY)

resource 1 in plural form resources assets, belongings, effects, *possessions, means 2 Resource, resort, expedient, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate can all denote something to which one turns for help or assistance in difficulty or need when the usual means, instrument, or source of supply fails one, is not at hand, or is unknown to one. Resource applies to an action, activity, person, method, device, or contrivance upon which one falls back when in need of support, assistance, or diversion (he has exhausted every resource he can think of) (I must e'en hasten to matters beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resort to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Frankfurter (see INTENSIFY) resorted *resort 2 *court, refer, apply, go, turn are comparable when they mean to betake oneself or to have recourse when in need of help or relief. Resort often implies that one has encountered difficulties or has tried ineffectually to surmount them; when it carries the latter implication, it often also connotes an approach to desperation (he found he could not get relief, unless he resorted to the courts) (most powers conceivably may be exercised beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . . But we do not on that account resorted to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) Refer usually suggests a need of authentic information and recourse to someone or something that will supply such information (every time he comes across a new word he refers to the dictionary) (most men refer to their own watches when someone reports the time) Apply suggests having direct recourse (as in person or by letter) to one having the power to grant a request or petition (apply to a hospital for aid) (apply to the court for relief) (determined, that if he persisted in considering her repeated refusals as flattering encouragement, to apply to her father, whose negative might be uttered in accomplish as must be decisive—Austen) Go and turn are more general but often more picturesque or dramatic terms than the words previously considered, for they directly suggest action or movement (the president decided to go to the people with his plan for reorganization) (there was no one to whom she could go for sympathy) (she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad)

Ana *direct, address, devote: *use, employ, utilize

resort *resonant, sonorous, ringing, vibrant, orotund

Ana *loud, stentorian, earsplitting: intensified, heightened (see INTENSIFY)
respect

vt.obeisance, deference, reverence [°•](under the new act—Taney) Liable for any of its obligations—John Marshall) One is accountable to someone who, because of something entrusted to him is bound to be called upon to render an account of how that trust has been executed. Accountable is much more positive than responsible or answerable in its suggestion of retributive justice in case of default (if the physicist discovers new sources of energy that may be readily released for destructive purposes, he should not be held accountable for their use—Gauss) (the Russian leaders . . . are not accountable to their people—The Reporter) Amenable and liable especially stress subjection and suggest the contingency rather than the probability or certainty of being called to account. One is amenable, usually to something, whose acts are subject to the control or the censure of a higher authority and who, therefore, is not self-governing or absolute in power (is it to be contended that the heads of departments are not amenable to the laws of their country?—John Marshall) (scholar and teacher alike ranked as clerks . . . only to the rule of the bishop—J. R. Green) One is liable that by the terms of the law may be made answerable in case of default (a surety is liable for the debts of his principal) (the present United States . . . took nothing by succession from the Confederation . . . was not liable for any of its obligations—Taney) Liable does not, however, always imply answerability. It may imply mere contingent obligation (every citizen is liable for jury duty) (he is only 39, and liable for military service under the new act—Shaw)

responsive 1 *sentient, sensitive, impressive, impressionable, susceptible

vb answer, responding, replying (see answer vb); reacting, acting, behaving (see act vb)

Ant impassive

2 sympathetic, warm, warmhearted, compassionate, *tender

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
alive, awake, *aware: sensitive, susceptible, prone (see LIABLE)

**rest n**  Rest, repose, relaxation, leisure, ease, comfort are comparable when they mean freedom from toil or strain. Rest, the most general term, implies withdrawal from all labor or exertion and suggests an opposition to the term work; it does not in itself explicitly imply a particular way of spending one's time, but it does suggest as an aim or as a result the overcoming of physical or mental weariness <there the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest—Job 3:17> (night came, and with it but little rest—Hardy) <there was rest now, not disquietude, in the knowledge—Glasgow> Repose implies freedom from motion or movement and suggests not only physical quiet (as in sleeping or slumbering) but also mental quiet and freedom from anything that disturbs, annoys, agitates, or confuses. Typically the term suggests tranquillity or peace or the refreshment that comes from complete quiet or rest <heavily passed the night. Sleep, or repose that deserved the name of sleep, was out of the question—austen> <eighteen years of commotion had made the majority of the people ready to buy repose at any price—Macaulay> <walls . . . that shut out the world and gave repose to the spirit—Cather> Relaxation may imply rest that comes from diversion or recreation but it usually stresses either a releasing of the tension that keeps muscles taut and fit for work or the mind keyed up to the processes of clear and prolonged thinking, or a physical and mental slackening that finally induces repose <those who wish relaxation from analysis . . . the tired scientist, and the fatigued philologist and the weary man of business—Bathurst> <now and then came relaxation and lassitude, but never release. The war towered over him like a vigilant teacher—H. G. Wells> <found relaxation in her unobtrusive company—Shirer> Leisure implies exemption from the labor imposed upon one by a trade or profession or by duties; it may apply to the hours in which one is not engaged in one's daily work, or to the period in which one is on vacation, or to the entire time of a person who is not compelled to earn his living <have little leisure for reading> <he looked forward to the prospect of a full month of leisure> <those who lead lives of leisure—Leisure, therefore, stresses freedom from compulsion, or routine, or continuous work; it usually suggests not freedom from activity but the freedom to determine one's activities <labor is doing what we must; leisure is doing what we like; rest is doing nothing whilst our bodies and minds are recovering from their fatigue—Shaw> Ease (see also READINESS) stresses exemption from toil, but it also implies a freedom from whatever worries or disturbs and from what demands physical or mental activity. In contrast to leisure it implies rest and repose; in addition it suggests either complete relaxation of mind and body or a state of mind that finds no attraction in work or activity <all day I sit in idleness, while to and fro about me thy atmosphere over the whole ship—Wouk> But ease may also imply absence of strain, especially mental or nervous strain, rather than freedom from toil <not only devoted, but resourceful and intelligent, one who would be at his ease with all sorts of men—Cather> Comfort differs from the other words of this group in carrying little if any suggestion of freedom from toil; it applies rather to a state of mind induced by relief from all that strains or inconveniences or causes pain, disquiet, or discontent. Positively it suggests perfect well-being and a feeling of quiet enjoyment or content <he had bought for himself out of all the wealth streaming through his fingers neither adulation nor love, neither splendor nor comfort—Conrad> <this sudden calm and the sense of comfort that it brought created a more genial atmosphere over the whole ship—Dahl> <spent every dollar he earned on the comfort of his family—Wouk> Ana intermitting or intermission, suspending or suspension, deferring <see corresponding verbs at DEFER> stillness, quietness or quiet, silenience or silence (see corresponding adjectives at STILL): calmness or calm, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

**rest vb**  *base, found, ground, bottom, stay* 

*Ana* *depend, hang, hinge:* *rely, depend, count*  

**rest n**  *remainder, residue, residuum, remains, leavings, balance, remnant* 

*Ana* *excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage, overplus*  

**restful**  *comfortable, cozy, snug, easy* 

*Ana* *soft, gentle, mild, lenient:* *still, quiet, silent:* placid, peaceful, *calm, serene, tranquil*  

**restitution**  *amends, redress, *reparation, indemnity* 

*Ana* *repayment, recompense, reimbursement (see corresponding verbs at PAY)*

**resake**  *contrary, perverse, balky, froward, wayward* 

*Ana* *intractable,* *unruly, ungovernable, refractory:* *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, stiff-necked, pigheaded*  

2 restless, *impatient, nervous, unquiet, uneasy, fidgety, jumpy, jittery* 

*Ana* see those at RESTLESS

**restless**  *resive,* patient, nervous, impatient, uneasy, fidgety, jumpy, jittery

*Ana* *fitful, spasmodic:* *inconstant, capricious, unstable, fickle:* agitated, disquieted, perturbed, discomposed (see DISCOMPose)

**restorative**  adj  *curative, remedial, corrective, sanative* 

*Ana* *stirulating, quickening (see PROVOKE)*

**restore**  *renew, refresh, rejuvenate, renovate, refurbish* 

*Ana* *save, reclaim, redeem,* *rescue:* *reform, revise,* *amend* (see CORRECT vb): *recover,* *regain, retrieve,* *recoup, recruit*  

2 Restore, revive, revivify, resuscitate can all mean to regain or cause to regain signs of life and vigor. Restore (see also RENEW) implies a return to consciousness, to health, or to vigor often through the use of remedies or treatments <it took many months to restore him to health> <gave her aromatic spirits of ammonia to restore her to consciousness> Revive, when used in reference to a person, implies recovery from a deathlike state (as stupor or a faint or shock); it carries a stronger suggestion of apparent death in the victim and a less positive suggestion of restored health and vigor than does restore <slowly revived from the effects of shock> <revived her by throwing water on her face> But the term is often applied to spirits or to feelings that are depressed, to plants that seem withering, to states, arts, industries, or fashions that are not flourishing and implies a return to a prior state (as of animation, freshness, or activity) <the flowers have been revived by the shower> <ambitious hopes which had seemed to be extinguished, had revived in his bosom—Macaulay> Revivify differs from revive in suggesting an adding of new life and in not carrying so strong a suggestion of prior loss or depletion of vital power; hence, it is applicable to normal persons or to their powers <a good night's sleep revives every healthy person> <cessation in his lovemaking had revivified her love—Hardy> The term is also applicable to something that tends to become exhausted of interest through long usage or familiarity and then suggests a freshening or a vitalizing from a new source <being a true poet, he was able . . . to revivify them [old, much-used words] as poetic agents—Day Lewis> (tradition is dead; our task is to revivify life that has passed away—Buchan) Resuscitate implies commonly a restora-
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
when merited punishment is administered, not by the victim, but by a higher power or impersonal chance (his coat pockets . . . a mess of broken eggs, studded with coins and miscellaneous objects. This mishap was retribution for robbing nests—C. L. Barrett) (to be left alone and face to face with my own crime, had been just retribution—Longfellow)

Ana punishment, disciplining or discipline, correcting or correction (see corresponding verbs at PUNISH); recompensing or recompense, indemnification, repayment (see corresponding verbs at PAY)

retard *delay, slow, slacken, detain

Ana reduce, lessen, *decrease: *arrest, check, interrupt: clog, fetter, *hamper: balk, baffle (see FRUSTRATE)

Ant accelerate: advance, further

reticent *silent, reserved, uncommunicative, taciturn, secretive, close, close-lipped, closemouthed, tight-lipped

Ana restrained, inhibited, curbed, checked (see RESTRAIN): discreet, prudent (see under PRUDENCE)

Ant frank —Con candid, open, plain (see FRANK)

retire *withdraw, *go, leave, depart, quit

Ana *recede, retreat; recoil, *rebound, resile: *relinquish, yield, surrender, abandon

Ant return, retract, reverse, invert: relapse, lapse

reveal, discover, disclose, divulge, tell, betray can all mean to make known what has been or should be concealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain to an ordinary human sight or reason <sacred laws . . . unto Nature to us—Ellis) <he must feel as a man what he reveals—Wordsworth) reveals revealed—Spenser) reveals reveals reveals—Bennett) a melancholy tempered by recurrences of faith and resignation and simple joy—Joyce) incessant recurrence without variety breeds tedium; the overiterated becomes the monotonous—Lowes) Recrudescence and the more frequent recrudescence imply a return to life or activity; usually the terms imply a breaking out again of something that has been repressed, suppressed, or kept under control <the general influence . . . which is liable every now and then to recrudescence in his absence—Gurney) the recrudescence of an epidemic of influenza


Ana repay, recompense, compensate (see PAY): *give, bestow

return n reversion, recurrence, recrudescence (see under RETURN vb)

reveal, discover, disclose, divulge, tell, betray can all mean to make known what has been or should be concealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain that veils or obscures. It can apply to supernatural or hidden aspects of things or persons. Reveal implies a breaking out again of something that has been repressed, suppressed, or kept under control <the general influence . . . which is liable every now and then to recrudescence in his absence—Gurney) the recrudescence of an epidemic of influenza


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The artist, the man of genius, raises this veil and reveals the truth may be inferred <the paradox of both distrusting nature to us—Ellis) he must feel as a man what he reveals as a poet—Day Lewis) or to simple disclosure (as of information or a secret) a foreboding crept into him that if he said nothing now, he would someday soon have a dirtier past to reveal—Malamud) or it may carry no suggestions of an intentional communication but imply rather an affording of signs or other evidence from which the truth may be inferred <the paradox of both distrusting and burdening government reveals the lack of a conscious philosophy of politics—Frankfurter) England, where the speech of a self-made man and of a . . .

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page
graduate will almost always reveal the differences in their formal education—Joseph. Discover (see also discover 2, invent) implies an exposing to view by or as if by uncovering; the term usually suggests that the thing discovered has been hidden from sight or perception but is not, as often in the case of reveal, in itself beyond the range of human vision or comprehension (go draw aside the curtains and discover the several caskets to this noble prince—Shak.) (it is a test which we may apply to all figure-painters—a test which will often discover the secret of unsatisfactory design—Binyon). Disclose is more often used in this sense than discover (a black dress which disclosed all she decently could of her shoulders and bosom—Wouk) (the stress of passion often discloses an aspect of the personality completely ignored till then by its closest intimates—Conrad). More often disclose implies the making known of something that has not been announced or has previously been kept secret (the court refused to disclose its decision before the proper time) (the confessions of St. Austin and Rousseau disclose the secrets of the human heart—Gibbon) (the Vice that would disclose his objective, and the Vicar asked no questions—Cather). Divulge differs little from disclose in this latter sense except in often carrying a suggestion of impropriety or of a breach of confidence (his voice became secretive and confidential, the voice of a man divulging fabulous professional secrets—Dahl) (he knew of the conspiracy and did not divulge it—Bellow) or in implying a more public disclosure (it seemed to me an occasion to divulge my real ideas and hopes for the Commonwealth—L. P. Smith). Tell (see also count 1) may come very close to divulge in the sense of making known something which should be kept a secret (gentlemen never tell) but more often it implies the giving of necessary or helpful information, especially on request or demand (tell me the news) (why didn’t you tell me that she was thy wife?—Gen 12:18) (she never told her love—Shak). Betray (see also deceive) often implies a divulging of a secret, but it carries either a stronger and more obvious suggestion of a breach of faith (had . . . written no letters that would betray the conspiracy he had entered into—Anderson) or of a disclosure (as through signs or appearances) against one’s will (life moves on, through whatever deserts, and one must compose oneself to meet it, never betraying one’s soul—Rose Macaulay) (the stamp of desire on his face had betrayed him once and he did not want to be betrayed by disappointment or anger—Cheever).

Ana impart, *communicate; *suggest, adumbrate, shadow: *declare, announce, publish

Ant conceal

revelation, vision, apocalypse, prophecy are comparable when they mean disclose or something disclosed by or as if by divine or preternatural means. Revelation is often specifically applied to the religious ideas transmitted by writers of books regarded as sacred or divinely inspired, especially the Bible; by extension it has come to mean a body of knowledge distinguishable from that attained by the ordinary human processes of observation, experiment, and reason (this revelation satisfies all doubts, explains all mysteries, except her own—Cowper) (revelation differs from natural knowledge, he says, not by being more divine than natural knowledge, but by being conveyed in a different way—Arnold). Vision implies, as revelation does not, a seeing of something not corporeally present; often, especially in mystical and poetic language, it suggests a profound intuition of something not comprehensible to the ordinary or unaided reason and often implies the operation of some agent (as the Holy Spirit) or the gift or accession of some inexplicable power (as genius or poetic rapture) not attributable to all men. Vision, however, unlike revelation, does not necessarily imply that what is seen or realized is true or of value to oneself or others (and some had visions, as they stood on chairs, and sang of Jacob, and the golden stairs—Lindsay) (the ecstasy of imaginative vision, the sudden insight into the nature of things, are also experiences not confined to the religious—Edmund Wilson) (an age in which men still saw visions . . . seeing visions . . . was once a more significant, interesting, and disciplined kind of dreaming—T. S. Eliot). Apocalypse in religious use denotes a type of sacred book (of which the Book of Revelation is an example) which presents a vision of the future in which the enemies of Israel or of Christianity are defeated and God’s justice and righteousness prevail. In its general application apocalypse usually denotes a vision of the future, when all the mysteries of life shall be explained and good shall magnificently triumph over evil. The noun and still more its adjective apocalyptic often carry one or more connotations as various as those of a spectacular splendor or magnitude suggestive of the Book of Revelation or of wild and extravagant dreams of the visionary or passionate reformer (the apocalyptic imagination of Michelangelo—N. Y. Times) (this allegedly universal religion is challenged today by another secular religion with an alternative apocalypse of history—Niebuhr) (the writers of political apocalypse and other forms of science fiction . . . have dealt in absolutes—Davis). Prophecy has become rare in its original meaning except in learned use and in some religious use. Its occasional connotation of the prediction of future events has been emphasized to such an extent that its historical implications have almost been lost, with the result that the word in older writings is often misinterpreted. Prophecy in this narrow sense implies a commission to speak for another, especially and commonly for God or a god. It therefore further implies that the prophet has been the recipient of divine communications or revelations or that he has been granted a vision or visions (though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge . . . and have not charity, I am nothing—1 Cor 13:2) (prophecy is not prediction, it is not a forecasting of events. Rather, it is the vision which apprehends things present in the light of their eternal issues—Seaver). Ant adulation

revenant *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specer, shade

revenge vb *aveng

recompense, repay (see pay): vindicate, defend, justify (see maintain)

revenge n vengeance, *retaliation, retribution, reprisal

reconsider *reparation, redress, amends: recompensing or recompense, repayment (see corresponding verbs at pay)

revengeful *vindicative, vengeful

impeachable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim: inexorable, obdurate, adamant, *inflexible

rereverberate repercuss, *rebound, recoil, resilience

revere, reverence, venerate, worship, adore can all mean to regard with profound respect and honor. All imply a recognition of the exalted character of what is so respected and honored, but they can differ in regard to their objects and to the feelings and acts which they connote. Their differences in implication extend to their corresponding nouns, reverence (for both verbs revere and reverence), veneration, worship, and adoration. One reveres with tenderness and deference not only persons or institutions entitled to respect and honor but also their accomplis—
ments or attributes or things associated with or symbolic of such persons or institutions — that makes her loved at home, revered abroad — Burns. (revered for the wisdom of his counsels and the nobility of his character — Collier) — islands and cities which he revered as the cradle of civilization — Buchan (towards Johnson . . . his [Boswell's] feeling was not sycophancy, which is the lowest, but reverence, which is the highest of human feelings — Carlyle) One reverences things more often than persons, especially things (as laws and customs) which have an intrinsic claim to respect or are commonly regarded as inviolable (we reverence tradition, but we will not be fettered by it — Inge) (sincerity and simplicity! if I could only say how I reverence them — Benson) — (pledged to reverence the name of God — Stock) One venerates persons as well as things that are regarded as holy, sacred, or sacrosanct because of character, associations, or age (for veneration and heroes — [for Socrates he had an almost religious veneration — Nichols]) In a narrow sense one worships only a divine being, God, a god, or a thing deified, when one pays homage by word or ceremonial churches are buildings in which God is worshiped — pagans worship idols, the sun, and the stars — In wider use worship implies a kind of veneration that involves the offering of homage or the attribution of an especially exalted character, whether the object is a divine being or not (there is a difference between admiring a poet and worshiping at a shrine — Replier) (in his calm, unexcited way, he worships success — Macaulay) Adore (see also adore 2) is often used for worship in application to divinity; worship, however, usually suggests the group approach, and adore the personal approach, to deity. Adore therefore commonly implies love and the performance of individual acts of worship that express unquestioning love and honor (as by obeisance, prostration, and prayer) (the devil) said to him: all these will I give thee, if falling down thou wilt adore me — Mt 4:9) (quiet as a nun breathless with adoration — Wordsworth) In more general application adore implies an extremely great and usually unquestioning love (his staff adore him, his men worshiped him — White) Ana esteem, respect, regard, admire (see under regard n): cherish, prize, value, treasure, *appreciate Ant florid reverence n 1 *honor, homage, deference, obeisance Ana piety, devotion, fealty, loyalty, *fidelity: esteem, respect, *regard, admiration 2 veneration, worship, adoration (see under reverence) Ana fervor, ardor, zeal, *passion: devoutness, piousness, religiousness (see corresponding adjectives at devout) 3 Reverence, awe, fear are comparable when they denote the emotion inspired by something which arouses one's deep respect or veneration. Reverence distinctively implies a recognition of the sacredness or inviolability of the person or thing which stimulates the emotion (a profound reverence for and fidelity to the truth — Mencken) (Riche- lieu's reverence for the throne was constant — Bellow) (I feel a reverence for this place. Wherever humanity has made that hardest of all starts and lifted itself out of mere brutality, is a sacred spot — Cather) Awe, in all of its shades of meaning, fundamentally implies a sense of being overwhelmed or overcome by great superiority or impressiveness, typically manifested by an inability to speak in its presence or to come near to it. Otherwise, it may suggest any of such widely different reactions as adoration, profound reverence, wonder, terror, submissiveness, or abashment (stood in awe of his teachers) (my heart standeth in awe of thy word — Ps 119:161) (make me as the poorest vassal is that doth with awe and terror kneel — Shak.) (he is a great man of the city, without fear, but with the most abject awe of the aristocracy — T. S. Eliot) Fear (see also fear) occurs, in the sense here considered, chiefly in religious use (the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom — Ps 111:10). In this sense and as referred chiefly to the Supreme Being as its cause, it implies awed recognition of his power and majesty and, usually, reverence for his law (and calm with fear of God's divinity — Wordsworth) reverence vb venerate, worship, adore, *revere Ana love, enjoy (see like): esteem, respect, regard, admire (see under regard n) reverse vb 1 Reverse, transpose, invert can all mean to change to the contrary or opposite side or position. Reverse is the most general of these terms, implying a change to the opposite not only in side or position but also in direction, order, sequence, relation, concept; thus, to reverse a coin is to turn it upside down; to reverse a process is to follow the opposite order of sequence; to reverse a judgment is to change a previous judgment to another that is contrary to it; to reverse a garment or part of a garment is to turn it inside out; to reverse the direction of a locomotive is to make it go backward instead of forward (having his shield reversed — Scott) (half were put on a diet of unpollished rice; half on polished. The latter group came down with beriberi. Then the diets were reversed — Heiser) Transpose implies a change in position, usually by reversing the order of two or more units (as letters or words) or by an exchange of position (the printer was instructed to transpose the letters sr in the word set as vesre) (if the term b in the equation a + b = c is transposed, the result obtained is a = c — b) But transpose often, especially in grammar or anatomy, implies merely a change in the natural order or position (he frequently transposes words for the sake of effect) (a transposed heart) Invert implies a change from one side to another chiefly by turning upside down but occasionally, especially in surgery, by turning inside out or outside in (invert a tumbler) (invert a comma) (invert the uterus) (the photograph of the pond showed the inverted images of the trees on its bank.) In its secondary senses it approaches reverse but applies within narrower limits (invert the order of words in a sentence) (invert the relation of cause and effect) (the custom . . . to invert now and then the order of the class so as to make the highest and lowest boys change places — Moore) Ana *overturn, upset, capsize 2 reverse vb *coast, break, recall Ana upset, *overturn: retract, recant, *abjure, forswear: abrogate, *annul reverse n *converse, obverse Ana back, rear, posterior (see corresponding adjectives at posterior): opposite, contrary (see under opposite adj) reversion 1 return, recurrence, recrudescence (see under return vb) 2 Reversion, atavism, throwback are comparable when they mean return to an ancestral type or an instance of such return. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in the adjetival forms reversionary and atavistic. Reversion and reversionary are the technical terms in the biological sciences for the reappearance of an ancestral character or characters in an individual, or for an organism or individual that manifests such a character (we could not have told, whether these characters in our domestic breeds were reversions or only analogous variations — Darwin) (similar mutations are paired together; divergent or reversionary individuals are eliminated — J. A. Thomson) Atavism and atavistic are widely used

* Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
both in general and in technical English. Their implication is of an apparent reversion to a remote rather than to an immediate ancestral type through the reappearance of remote, even primitive, characters after a long period of latency. Often, in general use, this connotation of primiveness carries with it a suggestion of barbarism or even degeneration. A magnificat atavism, a man so purely primitive—London—(those who had made England what it was had done so by sticking where they were, regardless of their own atavistic instincts, which might have led them back to France or Denmark—Brooks) Throwback is preferred to reversion or atavism by those who seek a picturesque or less technical word. It is chiefly applied to the concrete instance and is often extended to other than living things—the racial laws which excluded the Jews from the German community seemed...a shocking throwback to primitive times—Shirer—(an aristocrat of the old line, a throwback to another century—White)

Ana relapse, lapse, backsliding (see under lapse vb); reversionary avtastic (see under reversion)

revert 1 return, recurr, recrudesce

Avert 1 deviate, retreat, retrograde, back: relapse, relapse, backslide

2 advert

Ana *return, recur

review n 1 criticism, critique, blurb, puff

2 journal, periodical, magazine, organ, newspaper

revile vituperate, rail, berate, rate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-

revoke, reverse, repeal, rescind, recall are close synonyms

revive *restore, revivify, resuscitate

review

revert 1 *return, recur, recrudesce

Ana *deviate, retreat, retrograde, back: relapse, relapse, backslide

2 *advert

Ana *return, recur

revolt n 1 revolution, uprising, insurrection, *rebellion, mutiny, putsch, coup

2 *journal, periodical, magazine, organ, newspaper

revolt *revolution, uprising, insurrection, *rebellion, mutiny, putsch, coup

Ana insubordination, sedition or sedition, factiousness, contumaciousness or contumacy (see corresponding adjectives at insubordinate)

revolting *offensive, loathsome, repulsive, repugnant

Ana *horrible, horrid, horrific: repellent, distasteful, obnoxious, abhorrent (see repugnant): odious, hateful, abominable

revolution *rebellion, uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup

Ana overthrowing or overthrow, subverting or subversion, upsetting or upset. overturning or overturn (see corresponding verbs at overturn): change, modification, alteration (see under change vb)

revolve *turn, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, twirl, whirl

Ana *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate

revolt n 1 revolution, uprising, insurrection, *rebellion, mutiny, putsch, coup

Ana insubordination, sedition or sedition, factiousness, contumaciousness or contumacy (see corresponding adjectives at insubordinate)

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revolve *turn, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, twirl, whirl

Ana *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate

reward n *premium, price, award, meed, guaranty, bounty, bonus

rewrite vb *edit, compile, revise, redact, adapt

rhapsody *bombast, rant, fustian, rodomontade

rhetorical, grandiloquent, magniloquent, aureate, flowery, euphustic, bombastic are comparable when they mean emphasizing style often at the expense of thought. Rhetorical describes a style, discourse, passage, phrase, or word which, however skillfully constructed or chosen and however effective, impresses the reader or hearer as not natural or effortless, but the result of conscious endeavor to produce an effect (Burke catches your eye by rhetorical inversions—Quiller-Couch) an essay on friendship, high-flown, rhetorical—Canby) Grandiloquent implies excess (as of elevation or color) and applies to an exaggerated, high-flown, and often pompous manner or style especially in language the grandiloquent advertisement speaks at multitudes of people, and leaves them unmoved—Kleppner (a great stone building like the grandiloquent boast of weak men—Green) Magniloquent is not always distinguishable from grandiloquent, but it more often suggests boastfulness or extravagance than a high-flown eloquence the magniloquent utterances of the drunken Falstaff continues his comicoration...bent on the choice of magniloquent phrase—E. K. Brown) Aureate implies excessive embellishment of style by strained figures of speech and rhetorical flourishes, strange or high-sounding words, and foreign phrases; in ordinary language and in reference to writings which have no pretensions to literature the same quality is described by flowery the aureate prose of the Eliza-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
rhythm, rhymer, rhymester

*poet, versifier, poetaster, bard,
elloquent, articulate, vocal, fluent, voluble, glib:
quently is used not only in reference to speech
or notes lie between these, the continuing up and down
intervals of the accented or prolonged syllable in poetry
—Abbotty

Rhythm, meter, cadence can all mean the more or less
regular rise and fall in intensity of sounds that one asso-
ciates chiefly with poetry and music. Rhythm, which
of these three terms is the most inclusive and the widest in its
associates chiefly with poetry and music. Rhythm, which
fundamentally implies the recurrence at fairly regular
intervals of the accented or prolonged syllable in poetry
or of the heavy beat or the accented note in music, so that
no matter how many unaccented or unstressed syllables
or notes lie between these, the continuing up and down
movement is strongly apparent to the senses. Conse-
quentially rhythm is used not only in reference to speech
sounds and musical tones ordered with relation to stress
and time, but also to dancing, games, and various natural
phenomena where a comparable pulsing movement is
apparent, and even to the arts of design, where fluctua-
tions in line or pattern suggest a pulsing movement (the
waving, lovely rhythms of the sea—Rose Macaulay)
(every one learned music, dancing, and song. Therefore
it is natural for them to regard rhythm and grace in all the
actions of life—Ellis) (lost their talent in the deadening
rhythms of war, its boredom, its concussion, and . . . its
injustice—Mailer)

Meter implies the reduction of rhythm to system and measure. Poetry that has meter has a definite
rhythmical pattern which determines the typical foot or
sometimes the arrangement of feet in each line and either
the number of feet in every line or, if a stanzaic pattern is
implied, in each verse of a stanza (the revolt against meter
in poetry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth cen-
turies) (the only strict antithesis to prose is meter—
Wordsworth) In music meter implies the division of the rhythm into measures, all of which are uniform in number
of beats or time units, and each of which begins with the
accented tone. Cadence is the least clearly fixed in mean-
ing of these words. The term has often been used as though
it were equal to rhythm, or sometimes to meter, especially
when the reference is to poetry (golden cadence of poetry
—Shak.) (will it shine through the harsh cadence of a
rugged line—Dryden) (poetry can never again become a
popular art until the poet gives himself wholly to "the
cadence of consenting feet"—Read) Cadence often
strengthens the rise and fall of sound or the rhythm as heard,
whether in prose or in poetry, and as influenced by tone or

modulation, choice of words, and association of sound
and feeling (great music like that of Prospero's speech in
The Tempest or the cadence of Cleopatra's "Give me
my robe"—Alexander) (I could hear the cadence of his
voice and that was all, nothing but the measured rise and
fall of syllables—Marquand) (the singsong cadence
which jarred on her the more because she was still trying
to free her own speech of it—Wouk)

rib vb *banter, chaff, kid, rag, josh, jolly
ribald obscene, gross, *coarse, vulgar

rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent are applied both to persons
and to things. The last three are close synonyms of rich,
the general term, but they are more explicit in their impli-
cations and more limited in their range of application. One
is rich that possesses more than enough to gratify normal
desires and needs. Rich, therefore, may describe anyone or
anything above what is felt as average or normal in pos-
sessions. When used of persons, without qualification, it
implies the possession of money or of property, especially
income-producing property (a rich citizen) (a rich state)
In its extended use one may be rich in friends, in talents,
or in interests; a soil may be rich in nitrogen; a poem may
be rich in meaning, a career in promise, a flower in frag-
rance. Also, something is rich which is above the line
dividing the cheap from the costly or precious or dividing
the stinted in elements or ingredients from the bountifully
supplied (a rich fabric) (a rich tone) (a rich red) (a
rich cake) One is wealthy that possesses money, income-
producing property, or intrinsically valuable things in
great abundance. Wealthy is richer than rich in extended
use and usually connotes material possessions. It also
more often than rich implies a way of living in keeping
with one's income and a commanding position in the com-


some or pestiferous (England had in the meantime ridedd herself of the Stuarts, worried along under the Hanoverians—Reppplier) (a lazy man’s expedient for ridding him-self of the trouble of thinking and deciding—Cardozo) Clear is likely to be used to refer to tangible matters which obstruct progress, clutter an area, or block vision (wars which . . . enabled the United States first to clear its own territory of foreign troops—Bemis) (rose from the food she had barely tasted and began to clear the table—Glasgow) and may be used also in relation to ideas that hinder progress (of service to his fellow Methodists in clearing away obstructions to modern thinking—H. K. Rowe) Unburden typically implies a freeing of oneself from something taxing or something distressing the mind or spirit, in the latter situation often by confessing, revealing, or frankly discussing (insisted that he unburden himself of most of the weighty chores that go with the job of majority leader—Time) (conquers his own submissiveness and unburdens himself, before his domineering wife, of all the accumulated resentment and dislike of years—S. M. Fitzgerald) Disappropriate is appropriately chosen to refer to freeing the mind from an erroneous notion or an attitude or feeling making clear straightforward thought difficult (if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disabuse themselves of artifice, hypocrisy, and superstition—Adams) (neither familiarity with the history and institutions of Old World nations nor contact with them during two wars disabused the average American of his feeling of superiority—Commager) Purge may refer to cleansing out of or purification from whatever is impure or alien or extrinsic (purged of all its unorthodox views—Shaw) (the room had never quite been purged of the bad taste of preceding generations—Edmund Wilson) In political matters it may suggest ruthless elimination (the dictator has purged academic faculties of every savant suspected of being opposed to his regime—H. M. Jones)

*Ana* *free, release, liberate: exterminate, expel, eradicate, uproot: abolish, extinguish

**riddle** *n* puzzle, conundrum, enigma, problem, *mystery

**ride** *vb 1* Ride, drive as verbs (transitive and intransitive) and as nouns may both involve the idea of moving in or being carried along in a vehicle or conveyance or upon the back of something. The basic meaning of ride is a being borne along in or upon something; when this idea is uppermost, it makes little difference who or what controls the animal, the vehicle, or mechanism by which one is borne along; thus, one rides or rides on a horse, a bicycle, or a motorcycle when, mounted upon it, one controls its operation or movements, but a woman seated on a pillow behind the saddle may also be said to ride the horse, and a person in the rear seat of a tandem bicycle may be said to ride the bicycle, but a person in a sidecar of a motorcycle rides in the sidecar (not rides the motorcycle). Sometimes ride, the transitive verb, is preferred when the management of the horse and vehicle is also implied, and ride, the intransitive verb, when merely the being mounted upon a moving horse or vehicle is suggested (when he rides his horse his small daughter usually rides on it with him) The basic meaning of drive (see move 1) is a causing to move along; the term therefore primarily refers to the action of an agent that controls the movement of a vehicle whether it is drawn by an animal or self-propelled (drove a four-horse brewery wagon) (it is usually wise to have your child taught to drive by a professional) There is usually a further distinction between ride and drive when movement in a vehicle or conveyance is implied. Ride usually suggests movement in a vehicle (as a train, a bus, or a stranger’s automobile) which is not in any sense under one’s control (it is a long train ride from New York to Chicago) (he said he preferred riding in a bus to riding in a train) (will you give me a ride to the next town?) Drive often suggests movement in a horse-drawn or motor vehicle the course of which is in some way or in some degree under one’s control, whether one is the actual driver or one (as an employer, patron, or guest) whose wishes the actual driver observes (take a drive along the shore of the lake) (we are going for a short drive)

2 *bait, badger, heckle, hector, chivy, hound

*Ana* *worry, annoy, harass, harrumph: persecute, oppress (see wrong vb): torment, torture (see afflicting

**right** *n* drive (see under ride vb)

*Ana* *journey, tour, trip, excursion, expedition

**ridicule** *vb* Ridicule, deride, mock, taunt, twist, rally are ridicule implies deliberate and often malicious belittling of the person or thing ridiculed (the old State religion which Augustine attacks, ridiculing the innumerable Roman godlings whose names he perhaps found in Varro—Inge) (the man who wants to preserve his personal identity is ridiculed as an eccentric—Harris) Deride implies a bitter or contemptuous spirit (he took his revenge on the fate that had made him sad by fiercely deriding everything—Huxley) (sardonic wisecracks in which supposedly lofty ideals are mercilessly derided—Times Lit. Sup.) Mock stresses scornful derision and usually implies words or gestures or sometimes acts expressive of one’s defiance or contempt (nowhere can men be entirely happy while human nature is still being mocked and tortured on other parts of the globe—Kennan) When used in reference to things, mock often implies a setting at naught that suggests scorn or derision (a perishing that mocks the gladness of the spring!—Wordsworth) (a joke was a good way to mock reality, to dodge an issue, to escape involvement—MacInnes) Taunt implies both mockery and reproach; it often connotes jeering insults (taunted in fun or in earnest with the foibles and shortcomings of their fathers—de Laguna) (he . . . took no part in the revivals and usually teased and taunted those who did—J. M. Hunt) Twit may come close to taunt and imply a mocking or cruel casting something up to someone (the absence of ideas with which Matthew Arnold twits them—Inge) (a British author snooting American food is like the blind twitting the one-eyed—Liebling) but twit, like rally, may imply no more than good-natured raillery or friendly ridicule (the paper delights in twitting new law—Newsweek) (a useful place for getting away from the cheery rallying of . . . the English governess—Nancy Hale)

*Ana* *scorn, fout, jeer, gib: caricature, burlesque, travesty (see under caricature n)

**ridiculous** *laughable, risible, ludicrous, droll, funny, comic, comical, farcical

*Ana* absurd, preposterous, *foolish, silly: amusing, diverting, entertaining (see amuse): fantastic, grotesque, bizarre, antic

**rife** *prevailing, prevalent, current

*Ana* abundant, plentiful, copious, ample: *common, ordinary, familiar

**rifle** *vb* plunder, *rob, loot, burglarize

*Ana* depose, spoilate, *ravage, pillage, sack, devastate: *steal, pilfer, purloin, filch

**right** *adj* 1 *good

*Ana* wrong

2 *correct, accurate, exact, precise, nice
right

rightful

righteous

right n

right

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rise 1 *spring, arise, originate, derive, flow, issue, vb

resonant, sonorous, resounding, vibrant, adj

ring vb *tear, rend, split, cleave, rive

ripe *mature, matured, mellow, adult, grown-up

ringing adj *resonant, sonorous, resounding, vibrant, bomb, orotund

rise vb 1 *spring, arise, originate, derive, flow, issue, vb

rise

An colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

e specially intellectually, spiritually, or aesthetically {the skylark} singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest—Shelley

up from the eastern sea soars the delightful day—Housman

young soaring imaginations—John Reed

the soaring melody of the rondo in the Waldstein sonata is Beethoven's...transfiguration of the air of a ribald folk song—Lowes

Tower is used more often in reference to things that attain conspicuous height through growth or thrusting upward, or building than in reference to things that actually move upward; it also frequently connotes extension to a height beyond that of such comparable neighboring objects as buildings, trees, mountains, or, when eminence is suggested, persons {the Empire State Building towers above New York City} 
	full thirty foot she towered from waterline to rail—Kipling

this towering but erratic genius...combined in his tempestuous character so many of the best and the worst qualities—Shirer

When the word does imply movement upward, it usually evokes a picture of something shooting up so as to suggest a tower or steeple {the nimble flames towered, nodded, and swooped through the surrounding air—Hardy}

Rocket suggests the inordinately swift ascent of a projectile; it is used chiefly with reference to things that rise with extraordinary rapidity or wildly and uncontrollably (as under the impetus of events) {prices rocketed sky-high—Kenyon}

cock pheasants rocket from the misty spinneys—Glover

Indian pride was reawakened; Indian hopes rocketed—J. M. Brown

Levitate implies a rising or floating in or as if in air that suggests the intervention of antigravity; the term connotes actual or induced lightness or buoyancy and ease of movement {a 1/2-in. niobium sphere levitated in a liquid helium bath—J. L. Taylor}

we are levitated between acceptance and disbelief—O’Faolain

dwellings...levitated by his imagination into new structural creations—Flannery

The word is sometimes specifically associated with super-normal and especially spiritualistic practices {the levitation of a table at a séance} and with illusory risings {it is asserted that a man or a woman levitated to the ceiling, floated about there, and finally sailed out by the window—T. H. Huxley}

Surge suggests the upward heaving or spurt of waves. It is used often with up, in reference to emotions and thoughts that rise powerfully from the depths of subconsciously {strong emotions surged through him as he strode on—Röivaag}

things half-guessed, obscurely felt, surged up from unsuspected depths in her—Wharton

Quite as often, usually with an adverb of direction, it suggests a rolling movement comparable to that of oncoming waves {the troops surged forward}

Surfing surfing past

rise n *beginning, genesis, initiation

rise

Ant

climb, ascend, mount, scale: increase, enlarge, augment: lift, raise, elevate

fall

risible droll, funny, *laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical

risk n hazard, danger, peril, jeopardy

risk

Ant

*chance, fortune, luck, accident: exposedness or exposure, liableness or liability, openness (see corresponding adjectives at LIABLE)

Con

safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at SAFE): *exemption, immunity
Ana dare, brave, beard. *face, defy: confront, encounter, *meet

risky precarious, hazardous, *dangerous, perilous

Anna *adventurous, venturesome: chancy, *random, hap-hazard, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

rite ritual, liturgy, ceremonial, ceremony. *form, formality

ritual ritual, liturgy, ceremonial, ceremony. *form, formality

rival vb 1 Rival, compete, vie, emulate can all mean to strive to equal or surpass another or his achievements. Rival (see also MATCH) usually suggests an attempt to outdo each other a work . . . which contending sects have rivaled each other in approving—Heber Compete and vie, usually with the opponent explicitly stated after with and the objective after for, may sometimes omit direct reference to one or both of these a modified apple syrup to compete in the . . . market of syrups for infant feeding—Crops in Peace and War Compete stresses a struggle for an objective (as position, favor, profit, or a prize); unlike rival, it need not suggest a conscious attempt to outdo another but may imply a quite impersonal striving athletes competing in track sports) colleges compete with each other, promotionally, for public favor—Hoff the buyer does not compete with the seller. He bargains with him; he competes with other buyers—C. E. Griffin Vie carries less suggestion of arduous struggle to hold one's own or to excel than compete, but it may suggest more conscious awareness of the opponent the calypso singers who . . . vie with one another in duels of lyrical improvisation—The Lamp It sometimes suggests the excitement of contest that is a game rather than a combat the boys vied with each other in showing off they vied with each other in enlivening their cups by lamenting the depravity of this degenerate age—Peacock Emulate implies a conscious effort to equal or surpass someone or something by imitation or by using him or it as a model a simplicity emulated without success by numerous modern poets—T. S. Eliot these young . . . heroes, reared on the immense empty western plains, seek to emulate an eastern sophistication—Geismar emulated the proverbial and sagacious rat; he got off in time S. H. Adams

Ana strive, struggle, try, *attempt: *contend, fight 2 *match, equal, approach, touch

rive vb cleave, split, rend, *tare, rip

Anna sever, sunder, divide. *separate: cut, hew, chop

rivet vb *secure, anchor, moor

Ana *fasten, attach, affix, fix: *join, connect, link

roam *wander, stray, ramble, rove, range, prow, gad, gallivant, tripe, meander

roar vb Roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, howl, ululate are comparable when they mean to make a very loud and often a continuous or protracted noise. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are to be found in their nouns, all of which are identical in spelling with the corresponding verbs except vociferation and ululation. Roar implies such a heavy, hoarse, and prolonged sound as is made by the booming sea, by thunder that reverberates, by a lion, or by persons when they lose control (as in rage or in boisterous merriment) far away guns roar—Woolf the harsh north wind . . . roared in the piazzas—Osbert Sitwell it's the same to her, whether we coo like turtledoves or roar like twenty lions—Meredith his anecdotes sent the audience into roars of laughter—Bellow suggests the loud, hollow crying of a bull; by extension, it applies to sound that seems to reverberate loudly from a cavity or to come insistently from a distance howling with hoarse merriment—Kenneth Roberts the bellow of crocodiles—Forester Bluster suggests not only the violence or turbulence of a windstorm but the lashing quality of its blasts when autumn blusters and the orchard rocks—Browning It is applicable not only to violent weather but also to something (as loud boastful swaggering or empty but noisy threats or protests) that suggests such weather. The term in extended use often carries a connotation of useless or futile effort do their work without bluster or ostentation—Walker she expressed her opinion gently but firmly, while he blustered for a time and then gave in—Anderson Bawl is sometimes interchangeable with bellow, but typically it suggests less depth and resonance and more persistence cattle bawling for water As applied to human utterance, bawl is more or less derogatory despite all political bawls and bellows about . . . prices—Time Even when applied specifically to unrestrained weeping and wailing it tends to call up an unsympathetic image of dishevelment and disorder collapsed in an armchair in the lobby and bawled . . . uncontrollably—Kahn Vociferate and profervation, like bawl, imply loud and urgent human utterance, but they are far less derogatory, if derogatory at all, more adapted to writing than to speech, and more likely to suggest a reason (as rage or excitement), a call for help, or a protest, than mere temperament an atmosphere of shrieks and moans; prayers vociferated like blasphemies—Conrad the perpetual vociferation of inflammatory opinion—Sampson Clamor implies, usually, loud noises in confusion; it may suggest a mingling of voices or sounds. The term can apply to loud sounds, whatever their source. As applied to human utterances, it commonly gains the suggestion of vehemence (as in insisting, urging, or protesting half-starved men and women clamoring for food—Kenneth Roberts Europe has begun to clamor for political disciplinarians to save her—Shaw clamored their piteous prayer incessantly—Longfellow Howl often stresses such loudness and mournfulness as is characteristic of the protracted cry of dogs and wolves; it may be used not only of animals but also of persons or things that make doleful or agonized and often prolonged sounds a legion of foul fiends . . . howled in my ears—Milton howls of mingled rage and pain the howling of the wind on a stormy night Especially when used of human utterance, howl may suggest not only the quality of the sound but the unrestrained character of the utterance or of its underlying emotion he . . . chortled at their errors, howled at their inconsistencies—Martin Gardner howled at a brother for his low-down ways, his prowling, guzzling, sneak-thief days—Lindsay from faint doubt to uneasy suspicion, from the stirring of resentment to the howl of outraged protest—Lewis & Maude Ululate and ululation are less common and more literary than howl, from which they differ chiefly in carrying less suggestion of unrestrained emotion and a stronger implication of wailing, often giving a hint of the peculiar rhythm of the sounds ululating coyotes an ululating baritone mushy with pumped-up pitty—E. B. White who uttered in public or in private such high-pitched notes of ululation—Swinburne Ana reverberate, repercuss, *rebound: yell, *shout: bay, bark, growl, yelp

rob vb Rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burglarize are comparable when they mean to take unlawfully possessions of a person or from a place. All in this basic use imply both an owner of and value inherent in the thing taken. In its basic and legal use rob implies the taking of personal property or valuables from another or from a place in a felonious manner (as by the exercise of violence, by intimidation, or by trickery or fraud rob a bank) rob a man of his savings by selling him worthless securities In extended use rob implies deprivation by unjust means or by powers

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
roll

rogue

roll

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vb

vb

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vb

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vb

vb

rollick

n

romantic

adj

*sentimental, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, mushy, slushy

Ana

fanciful, *imaginary, quixotic, fantastic, visionary:

invented, created (see INVENT): picturesque, pictorial,

vivid, *graphic

romp

vb

frolic, rollick, gambol, sport, play, gambol (see under PLAY vb)

vb

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vb
roost  vb  perch,  *alight,  light,  land

root  n  *origin,  source,  inception,  provenance,  provenience,  prime mover

Ana  beginning,  commencing  or  commencement,  starting  or  start  (see  corresponding  verbs  at  BEGIN):  foundation,  basis,  ground  (see  BASE)

root  vb  *applaud,  cheer

roseate  *hopeful,  optimistic,  rose-colored

rose-colored  *hopeful,  optimistic,  roseate

roster  *list,  table,  catalog,  schedule,  register,  roll,  inventory

rotate  1  *turn,  revolve,  gyrate,  circle,  spin,  twist,  whirl,  wheel,  eddy,  swirl,  pirouette

2  Rotate,  alternate  can  both  mean  to  succeed  or  cause  to  succeed  each  other  in  turn.  Rotate  may  be  used  in  reference  to  two  or  more  persons  or  things;  it  implies  indefinite  repetition  of  the  order  of  succession.  Thus,  persons  rotate  in  jobs  or  offices  when  they  periodically  interchange  their  jobs  or  offices  according,  usually,  to  a  predetermined  scheme;  one  rotates  crops  who  grows  different  things  on  the  same  land  in  successive  seasons  in  an  order  calculated  to  maintain  soil  fertility  or  to  enrich  exhausted  soil.  Alternate  differs  from  rotate  in  being  referable  only  to  two  or  more  persons  or  things;  though  it  also  implies  repetition  of  the  order,  it  does  not  convey  so  strong  a  suggestion  of  continuity  <alternate  workers  on  an  exhausting  job>  <alternate  hot  and  cold  applications  in  the  treatment  of  a  bruise>  <the  weather  alternated  between  blinding  sandstorms  and  brilliant  sunlight—Cather>

Ana  interchange,  *exchange,  bandy:  succeed,  *follow,  ensue

rotter  *cad,  bouncer

rotund  plump,  chubby,  portly,  stout,  *fleshy,  fat,  corpulent,  obese

Ant  angular  —Con  *lean,  spare,  lank,  lanky,  gaunt,  rawboned,  skinny,  scrawny

rough  adj  1  Rough,  harsh,  uneven,  rugged,  scabrous  are  comparable  when  they  mean  not  having  a  smooth  or  even  surface,  exterior,  or  texture.  Rough,  the  usual  and  comprehensive  word,  basically  applies  to  whatever  may  be  said  to  have  a  surface  or  an  exterior  which  to  the  sense  of  touch  or  to  the  sight  is  not  smooth  but  is  covered  with  perceptible  inequalities  (as  points,  bristles,  projections,  or  ridges)  <rough  ground>  <a  rough  block  of  stone>  <the  rough  skin  of  chapped  hands>  <a  rough  tweed>  <a  rough,  unshaved  face>  Often  when  applied  to  materials  and  substances  employed  in  the  arts  and  in  manufacturing,  rough  means  lacking  a  final  finish  (as  of  polishing,  smoothing,  or  dressing)  <a  rough  diamond>  <rough  steel>  <rough  lumber>  By  extension  the  term  applies  also  to  things  which  impress  another  than  the  tactile  sense  or  one's  nerves  or  feelings  as  lacking  in  smoothness  and  evenness  <rough  words>  <rough  winds>  <rough  sounds>  <he  has  had  a  rough  time>  (see  also  rude).  Harsh  suggests  a  more  definitely  disagreeable  sensation  or  impression  than  rough;  when  applied  to  what  is  felt  with  the  hand,  it  implies  a  surface  or  texture  that  is  distinctly  unpleasant  to  the  tactile  sense  <a  harsh  fabric>  <harsh  sand>  or  when  applied  to  something  heard,  it  suggests  a  rasping,  grating  quality  <harsh  voices>  <harsh  din  broke  the  fair  music—Milton>  and  when  applied  to  something  seen,  tasted,  or  smelled,  it  suggests  a  character  or  quality  that  is  offensive  or  repellent  to  a  sensitive  person  <a  harsh  liquor>  <harsh  features>  <a  harsh  combination  of  colors>  Unlike  rough,  harsh  in  its  extended  sense  seldom  implies  lack  of  polish  or  refinement,  but  rather  it  suggests  a  nature  that  is  unfeeling,  cruel,  and  indifferent  to  the  pain  it  inflicts  <a  harsh  critic>  <a  harsh  parent>  or  when  applied  to  things,  effectiveness  in  promoting  discomforts  or  in  imposing  rigors  <a  harsh  rebuke>  <a  harsh  climate>  <a  harsh  sentence>  Uneven  applies  either  to  surfaces  or  to  lines  and  suggests  a  lack  of  uniformity  in  height  through  all  the  points  of  the  surface  <an  uneven  road>  <an  uneven  floor>  or  a  lack  of  straightness  and  the  presence  of  curves  or  angles  <an  uneven  edge>  <an  uneven  hem>  In  extended  use  it  implies  a  lack  of  uniformity  especially  in  excellence  or  agreeableness  in  all  the  parts  (as  of  a  life,  a  performance,  or  a  work  of  art)  <the  artist's  brushwork  in  this  painting  is  uneven>  <the  trio's  playing  of  the  sonata  was  uneven>  Rugged,  more  often  applied  to  persons  so  strong  and  healthy  or  machines  so  strongly  made  that  they  can  survive  great  stress  and  strain,  is  not  uncommonly  employed  in  the  sense  of  rough;  in  such  use  it  applies  chiefly  to  surfaces  broken  by  ridges,  prominences,  gorges,  and  gullies  that  can  offer  serious  difficulty  to  the  traveler  or  worker  <a  rugged  road  up  a  mountain>  or  which  (as  in  the  case  of  faces  or  countenances)  are  gaunt,  seamed,  or  heavy-faced  <what  writer ... has  spoken  more  acutely  on  the  somewhat  rugged-seeming  features)  <a  rugged  road>  <a  rugged  and  uneven  road>  Rugged  2  *rude,  crude,  uncouth,  raw,  callow,  green

Milton)—Wilde>  <his  face  had  already  lost  its  youthful  chubbykins,  and  was  becoming  somewhat  like  William's—rough-featured,  almost-rugged—D.  H.  Lawrence>  Rugged  is  also  applicable  to  writing  which  has  not  been  made  smooth,  flowing,  and  agreeable  to  the  ear,  sometimes,  but  not  necessarily,  through  lack  of  care  or  skill  <the  most  rugged-seeming  of  prose  dialogue,  the  kind  .  .  .  that  people  sometimes  praise  as  "simply  a  page  torn  from  the  book  of  life"—Montague>

Scabrous  applies  basically  to  a  surface  that  is  rough  to  the  touch  though  not  necessarily  uneven;  in  this  sense  it  is  a  generic  term  including  such  species  as  scaly,  scurfy,  scabby,  thorny,  prickly,  knobby,  and  knotty  when  applied  to  surfaces  <a  scabrous  leaf>  <a  scabrous  hide>  In  extended  use  scabrous  applies  chiefly  to  subject  matter  or  to  writings  and  works  of  art  having  subject  matter  that  is  prickly  or  thorny,  or  difficult  to  treat,  often  because  it  is  offensive  to  the  tastes  or  morals  of  the  community  <what  writer  .  .  .  has  spoken  more  acutely  on  the  somewhat  scabrous,  but  none  the  less  important  subject  of  feminine  "temperament"?—Huxley>

Ana  hard,  solid,  *firm:  *coarse,  gross:  *rank,  rampant

Ant  smooth

2  *rude,  crude,  uncouth,  raw,  callow,  green

Ana  brusque,  crusty,  gruff,  curt,  blunt,  *bluff:  ungracious,  uncivil,  discourteous,  impolite  (see  rude):  *indelicate

Ant  gentle

roundabout  *indirect,  circuitous

Ana  sinuous,  *winding,  tortuous,  flexuous

rouse  arouse,  *stir,  awaken,  rally,  waken
rout 1 A rude, rough, crude, raw, callow, green, uncouth
mean deficient in the qualities that make for finish or for
perfection in development or in use. Rude, as applied to
men and their minds, suggests a comparatively low state of
culture or a dearth of learning more often than savagery
or barbarism, although it may suggest the latter (like a
rude and savage man of Ind—Shak.). (A rude, domineering,
arrogant type of man, without cultivation or culture
—Shirer) As applied to the things which men make or do,
rude suggests the makers' ignorance of technique or of
proper material, their inexpertness or inexperience or a
deficiency of materials (rude attempts at verse) (rude
implements) (rude workmanship) (a rude hut) (Our father
Adam sat under the Tree and scratched with a stick in
the mold; and the first rude sketch that the world had
seen was joy to his mighty heart—Kipling). Rough (see
also rough) usually suggests more harshness or violence
than rude and a more culpable ignorance or inexperience.
As applied to men and their manners, the term usually
implies the absence of signs not only of polish and refine-
ment but of gentleness, politeness, and often even civility.
It does not, however, necessarily imply boldness, inso-
ience, boorishness, or other unpleasant qualities (a plain,
rough, honest man, and wise, tho' not learned—Addison)
(Phil was rough and frank . . . she had brought herself
up in a hard school—Sackville-West) (use rough lan-
guage). As applied to men's works and products, rough
suggests less lack of expertise or deficiency of materials
than offhandedness, haste, or indifference to technique;
it is typically applied to things which are not carefully
made because they suffice for the purpose or are not yet
finished, being in an early stage of a process or develop-
ment (make a first rough draft of a speech) (a rough
guess) (the style of the work lost its polish, became rough
—Mailer) Crude may be applied to men and their acts,
words, or products, but it gets its fundamental implications
from its historically earlier application to things which
have not been touched by man (as in processing, refining,
or treating) and are as yet in their natural state or in an
undeveloped state (crude petroleum) (crude rubber)
Consequently when applied to men or their acts, words,
or products, crude implies the far remove of what is so
described from what is perfected, highly developed, or
fully civilized (crude colors) (crude methods) (a crude
philosophy) (the guests . . . made a decorous beeline
for the champagne). There was whisky and gin, too,

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

... for cruder palates—Styron) Raw, which in the ear-
liest of its present senses describes the condition of
uncooked food, is often further applied to natural prod-
ucts which are gathered, mined, or otherwise removed
from their native places but are not yet processed or
are in the earliest stage of manufacture or processing;
thus, raw silk names the fiber from the cocoons of
the silkworm as it is drawn from them and reeled; raw
hides are stripped from the carcasses of animals
but are not yet tanned or dressed; raw milk is as yet
unpasteurized; the raw materials from which the miller
produces flour are various cereal grains (the raw mate-
rial of music is sound—Day Lewis) As applied to men,
their minds, or their product, raw, more than crude,
suggests the elementariness of the untutored and the inex-
perienced (raw recruits) (compared with her, he felt
vague and raw, incapable of coming to terms with life—
Sackville-West) (over and over again he had seen
her take some raw youth, twist him, turn him, wake
him up; set him going—Woolf) Callow is nearly always
applied to youths or to those who retain the signs of imma-
turity in manhood; it usually suggests naïveté, simplicity,
lack of sophistication, but not so strikingly as does
crude, and its suggestions of inexperience or present
unfitness are not so strong as those of raw (souls and
wits which have never got beyond the callow and board-
ing-school stage—Arnold) (an embarrassingly callow
master of ceremonies—New Yorker) (in its callow
days, modern science used to amuse itself by frightening
the rest of us with its bogies—Gauss) Green derives most
of its connotations from green as applied to fruit and imply-
ing unripeness and unfitness for use. The term often comes
close to raw when applied to persons and their abilities
because it suggests inexperience and lack of necessary
training (employ green hands in a factory). Often, how-
ever, it additionally connotes simplicity or gullibility (he had not . . . allowed his young green jealousy to show it-
self in words or pique—Buck) (wasn't so green as to expect
suspicious characters to look suspicious—Ches-
terton) But green is also used of products or sometimes
of the raw materials of manufacture or processing which
are not yet fully seasoned or cured (green liquors) (green
pelts) Uncouth retains from other senses a strong
implication of strangeness (outlandish) meant in the
beginning only what doesn't belong to our own land, and
uncouth was simply "unknown"—Lowes and is appro-
priately applied to what seems strange in comparison to
what is felt as normal or finished or excellent, whether
because crude and clumsy especially in appearance
(though living in as refined a home as could be found in
that part of the world, Breckinridge found conditions
rough and uncouth—Couler) (armed catfish . . .
uncouth creatures, with outrageously long feelers and ten-
tacles, misplaced fins, and mostly enscounced in bony
armor—Beebe) or because lacking in polish and grace (the
inherent courtesy and tenderness of the untutored and
uncouth human being—Harrison Smith) (artists who
were rude and uncouth, yet possessed a high degree of
technical skill and strong powers of imagination—Elliot)
or because deficient in cultivation and refinement (people
who are, though kind, still uncouth or inconsiderate;
uncouthness and inconsiderateness, are, however
tolerable, nowhere agreeable qualities in a positive sense—Browne) (they were unaccustomed, painfully
uncouth in the simplest social intercourse, suffering,
and yet insolent in their superiority—D. H. Lawrence)
Ana boorish, churlish, clownish, loutish (see under boor):
rustic, *rural, bucolic: barbarous, savage, *barbarian:
primitive, *primary, primeval
2 Rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious can all mean not observant of the manners or forms required by good breeding. Rude suggests lack of delicacy or consideration for the feelings of others; it does not necessarily suggest lack of breeding, for it is applicable to persons of all stations or conditions. It usually stresses impudence, insolence, or a generally insulting manner (a rude answer) (demanding an explanation of the rude familiarity with which Jim had treated him—Anderson) Ill-mannered is a more general and less explicit term, and it seldom carries a suggestion of an intent to offend or insult such as rude usually carries; it is therefore applicable to a person, act, or utterance that shows ignorance of, indifference to, or a disregard of the proprieties (the tone . . . seems to me as gratuitously ill-mannered as the sentence itself is foolish—Corke) Impolite, discourteous, and uncivil, as the negatives of polite, courteous, civil (for all three, see Civil), imply merely the reverse of the care in observing the proprieties of good or formal society that is suggested by polite (scientists may form schools of thought, but these . . . imply a disregard of the decent consideration expected in social intercourse among civilized persons) (no profanity, Señor. We want nothing from you but to get away from your uncivil tongue—Cather) Ungracious (compare GRACIOUS) stresses the lack of kindliness or courtesy resulting from awkwardness, callowness, suriness, or irritation (an ungracious refusal) (an ungracious answer) (these criticisms of a book that is a labor of love and piety may seem ungracious—Cohen)

Ana brusque, curt, gruff, crusty (see BLUFF): *impertinent, intrusive, meddlesome: surly, crabbed (see SULLEN) Ant civil: urbane rueful dolorous, doleful, lugubrious, plaintive, *melancholy Ana depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS): piteous, *pitiful: despairing, *despondent, hopeless rugged *rough, scraggly, harsh, uneven Ana robust, *healthy: burly, brawny, husky, *muscular: *rank, rampant: arduous, *hard, difficult Ant fragile ruin n Ruin, havoc, devastation, destruction are comparable when they mean the bringing about of a disaster or what is left by a disaster. They are general terms which do not definitely indicate the cause or the effect yet suggest the kind of force operating to produce the kind of disaster involved. Ruin implies generally a falling or tumbling down and is applicable to anything that through decay, corruption, neglect, or loss is unable to maintain its wholeness or soundness and so gives way or falls apart; this idea underlies all of the many uses of the word (the old castle has fallen to ruin) (this carelessness—was to be his ruin—M. A. Hamilton) (cases of hopeless ruin . . . in which the body has never been ruined through neglect or vice—Eliot) (the possessive instinct . . . when pushed too far becomes the cause of the ruin of . . . society—Ellis) Havoc suggests an agent that pillages, despoils, or ravages and brings confusion and disorder with it (appalled by the havoc and loss of life caused by the earthquake—Crowley) (he was now the blockaded . . . for Agrippa had worked havoc with his sea communications—Buchan) (hookworms live a long, long time in the small intestine, creating havoc all the while—Heiser) Devastation basically implies a laying waste, usually of a widespread territory (as by war or a natural catastrophe) (the terrible devastation wrought by the great tidal wave which followed the earthquake at Lima—T. H. Huxley) but it also is applicable to something (as disease) that overthrows the individual or his property or resources like a natural catastrophe (those [letters] . . . made clear the devastation in her health that was soon to be revealed—Ellis) Destruction implies an unbuilding or pulling down or apart, but, since it is used alike of material and of immaterial things, it may suggest not only demolition but a killing, an undoing, or an annihilation; also, although it often connotes a conscious attempt to pull down, it as often suggests rather an inevitableness or an irony in the effect produced (an unjust society wreaks cruel if subtle imprisonments and destructions of personal energy—Maier) (the destruction of a man's edifice [lifework] by his own instruments of construction—Bello) Ana disintegration, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY)

ruin vb Ruin, wreck, dilapidate can all mean to subject a person or more often a thing to forces that are destructive of soundness, worth, or usefulness. Ruin usually suggests a bringing to an end the structural or mental integrity, the value, beauty, or the well-being of something or of someone through such destructive agencies as weather, age, or neglect, through partial destruction by fire, flood, or collision, or through loss of something vital to happiness or success (as one's fortune, one's good name, or one's chastity) (the storm has ruined the garden) (the firm's reputation was ruined by rumors) (there was in all of them [persons] something ruined, lost or broken—some precious and irretrievable quality which had gone out of them and which they never could get back again—Wolfe) Wreck implies a ruining by or as if by crushing or being shattered. Basically it is used in reference to a ship, a train, a vehicle, or an airplane (the ship was wrecked on the rocky coast) In its extended sense wreck is often used in place of ruin when there is an intent to imply injury, often to something intangible such as one's career, one's credit, or one's prospects, past all hope of repair or of reconstruction (his health was wrecked by dissipation) (their plans were wrecked by the unexpected change in weather) When the pulling down of a building is implied, wreck is often preferred to demolish or destroy because it does not necessarily carry the suggestion implicit in those words of the uselessness of that which is left. Dilapidate historically implies ruin especially of a building, or of developed property, or of one's fortune or financial resources through neglect or through usefulness; the term in such use carries, as the other terms do not, a strong implication of culpability (men bent upon intriguing for places at court, for salaries, and for fragment after fragment of the Royal fortune which they were dilapidating—Bello) (the church . . . was . . . shamefully suffered to dilapidate by deliberate robbery and frigid indifference—Johnson) In more general use dilapidate implies a shabby, run-down, and often tumbledown condition and is used chiefly in the past-participial form as an adjective (negotiating the dilapidated and pubblind vehicle over the curving roads—Cheever) (an aged man, traveling alone, and wearing the dilapidated look of a retired missionary—Glasgow) Ana *destroy, demolish, raze: *deface, disfigure: *maim, mutilate, mangle rule n *law, regulation, precept, statute, ordinance, canon Ana order, mandate, dictate, *command: *principle, axiom, fundamental: etiquette, *decorum, propriety
**sacred** vb 1 *govern*  
*Ana* guide, lead: manage, direct, control, *conduct*  
2 *decide, determine, settle, resolve*  
*Ana* conclude, judge, gather, deduce, *infer*  
rule out eliminate, debar, *exclude, shut out, suspend, disbar, blackball*  
*Ana* bar, block (see HINDER): *prevent, preclude, obviate*  
ruminante muse, meditate, *ponder*  
*Ana* consider, weigh, exogitate: reflect, deliberate, speculate, cogitate, *think*  
rummage comb,ransack, search, hunt, *seek, scour, ferret out*  
*Ana* examine, inspect, *scrutinize*  
rumor n *report, gossip, hearsay*  
rumpus *brawl, broil, fracas, melee, row, scrap*  
runt *dwarf, pygmy, midget, manikin, homunculus*  
rusticate *consider, weigh, exogitate: reflect, deliberate, speculate, cogitate, *think*  
rupture breach, break, split, schism, rent, rift  
runt *dwarf, pygmy, midget, manikin, homunculus*  
rural, rustic, pastoral, bucolic are comparable when they  
mean of or characteristic of the country as distinguished  
from city life. Rural is the most comprehensive term; in  
its widest meaning it implies open country whether  
uninhabited or sparsely settled; more narrowly it suggests  
agricultural pursuits or simple community life. In  
distinction from rustic, however, rural suggests the pleasant  
aspects of country life; rustic commonly implies a  
contrast with the refinements of the city or the town and  
often connotes rudeness or lack of polish (*he had no taste for  
rural loveliness, green fields and vineyards . . . but he  
would often have his tongue in his cheek at the simplicity of  
rustic dupes—Stevenson*) Pastoral and bucolic derive some or most of their connotations from the literary treat-  
ment of rural life. Pastoral, when it does not refer directly  
to the life of shepherds, suggests either green pastures  
and grazing sheep or a life primitive in its simplicity or  
idyllic in its peace and apartness from the world (*to past- 
oral dales, thin-set with modest farms—Wordsworth*)  
(no more shall . . . Peace pipe on her pastoral hillock  
a languid note—Tennyson) Bucolic, a curiously dichot-  
omous word, may be a close synonym of pastoral in stressing  
the charm of rural environment and life (*there is here  
a bucolic atmosphere of peculiar beauty and inspiration— 
Sacheverell Sitwell*) or may come close to rustic in em- 
phasizing the crudity and lack of refinement of rural life  
or people (*to give up all the city's life . . . for the bucolic  
tedium of a Pennsylvania farm—he couldn't do it—Wolfe*)  
ruse n *trick, stratagem, maneuver, g Yam, ply, artifice,  
wise, feint*  
*Ana* chicane, trickery, *deception: expeditious, shift,  
make-shift, *resource, resort*  
rush, dash, tear, shoot, charge can all mean to move or  
cause to move forward with speed. Rush suggests either  
impetuosity or intense hurry on account of some exigency,  
and often carelessness about the concomitant effects of the  
present action (*rush for a train*) (*rush a research paper  
into print*) (*a flying rout of suns and galaxies, rushing  
away from the solar system—Forster*) (*business rushed  
forward into the glittering years—Amer. Guide Series:  
Ind.*) Dash is likely to suggest running or moving at a  
wild unrestrained top speed (*gyroscopically controlled  
trains that can make 150 miles an hour . . . and dash across  
an abyss on a steel cable—Kaempffert*) (*dashed on like  
a spurred blood horse in a race—Byron*) Tearn in this  
context may suggest extreme swiftness with impetus, viol-  
ence, and abandon (*then he tore out of the study—Turn-  
bull*) (*disheveled atoms tear along at 100 miles a second  
—Kaempffert*) Shoot may imply the precipitate headlong  
rushing or darting of something impelled, as though  
discharged from a gun (*leaped to one side and out of  
reach of those wicked horns. The bull shot past—Gipson*)  
(*the Bridal Veil shoots free from the upper edge of the  
cliff by the velocity the stream has acquired—Muir*) (*shoot- 
in out in their motorcars on errands of mystery—  
Woolf*) Charge is likely to suggest a rapid, violent on-  
slaught gathering forceful momentum calculated to overpowers (*down we swept and charged and overthrew  
—Tennyson*) (*one morning he charged—he was a very  
burly man—into Rossetti's studio—Osbert Sitwell*)  
*Ana* speed, hurry, hasten: dart, *fly, scud*  
rustic *rural, pastoral, bucolic*  
ruth n commiseration, compassion, pity, condolence,  
*sympathy, empathy*  
*Ana* *mercy, grace, charity, clemency, leniency: forbearance,  
tolerance, indulgence (see under FORBEARING)*

**sack** n *bag, pouch*  
sack vb *dismiss, discharge, cashier, drop, fire, bounce*  
sack vb pilage, despoil, spoliate, *ravage, devastate, waste*  
*Ana* plunder, *rob, loot, rifle: destroy, demolish, raze:  
*strip, bare, denude*  
sacred I *holy, divine, blessed, spiritual, religious*  
*Ana* dedicated, consecrated, hallowed (see Devote):  
cherished, treasured, valued (see APPRECIATE)  
Ant profane —Con secular, lay, temporal (see PRO-  
FANE)  
2 Sacred, sacrosanct, inviolate, inviolable can all mean  
having such a character as to be protected by law, custom,  
tradition, or human respect against breach, intrusion,  
defilement, or profanation. Sacred (see also HOLY) implies  
either a setting apart for a special and often exclusive use  
or end (*among civilized peoples, property is regarded as  
sacred to its owner*) (*a fund sacred to charity*) (*the den  
was sacred to the father of the family*) or a special char-  
acter or quality which makes the person or thing held  
sacred an object of almost religious veneration or rever-  
erence (*Louis XIII saw that the things which happened  
increasingly strengthened the Royal Office which was  
sacred to him—Belloq*) (*"Grief of two years' standing  
is usually somewhat ironical and occasionally slightly  
derisive <etymology is after all not  
conclusive>—Belloc*) to him— (*a spurred blood horse in a race—Byron*) to her— (*sacred  
grief was  
to her—Belloc*) (dashed  
a research paper  
into print)— (*a flying rout of suns and galaxies, rushing  
away from the solar system—Forster*) (*business rushed  
forward into the glittering years—Amer. Guide Series:  
Ind.*) (*the Bridal Veil shoots free from the upper edge of the  
cliff by the velocity the stream has acquired—Muir*) (*shoot- 
in out in their motorcars on errands of mystery—  
Woolf*) (*one morning he charged—he was a very  
burly man—into Rossetti's studio—Osbert Sitwell*) (*the den  
was sacred to the father of the family*) or a special char-  
acter or quality which makes the person or thing held  
sacred an object of almost religious veneration or rever-  
erence (*Louis XIII saw that the things which happened  
increasingly strengthened the Royal Office which was  
sacred to him—Belloq*) (*"Grief of two years' standing  
is usually somewhat ironical and occasionally slightly  
derisive <etymology is after all not  
sacrosanct—Darrows*) (*she rebuffed explanations . . . they intruded on her pri- 
vacy, that closely guarded preserve—as sacrosanct as  

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sacrifice

saddle

sadness, depression, melancholy, melancholia, dejection, despair, despondency, *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe: despondency, despair, hopelesseness, forlornness (see under DESPONDENT)

safe

her bureau drawers—Mary McCarthy> Inviolate and inviolable apply to things (as laws, principles, treaties, agreements, institutions, persons, places, or objects) that for one reason or another are secure from breach, infringement, attack, intrusion, or injury; the terms differ from each other chiefly in that inviolate suggests the fact of not having been violated while inviolable implies a character which does not permit or which distinctly forbids violation; thus, one holds a vow inviolable but keeps his vow inviolate <what seemed inviolable barriers are burst asunder in a trice—Meredith> <the Navahos . . . believed that their old gods dwelt in the fastnesses of that canyon . . . an inviolate place—Cather>

Ant> protected, shielded, defended (see DEFEND): revered, reverenced, venerated (see REVERE)

sacrifice vb abnegate, forbear, *forgo, eschew

sacrifice

sacrilege desecration, *profanation, blasphemy

sacrilegious blasphemous, *impious, profane

sacrosanct inviolate, inviolable, *sacred

saddle vb *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, load, lade, tax, charge

safety, depression, melancholy, melancholia, dejection, despair, despondency, *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe: despondency, despair, hopelessness, forlornness (see under DESPONDENT)

Ant> gladness

safe, secure can both mean free from danger or apprehension of danger. Safe may imply that one has passed through dangers or has run some risk (as of injury or of being lost) without incurring harm or damage <arrived home safe and sound after their long journey> or it can apply to persons or possessions whose situation or position involves neither risk nor exposure to destruction or loss <let the great world rage! We will stay here safe in the quiet dwellings—Shelley> <build shelters where the people might go to be safe from falling bombs> <he felt that his money was safe when it was in a bank> <sat in a niche of the tower where her somewhat faded beauty was safe from the sun—Bellemans> or to things (as highways, bridges, or vehicles, or as policies, actions, or courses) which are so constructed or designed that they expose one to few or no risks <a safe harbor> <a safe fire escape> <a safe investment> <'tis never safe to despise an enemy—Defoe> or to a cautious procedure which keeps one out of danger or free from the risk of making an error or blunder <it is safer to generalize about institutions than individuals—Levin> Secure in a few idiomatic phrases implies being down from anxiety or apprehension of danger <most people like to feel secure> In more general use secure tends to stress freedom from anxiety not as merely a subjective state but as a frame of mind induced by grounds that are or appear to be good and sufficient. Sometimes the grounds are intellectual and imply sufficient evidence to establish the certainty of something that has been doubted <send the author off to other publishers, secure in his belief that only an ugly moneyed attitude separates...
make a venture without fear, or the provision of safe-
guards or protective devices which make a thing safe
to use or follow ⟨the offer of a partnership by making his
future secure also made his marriage possible⟩ ⟨now that
the foundations were in good repair they regarded the
bridge as secure⟩ ⟨a provident, rather thoughtful people,
who made their livelihood secure by raising crops and
fowl—Cather⟩ ⟨an independent, stubborn man who knew
what he wanted, a man who was firmly rooted, es-
established, secure against calamity and want—Wolfe⟩
Often the term suggests not only a freedom from fear of
danger: nor a position, condition, or situation free from
all hazards ⟨has made a secure place for himself in the
history of English poetry⟩ ⟨university graduates who had
been unable to find suitable jobs or any secure place
in normal society—Shirer⟩
Ana protected, guarded, shielded (see DEFEND): *reliable,
dependable, tried
Ant dangerous — Con precarious, hazardous, risky,
perilous (see DANGEROUS)
safeguard vb guard, shield, protect, *defend
Ana conserve, preserve, *save: secure, insure, *ensure,
assure
sag vb *droop, wilt, flag
Ana sink, slump, subside, *fall, drop: *hang, dangle,
suspend
saga *myth, legend
sagacious perspicacious, astute, *shrewd
Ana *sharp, keen, acute: penetrating, piercing, probing
(see ENTER): *wise, judicious, sage, sapient
sage adj *wise, sapient, judicious, prudent, sensible, same
Ana *intelligent, knowing, brilliant: *learned, erudite:
sagacious, perspicacious (see SHREWED)
sail vb float, skim, scud, shoot, dart, *fly
sailor *mariner, seaman, tar, gob, bluejacket
salary *wage or wages, stipend, pay, hire, emolument, fee
salient conspicuous, outstanding, signal, striking, arresting,
prominent, remarkable, *noticeable
Ana significant, important, weighty (see corresponding noms
at IMPORTANCE): impressive, *moving: obtrusive,
intrusive (see IMPERTINENT)
salubrious *healthful, healthy, wholesome, salutary,
hygienic, sanitary
Ana *beneficial, advantageous: benign, *favorable
salutary wholesome, *healthful, healthy, salubrious,
hygienic, sanitary
Ana *beneficial, advantageous, profitable
Ant deleterious: evil
salutation *greeting, salute
salute vb *address, greet, hail, accord
salute n *greeting, salutation
same, selfsame, very, identical, *identical, equivalent, equal,
tantamount can mean either not different from the other
or others or not differing from each other. Same may
imply, and selfsame invariably implies, that the things
under consideration are in reality one and not two or
three different things ⟨this is the selfsame book that John
once owned⟩ ⟨they go to the same summer resort year
after year⟩ ⟨voted out of power . . . by the selfsame
people who had put them into office in the first place—
Fairless⟩ ⟨perhaps the selfsame owl that used to fly
overhead—Eve Langley⟩ But same may also be applied
to things actually distinct but with no appreciable dif-
ference in quality, kind, appearance, amount, or signifi-
cance ⟨say Wheeler riding in state in the great Dewey
parade . . . in 1898, wearing the same uniform that Miles
and Merritt wore—Long⟩ ⟨would be looked upon as one of
the afterguard, and would eat the same rations as the
captain—Chippendale⟩ Very, like selfsame, implies
complete absence of difference and therefore oneness
in the things under consideration ⟨you are the very
man I have been anxious to see⟩ ⟨that is the very
thing that I was saying—Shelley⟩ ⟨here in this very
town there was once a café—McCullers⟩ Identical (see also LIKE)
implies either selfsameness ⟨I found it at the identical
spot where I left it⟩ ⟨the authors of the anonymous
Waverley and of the popular Lady of the Lake were
found to be identical⟩ or absolute agreement in all details
(as of quality, shape, and appearance) ⟨since the sculpt-
ures are identical one must be a replica of the other⟩
(no two leaves from the same tree are identical) ⟨twins
that are identical develop from a single fertilized egg⟩
⟨a thousand identical guant gray houses—Rowečich⟩
⟨the same measures . . . may flow from distinct powers;
but this does not prove that the powers themselves are
identical—John Marshall⟩ Identical occurs chiefly in
diplomatic or governmental use and like identical
implies absolute agreement in all details ⟨the Allies sent identic
answers to the ultimatum⟩ ⟨identic notes utilized by the
powers in making joint representation to a government
—Stuart⟩ Equivalent is used of things that amount to
the same thing or are freely interchangeable in some respect
(as worth, force, significance, or import) ⟨some heirs
received their legacies in cash, some in real estate of
equivalent value⟩ ⟨in economics, the equivalent of a
beautifully composed work of art is the smoothly running
factory in which the workers are perfectly adjusted to
the machines—Huxley⟩ Equal implies complete corre-
spondence (as in number, amount, magnitude, or value)
and therefore equivalence but not selfsameness ⟨equal
salaries⟩ ⟨equal quantities⟩ ⟨equal merit⟩ ⟨divide in
equal shares⟩ ⟨the General . . . greeted Mrs. Churchill
in English, and spoke it throughout the meal. To make
things equal, I spoke French—Sir Winston Churchill⟩
Tantamount, otherwise identical with equivalent, is
restricted in application to one of a pair of usually im-
material things that are in effect equivalent the one to the
other (as in value, significance, or effect) ⟨such a move-
ment . . . would be tantamount to a confession of failure
—Trollope⟩ ⟨refusal to prolong the truce . . . would be
tantamount to a threat—Current Biog⟩
Ana alike, *like, akin, parallel, uniform
Ant different
sample n specimen, example, *instance, case, illustration
Ana piece, *part, portion, segment, fragment
sanative remedial, *curative, restorative, corrective
Ana salutary, hygienic, sanitary, *healthful: healing,
curing, remedying (see CURE vb)
sanctimonious 1 pietistic, religious, *devout, pious
Ana see those at SANCTIMONIOUS 2
2 hypocritical, pharisaical, canting (see under HYPOCRISY)
Ana affected, feigned, simulated, counterfeited, as-
sumed, pretended (see ASSUME): perfervid, fervid, ardent,
fervent (see IMPASSIONED)
sanctimonious *hypocrisy, pharsais, cant
Ana pretending or pretense, simulation, feigning, counter-
feiting, affecting or affectation (see corresponding verbs
at ASSUME): enthusiasm, zealotry, fanaticism (see nouns
at ENTHUSIAST)
sanction vb *approve, endorse, accredit, certify
Ana *authorize, license, commission: confirm, *ratify:
enforce, implement
Ant interdict
sanctity *holiness
sanctuary refuge, asylum, *shelter, cover, retreat
Ana safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at
SAFE): protection, shielding or shield, guarding or guard
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sangfroid, phlegm, composure, "equanimity

sanguine 1 also sanguineous * bloody, sanguinary, gory

undermine, enfeeble, * weaken, debilitate, cripple,

vb sap

sanitize, disinfect, * sterilize, fumigate

sane * wise, judicious, prudent, sensible, sage, sapient

sarcastic, satiric, ironic, sardonic can mean having or

sarcasm satire, irony, * wit, humor, repartee

sarcastic, satiric, ironic, * sarcastic

sand 709

satiating * satisfy, content: * indulge, pamper, humor: gratify, regale (see please)
satellite * follower, adherent, henchman, partisan, disciple, sectary

sycophant, * parasite, favorite, toady, licksplitter, bootlicker, hanger-on: devotee, votary, * addict

sate vb * sate, surfeit, clay, pall, glut, gorge

* satisfy, content: * indulge, pamper, humor: gratify, regale (see please)

sand 709
satisfied content (see under SATISFY)
can both mean to appease desires or longings. The same distinctions in implications are also found in their corresponding adjectives satisfied and content or contented. Satisfy implies full appeasement not only of a person's desires or longings but also of his needs or requirements (walks that satisfy a wish for exercise) and of his desires (the bosses are able to maintain the required tension in their followers and at the same time can satisfy their lust for power in a most gratifying way—Huxley) Flora was satisfied. She had done what she had hoped to do—Gibbon Content implies appeasement to the point where one is not disquieted or disturbed by a desire for what he does not have, even though every wish is not fully gratified (she was content with the world, not because he thought reality good . . . but because he possessed immense imaginative resources with which to evade it—Paulding) (when I was at home, I was in a better place: but travelers must be content—Shak) (my own garden must content me this year—Quiller-Couch)

saturate 1 Satisfy, content can both mean to appease desires or longings. The same distinctions in implications are also found in their corresponding adjectives satisfied and content or contented. Satisfy implies full appeasement not only of a person's desires or longings but also of his needs or requirements (walks that satisfy a wish for exercise) and of his desires (the bosses are able to maintain the required tension in their followers and at the same time can satisfy their lust for power in a most gratifying way—Huxley) Flora was satisfied. She had done what she had hoped to do—Gibbon Content implies appeasement to the point where one is not disquieted or disturbed by a desire for what he does not have, even though every wish is not fully gratified (she was content with the world, not because he thought reality good . . . but because he possessed immense imaginative resources with which to evade it—Paulding) (when I was at home, I was in a better place: but travelers must be content—Shak) (my own garden must content me this year—Quiller-Couch)

Ana gratify, gladden, *please: appease, *pacify: *satiate, fulfilled

saturate 2 impregnate, interpenetrate, penetrate, permeate, pervade

Ana *infuse, imbue, ingrain, inoculate: penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER)

saturine pour, gloomy, *sullen, glum, morose, surly, sulky, crabbed

Ana grave, *serious, solemn, somber, staid: taciturn, reserved, uncommunicative, *silent

saucey, pert, arch are comparable when they mean flippant and bold rather than serious and respectful in one's manner or attitude. Saucey is rarely strongly derogatory though it implies some degree of lack of proper respect (a saucy pupil) (a saucy retort) Usually it also implies piquancy and levity with a hint of smartness or of amusing effrontery (a little saucy rosebud minx can strike death-damp into the breast of a doughty king—Browning) Sometimes it is applied also to birds and small animals on similar grounds (some saucy puppies on their hind legs—Ruskin) the mistle thrush is very bold and saucy, and has been known to fly in the face of persons who have disturbed the sitting bird—Burroughs) Pert implies a saucy freedom that may suggest presumption or affectation rather than insolence (a pert jackanapes, full of college petulance and self-conceit—Smollett) (a little upstart, vulgar being . . . with all her airs of pretension—Austen) In some contexts the word carries additional implications (as of cleverness or sprightliness) found in its other senses (a little, upright, pert, Burns)

Arch usually implies roguish or coquettish audacity or mischievous mockery sometimes carried to the point that it seems forced or awkward (a simpering expressions and arch posturing—Osbert Lancaster) (Elizabeth . . . turned to him with an arch smile, and said—"You mean to frighten me, Mr. Darcy, by coming in all this state to hear me?"—Austen)

Ana flippant, frivolous, volatile, light-minded (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS) intrusive, obtrusive, meddlesome, *impertinent: brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS) piquant, snappy (see PUNGENT)

saunter, stroll, amble can all mean to walk slowly and more or less aimlessly, especially in the open air. Saunter suggests a leisurely pace and an idle and carefree mind (sauntering about the streets, loitering in a coffeehouse—Fielding) (he had stepped out into the street well—Burns) While it does not quite imply impatience or boredom (a son seldom fulfills his father's hopes) (the trip fulfilled all the claims made for it) (the objective of our country . . . is to achieve human decency to meet human needs and to fulfill human hopes—A. E. Stevenson) Meet implies exact agreement with the test or measure and therefore usually connotes mathematical equivalence; thus, "the new machine meets expectations" is slightly more tempered praise than "the new machine fulfills expectations" (we must expand the concept of conservation to meet the imperious problems of the new age—Kennedy)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of an ambling horse <you were just ambling around that party, eating, drinking, carefree as a bird—Wouk>

savage adj 1 *fierce, ferocious, barbarous, inhuman, cruel, fell, truculent
Ana implacable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim: rapacious, *voracious, ravenous
Con gentle, mild, lenient (see soft): humane, benevolent, *charitable
2 barbaric, *barbarian, barbarous
Ana primitive, primeval (see primary): *rough, harsh: untutored, untutored, *ignorant
Con *tame, submissive, subdued: civilized, cultured (see corresponding nouns at civilization)

save vb 1 deliver, redeem, *rescue, ransom, reclaim
Ana *free, release, liberate, emancipate: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *recover, retrieve, recoup, recruit
Ant lose: waste: damn (in theology)
2 Save, preserve, conserve can mean to keep free or secure from injury, decay, destruction, or loss. Save may imply measures taken to protect something from danger of loss, injury, or destruction <they had her in a Sunday-go-to-meeting dress . . . never washed or worn, just saved—Welty> <saved his papers in a vault> <he wavered around an atomistic explanation of the world, yet held fast to the Biblical Creation, to save his orthodoxy—H. O. Taylor> but, more often, it suggests rescue or delivery from a dangerous situation (see under rescue). Preserve stresses the idea of resistance to destructive agencies and hence implies the use of means to keep something in existence or intact <old records are preserved by protecting them from light and moisture> <preserve food for winter use> <constitutions are intended to preserve practical and substantial rights, not to maintain theories—Justice Holmes> <there's nothing like routine and regularity for preserving one's peace of mind—Dahly> Conserve, on the other hand, suggests keeping sound and unimpaired and implies the use of means to prevent unnecessary or excessive change, loss, or depletion <a convalescent must conserve his energy if he is to make rapid progress> <our constitutional rights can be conserved only by an intelligent electorate> <the air is recirculated within the cabin in order to conserve heat—Armstrong> <sipped his coffee, made from his carefully conserved supply brought with him from England—Bambrick>
Ana *have, hold, own, possess, enjoy: *keep, retain, reserve
Ant spend: consume

savoir faire poise, *tact, address
Con awkwardness, clumsiness, ineptness, maladroitness, gaucherie (see corresponding adjectives at awkward)

savor n *taste, flavor, tang, relish, smack
Ana *quality, property, character, attribute: peculiarity, individuality, characteristic, distinctiveness (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic): *impression, impress, print, stamp
savory *palatable, appetizing, sapid, appetizing, relishing
Ant bland (to taste): acrid (in taste and smell)

say n *saying, adage, proverb, maxim, motto, epigram, aphorism, apothegm

saying, saw, adage, proverb, maxim, motto, epigram, aphorism, apothegm can all denote a sententious expression of a general truth. A saying is a brief current or habitual expression that may be anonymous, traditional, or attributable to a specific source <the saying is true, "The empty vessel makes the greatest sound"—Shak.> A saw is an oft-repeated and usually traditional or old saying <full of wise saws and modern instances—Shak.> <the old saw that ignorance is bliss—M. W. Childs> An adage is a saying given credit by long use and general acceptance <if there is verity in wine, according to the old adage—Thackeray> <there's an adage to the effect that a good horse eventually comes back to his best form—Audax Minor> A proverb is an adage couched, usually, in homely and vividly concrete or figurative phrase <accused (in the phrase of a homely proverb) of being "penny-wise and pound-foolish"—Spectator> we hear, that we may speak. The Arabian proverb says, "A fig tree, looking on a fig tree, becometh fruitful"—Emerson> A maxim offers a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct often in the form of a proverb <the difference between principles as universal laws, and maxims of conduct as prudential rules—Robinson> we have reversed the wise maxim of Theodore Roosevelt: "Speak softly and carry a big stick"—Warburg> A motto is usually a maxim or moral aphorism adopted by a person, a society, or an institution as a guiding principle or as a statement of an aim or ideal <William of Wykeham's old motto that "Manners maketh Man"—Quiller-Couch> he adopted the motto "Nam deo est semper rectum" in addition to his private motto of "I will work harder"—George Orwell> The last three terms, epigram, aphorism, and apothegm, commonly imply known authorship and a conscious literary quality. An epigram gets its effectiveness from its terseness and a witty turn of phrase; it characteristically presents a paradox or a cleverly pointed antithesis <what is an epigram? A dwarfish whole,
scatter 1 Scatter, disperse, dissipate, dispel
- *caustic, mordant, acrid

scare vb alarm, *frighten, fright, terrify, terrorize, startle, 
- abundant
- *daunt, appall, *dismay: *intimidate, cow, browbeat: 
- ample, plentiful: profuse
- scarce rare, uncommon, *infrequent, occasional, sporadic 

scant scanto, skimpy, scrimp, *meager, exiguous, spare, 
- plentiful: profuse
- scanty scanty, skimpy, scrimp, *meager, exiguous, spare, 

scan vb scrutinize, examine, inspect, audit

scandal n 1 *offense, sin, vice, crime
- indig...
scold

vb

Scold, upbraid, rate, berate, tongue-lash, jaw,

ridicule, deride, mock, taunt: scorn, disdain, scout,

for the delinquency of their children) *I think he'd meant

Upbraid stresses reproaching or censuring on more defi-

scolded

ned grounds than

does and usually suggests justifi-

father

less abusively. Scold, the term most common in ordinary

life—

Christianity which

science is in the true line of

progress—

flout—Kipling

life worth living—

emphasize "the human dilemma"—Mailery

a farmer who doubted

actions suggested by the preceding terms, but it carries a

heightened implication not only of disdain and contempt

but of refusal to heed or of a denial of a thing's truth or

power (that bids him flow the law he makes, that bids

him make the law he flows—Kipling) *no form of

Christianity which flows science is in the true line of

progress—Inge)

(for the past eight years they had

watched an administration purposely flow the intellectual

life—Michener)

Ana *ridicule, deride, mock, taunt: scorn, disdain, scout,

contemn, *despise

Scotch

vb Scold, upbraid, rate, berate, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail, revile, vituperate can all mean to

reproach, reproof, or censure angrily, harshly, and more or

less abusively. Scotch, the term most common in everyday

use, usually implies a rebuking in a mood of irritation or

ill temper, with or without sufficient justification (*his

father scolded him for staying out late) *our great authors

have scolded the nation more than they praised it. Often

their scolding has been . . . wholly justified, but often too

it has been eccentric or ill-informed—Malcolm Cowley

Upbraid stresses reproaching or censuring on more defi-

nite grounds than scold does and usually suggests justifi-

cation or justifiable anger (*the judge upbraided the parents

for the delinquency of their children) *I think he'd meant to

upbraid me for sneaking off, but he didn't—Cather

*he had so often upbraided her for her superficiality—

Sackville-West)

Rate and the more common berate usually imply more or less prolonged, angry, and some-
times abusive scolding either in censuring or in reprim-

anding (*the voice continued violently rating me

—Hudson) *hearing Ed Hall berate a farmer who doubted

the practicability of the machine—Anderson)

Fairly close synonyms of rate and berate are the expressive
tongue-lash which stresses the punitive effect on the

person berated (*tongue-lashed them in a way that could

be heard blocks off—Fast) *suffer from a fifteen-minute

tongue-lashing) and the crude terms jaw, bawl, usually

with out, chew out, and wig (chiefly British), which

emphasize the noisy prolonged ranting which usually

attends a berating (*I have been jowelled for letting you go

—Marryat) *you'll get bawled out when you pull a boner

—Matheson) *some niggling Quartermaster lieutenant

chewed them out because they were a few hundred cases

short—Liebling) *a subaltern of 1872—Keesing

who presumably had been severely wagged by his chief—The Times)

Rail carries a more definite implication of either abusive or

scoffing language than rate or berate *enemies . . .

rail at him for crimes he is not guilty of—Junius)

the couples raised at the chant and the frown of the witchmen

leam, and laughed them down—Lindsay) *Revile carries a

much stronger implication of abusive, scurrilous language

than rail does but little, if any, suggestion of scoffing;

it often also implies deliberate vilification (*the words

humiliated her, the tone reviled her . . . they were the

clashes of naked hate—Farrell) *her tenants, who have to

earn the money she spends abroad . . . revile her as a

fugitive and an absentee—Shaw)

Vituperate implies more violence in the censure and in the method of attack than
does revile, but otherwise they are close synonyms (*he

vituperated from the pulp the virtues of the court—

Froude) *the last image that crossed his mind was Sir

James with his angry face and his trembling hands vitu-

perating him—Archibald Marshall)

Ana reprehend, reprobate, censure, blame, *criticize:

reproach, reprimand, *reprove, rebuke, admonish, chide:

*execute, objure

scop vb *dip, bail, ladle, spoon, dish

scope *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, orbit, horizon, ken, purview

Ana *expansc, amplitude, spread, stretch: *field, domain, sphere, territory, province: extent, area, *size

scorch vb *burn, char, sear, singe

Ana *wither, shrivel

Scotch vb disadain, contempt, despite (see under DESPISE)

Ana superciliousness, insolence, disdainfulness (see corresponding adjectives at PRAUD) scoffing, flouting,

jeering, gibing (see SCOFF) deriding or derision, ridicul-

ing or ridicule, taunting, mocking or mockery (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

scorn vb disdain, scout, *despise, contemn

Ana repudiate, spurn, reject (see DECLINE vb): flout, *scost, jeer, gibe: deride, mock, taunt, *ridicule

Scotch, Scottish) Scots can all apply to what constitutes,

analogy words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Conrady

except

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
that Scots is sometimes preferred in reference to law and in historical references to money (a pound Scots) In Scotland itself Scottish and Scots are often preferred to Scotch (a delegation of Scottish editors—The Scotsman) (Scottish cricket—The Scotsman) (the Scots community in New York—The Scotsman) (new Scots air link—The Scotsman) but Scotch also is used (the signs confirmed my recollection that the Scotch Scotch are not ashamed of the word Scotch and do not go about protesting that Scottish and Scots are preferable forms —Liebling) especially with regard to the products of Scotland (wool jersey . . . and Scotch tweeds are favorite fabrics—Women's Wear Daily)

Scottish, Scots adj *Scotch
scoundrel *villain, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, scamp, rascally, miscreant
scorn, *despise, contemn, disdain
scour
scoundrel *villain, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, •Scotch
•Scotch
vb
scrape
are comparable when they mean to apply friction to something by rubbing it with or against a thing that is harsh, rough, or sharp. Scrape usually implies the removal of something from a surface with an edged instrument; the term then commonly suggests a purpose (as erasing, smoothing, or freeing from dirt, paint, skin, or peel). Additionally the term commonly implies the making of a distinctive and often unpleasant sound (scrape the dishes before washing) (scrape potatoes) (scrape off paint) (a twig that scraped upon the very parchment of his soul as a lead pencil upon a slate—Pows) (the chairs were scraped along the floor—Anderson) Scratch differs from scrape in its common implication of less purposiveness in the agent and of definite damage to the thing that is scratched; it usually also suggests the use of a pointed rather than an edged instrument which gouges a line or furrow in a surface hard enough to scratch glass (scraped by the thorns of a rose) (scratch a mosquito bite) (this pen scrapes) (his wooden plow scarcely more than scratched the surface of the earth—A. R. Williams) Grate usually stresses the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness made by rubbing something with or against a rough indented or cutting surface (as of a file); the term implies removal of material from a body in particles, and in itself as distinct from context suggests nothing about the aims or effects (as abrasion, wearing or rubbing away, or pulverization) (grate nutmeg) (grate cheese) Often grate implies little more than a harsh or creaking sound made by friction (a key grated in the lock) (till grates her keel upon the shallow sand—Byron) In extended use the term tends to be used in reference to things that irritate, exasperate, or harass with the implication that their effect is like the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness characteristic of a physical grating (an uncanny heartiness . . . which grated upon David's ear—Turnhull) Rasp usually implies a harsher or rougher and more disagreeable effect than either scrape or grate. It may suggest

the use of or as if of a rough instrument (as a coarse file called a rasp) or of something equally effective or as trying to the nerves (thin a stick by rasping) (these rocks are known to have their angles rasped off, and to be fluted and scarred by the ice—Tyn dall) (her hard, metallic voice had rasped the invalid's nerves—Carey) (when you laid a tight hold on your fiddlestick . . . you could do nothing but rasp—Shak.) Grind implies a sharpening of the edge or point of a tool or weapon or the smoothing of a surface (as of glass) by friction; in both uses the sound made in the act of grinding is often stressed (I have ground the axe myself; do you but strike the blow—Shak.) (grind lenses for eyeglasses) In extended use the word often implies a wearing down by friction and also often suggests a particularly harsh or rough method of gaining one's ends or of making one's way (laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law—Goldsmith) (we went aground—grinding, grinding, till the ship trembled in every timber—Martineau) A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
inspection, examination, and audit. Scrutinize and scrutiny imply close observation and attention to minute detail.

Scores of plain-dress detectives closely scrutinized the hidden guests as they arrived—Lucius Beebe

Living among the absurd magpie scrutinies of wife, children, colleagues, patients . . . most analysts are obliged to be more proper than proper—Mailer

Scan and scanning are usually employed in reference to something that is surveyed from point to point; the terms may imply careful observation or study but sometimes imply the opposite and suggest a cursory glancing from one point to another; thus, to scan the newspaper each morning may admit of either interpretation. Only a context can make the implication clear. The more one scans the later pages of Mark Twain's history the more one is forced to the conclusion that there was something gravely amiss with his inner life—Brooks

Hyphenated, with raised yowders, yesterday's Jewish paper that he had already thoroughly read—Malamud

A quick scanning of the items will help you—S. L. Payne

Inspect and inspection in general use often imply little more than a careful observation. He had perched himself upon the edge of the desk . . . and was absorbed in an unabashed inspection of her—Hervey

But in legal, military, governmental, and industrial use they imply a searching scrutiny for possible errors, defects, flaws, or shortcomings. Every length of cloth is inspected before it leaves the factory. The troops prepared for the daily inspection. This report will not pass inspection. Freshly picked grapes are inspected and cleansed before delivery—American Guide Series: Pa.

Examine (see also

Ask 1) and examination imply a close scrutiny or investigation to determine the facts about a thing or the real nature, character, or condition of a thing or to test a thing's quality, validity, truth, or functioning. The critic refused to give an opinion before he had examined the painting closely. The doctor sent him to the hospital for a thorough examination. They examined the house from cellar to attic before deciding to purchase it. Could it be the intention of those who gave this power, to say that . . . a case arising under the constitution should be decided without examination of the instrument under which it arises?—John Marshall

He began to . . . examine the speeches of its leaders, study its organization, reflect on its psychology and political techniques—Shirer

Examination of the bedroom has convinced me that it was possible for them to have examined the house from cellar to attic an opinion before he had examined the speeches of its leaders, studied its organization, reflected on its psychology and political techniques—Shirer

Examination of the bedroom has convinced me that it was possible for them to have examined the house from cellar to attic an opinion before he had examined the speeches of its leaders, studied its organization, reflected on its psychology and political techniques—Shirer

Mr. Justice Harlan made the report. He had read the case and was familiar with the circumstances. Mr. Justice Harlan made the report. He had read the case and was familiar with the circumstances.

The notion to be conveyed is one of an urgent effort of speed to attain an immediate end. The commuter has no time to read the editorials as he alternately from train to ferry and from ferry to train—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.

The children around our place all own hideouts where they scamper whenever that old ogre, Work, rears his ugly head—Hervey

Perkins

The claim's played out, the partnership's played out, and the sooner we skedaddle out of this ship's played out, and the sooner we skedaddle out of this the better—Harte

Brens at once began to blaze away and under their cover Brens at once began to blaze away and under their cover

There are signals, and there are demonstrations of signals; one kind, those that are used in a emergency; the other kind, those that are not—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The notion to be conveyed is one of an urgent effort of speed to attain an immediate end. The commuter has no time to read the editorials as he alternately from train to ferry and from ferry to train—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.

To hope to get a shot at a rabbit is an unabashed dream, but in legal, inspection means a close scrutiny . . . and was absorbed in an unabashed inspection of her—Hervey

Return to the page 1645 to continue.
seaman
* speed, hasten

seaman * mariner, sailor, tar, gob, bluejacket

sear vb * burn, scorch, char, singe

search vb * seek, hunt, comb,ransack, rummage, ferret out

Ana investigate (see corresponding noun at INQUIRY): inspect, examine, scrutinize: penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER)

season vb * harden, acclimatize, acclimate

Ana * habituate, accustom, inure: train, school, discipline (see Teaching): practice, exercise, drill

seasonable, timely, well-timed, opportune, pat can mean occurring or coming with peculiar appropriateness as to moment or present situation. What is seasonable is perfectly suited to the season or time of year.<br>seasonable menus for hot August days<br>seasonable weather<br>or, by extension, fits in perfectly with the needs of the moment or the character of the occasion.<br>seasonable, and his advice...<br>seasonable garland of legend and fact from the flora of Christmas—London Calling

What is timely is not only seasonable but comes or occurs at such a moment as to be of genuine value or service (a timely book).<br>to me alone there came a thought of grief: a timely utterance gave that thought relief—Wordsworth
<br>What is well-timed is so timely as to suggest the appearance or the actual exercise of care, forethought, or design.<br>their well-timed and rapid charge decided the conflict—Gibbon
<br>the instruments needed to make their movements precise and well-timed were necessarily reduced to uniformity too—Mumford
<br>What is opportune fits directly into a given concurrence of circumstances or comes as if by accident in the nick of time and works to the advantage of those concerned.<br>the moment was not opportune for an uprising (as if this was an encounter which was something more than convenient, something really opportune—West)
<br>the literary scene was too full of chaotic and short-lived movements to make the launching of a large work opportune—Barzun
<br>What is pat is perfectly adapted to the situation or the moment a pat quotation or comes or occurs at the very moment it is needed—a story so pat, you may think it is coined—Cowper
<br>had assured the air of a miracle, of something dreamed in a dream, of something pathetically and impossibly appropriate—pat, as they say—Bennett

Ana apropos, apposite, pertinent, *relevant: appropriate, happy, felicitous, apt (see fit): welcome, grateful, gratifying (see pleasant)

Ant unseasonable

seclude * isolate, segregate, insulate, sequester

Ana * enclose, envelop, fence, pen, cage, wall: confine, circumscribe, *limit, restrict

seclusion * solitude, isolation, alienation

Ana retirement, withdrawal (see corresponding verbs at Go): separation, parting, severing or severance (see corresponding verbs at separate)

Con * intercourse, communication, commerce, dealings, communion

second n * instant, moment, minute, flash, jiffy, twinkling, split second

secondary adj * subordinate, dependent, subject, tributary, collateral

Ana * auxiliary, accessory, subservient, subsidiary, contributory: incidental, *accidental, adventitious

Ant primary

second-rate mediocre, middling, *medium, moderate, average, fair, indifferent

secret adj Secret, covert, stealthy, furtive, clandestine, surreptitious, underhand, underhanded are comparable when they mean done, carried on, operated, or accomplished so as not to attract attention or observation. Secret, the most general of these terms and the widest in its range of application, implies a hiding or concealing or a being hidden or concealed.<br>virtues are the hidden beauties of a soul, the secret graces which cannot be discovered by a mortal eye—Spectator<br>she seized a lamp... and hurried towards the secret passage—Walpole<br>for eighteen years a secret and an unaccused prisoner in the Bastille—Belloc
<br>Stealthy usually suggests an intent to elude, to stay upon, or to gain one's ends without attracting attention; it is frequently a term either of derogation or of censure, connoting deliberate-ness and quietness in decoying, entrapping, or deceiving<br>murder... with his stealthy pace... towards his design moves like a ghost—Shak.
<br> a series of gradual and stealthy encroachments on the rights of the people—Freeman
<br>he came sidling up the driveway with a stealthy, soft-treading gait, making no noise at all—Dahl
<br>Furtive agrees with stealthy in suggesting an intent to escape observation but it carries clearer suggestions of cautiousness, watchfulness, or slyness, and is used to describe not only movements and acts but also faces, features, or expressions which reveal these or similar characteristics.<br>the man in black, after a furtive glance, did not look me in the face—Borrow
<br>small furtive eyes—George Eliot<br>(it would be possible for them, by breaking the law discreetly, to get all they want without discomfort; but... they... refuse to be the furtive evaders of a rule—Huxley
<br>the furtive sex fumbling that all boys own her age considered natural and in fact obligatory—Wouk
<br>Clandestine implies concealment (as in working out a plan) and usually an evil or illicit end; it commonly suggests stealthy or furtive methods or a fear that others may know what is occurring (clandestine meetings of the lovers)<br>a clandestine marriage<br>the past when even the girls in the Library of Congress—even the archivists—could be booked for a clandestine weekend at Virginia Beach—Cheever
<br>Germany's clandestine rearmament under the auspices of the Reichswehr—Shirer
<br>Supplicious applies not only to stealthy and furtive actions but also to emotions or desires and to concrete things which are concealed for fear of their discovery usually because they involve violation of a right, a law, a custom, or a standard (as of conduct or propriety)<br>there he kept his supplicious quids of tobacco, his pipe, and his small hoards—M. E. Freeman
<br>over the paling of the garden we might obtain an oblique and suppliant view—Henry James
<br>cherish a suppliant liking for romantic love stories (the suppliant removal of his stock by a merchant about to be forced into bankruptcy—Underhand and underhanded consistently carry an implication of fraud, deceit, or unfairness, in addition to that of secrecy in dealings or suppliciousness in methods.<br>he had suspected his agent of some underhand dealings—Austen
<br>(it seemed deceitful and underhand to try such a thing—Pritchett<br>he did not look quite like a professional gambler, but something smooth and twinkling in his countenance suggested an underhanded mode of life—Cather

Ana * mysterious, inscrutable, arcane: puzzling, per-
plexing, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb): hidden, concealed, secreted, screened (see HIDE)

secure *hide, conceal, screen, cache, bury, ensconce
Ana dissemble, cloak, mask, *disguise, camouflage

secretive close, close-lipped, closemouthed, tight-lipped, *silent, uncommunicative, taciturn, reticent, reserved
Ana *cautious, circumspect, wary: restrained, inhibited
(see RESTRAIN)

Con *talkative, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, gibberish: candid, open, plain, *frank
sect *religion, denomination, cult, communion, faith, creed, persuasion, church
sectary 1 adherent, *follower, disciple, partisan, henchman, satellite
Ana devotee, votary, *addict
2 also sectarian *heretic, schismatic, dissenter, non-conformist
Ana *enthusiast, zealot, fanatic, bigot

section n segment, sector, division, *part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel
Ana district, *locality, vicinity, region, tract, *area, zone, belt, *field, sphere, territory

sector segment, section, division, *part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel

secular temporal, lay, *profane
Ana worldly, mundane, *earthly, earthly, terrestrial
Ant religious (as schools, journals, authorities): sacred (as music, drama): regular (as priests)
secure adj *safe
Ana *firm, solid: protected, shielded, guarded, safeguarded, defended (see DEFEND): certain, positive, *sure: impregnable, unassailable, invulnerable, *invincible
Ant precarious, dangerous
secure vb 1 Secure, anchor, moor, rivet can all in extended use mean to fasten or fix firmly or immovably. They are, however, not often interchangeable because of implications derived from their primary senses. One secures something that may get lost, may escape, or permit invasion or intrusion if allowed to remain loose or to work loose; the word usually implies care or protection as the end of the action (secure doors and windows before retiring to keep out intruders) (replace the nut, and tighten it down to secure the capacitor to the panel—J. A. Stanley) (getting intelligence which . . . will secure your own countrymen against brutality and outrages—Kenneth Roberts) One anchors or moors something unstable or subject to tugging or pulling by external forces or influences to another thing strong enough to hold it down or in place or powerful enough to counterbalance or counteract the opposing forces (most schoolrooms had benches and desks lined up in rows and anchored to the floor—Mumford) (anchor the cables of a suspension bridge to towers at either end) (moored to the rock on two sides, the cabin stood firm—Tyndall) But moor, which in its primary sense implies a making fast between two anchors or two or more lines or cables, may in extended use suggest greater steadiness or an even balancing of forces that make for stability (her reticent childhood sweetheart—whose idea of the good life is anchored to his dream of a French version of an American drugstore—N. Y. Times Book Rev.) (some of the tiny cone-shaped hats are attached to chenille snoods . . . which moor them on firmly—P. J. Reynolds) (said a network executive proudly: “While they’re with us they [actors on contract] ‘11 be moored to television—they can’t do any Broadway plays or movies.”—Time) One rivets one thing to another when one joins things normally or actually separate from each other as closely together as though a rivet had been driven through them (fear riveted him to his chair) (why should I write this down, that’s riveted, screwed to my memory—Shakes.) (the head of the state, in whose name he insisted that all his victories were won, to rivet the loyalty of the army to the civil administration—Buchanan) (stood riveted to the earth . . . in the fascination of that dreaded gaze—Le Fanu)
Ana establish, *set, settle, fix: *fasten, attach, affix
2 *ensure, insure, assure
3 procure, obtain, *get, acquire, gain, win
Ana seize, *take, grasp: *reach, attain, achieve, gain: *have, hold, own, possess

security secure, guarntry, *guarantee, bond, bail
Ana *pledge, earnest, token

sedate grave, staid, sober, serious, solemn, somber
Ana placid, *calm, serene, tranquil; collected, composed, imperturbable (see COOL): *decorous, seemly, proper
Ant flighty

desideration n *deposit, precipitate, dregs, lees, grounds

sedition, treason are comparable when they mean an offense against a state to which or a sovereign to whom one owes allegiance. Sedition applies to conduct that is not manifested in an overt act but that incites commotion and resistance to lawful authority without in itself amounting to insurrection (sedition is . . . a matter of expressing opinions, not of committing acts—The Reporter) Treason applies to conduct that is manifested by an overt act or acts, is variously defined by various governments and at various times but typically has for its aim the violent overthrow of the government, the death of the sovereign, or betrayal to or aid and comfort of the enemy (one cannot commit treason simply by talking or conspiring against the government; he must actually do something, and there must be witnesses—Ogg & Ray) (sedition has come to be applied to practices which tend to disturb internal public tranquility by deed, word, or writing but which do not amount to treason and are not accompanied by or conducive to open violence—Chafee) (sedition . . . is traitorous behavior that falls short of treason because it does not actively levy war against the United States or give aid to an enemy of the United States. It stirs up resistance to law or encourages conduct that may become treason—Smelter & Kirwin)
Ana *revolution, revolt, revolution, uprising, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup: insurrection, insurrection, estrangement (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE)
Con *fidelity, allegiance, loyalty, fealty

seditionsious mutinous, rebellious, factious, *insubordinate, contumacious
Ana traitorous, treacherous, perfidious, disloyal, *faithless: disaffected, alienated (see ESTRANGE)

seduce tempt, entice, inveigle, *lure, decoy
Ana mislead, beguile, delude, *deceive: corrupt, debauch, deprave, pervert, *debase: bewitch, captivate, allure

sedulous assiduous, diligent, industrious, *busy
Ana persevering, persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): untiring, unwearying, *indefatigable, tireless

see vb 1 See, behold, descry, espied, view, survey, contemplate, observe, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern can all mean to take cognizance of something by physical or sometimes mental vision. See, the most general of these terms, may be used to imply little more than the use of the organs of vision (he cannot see the crowd for he is blind) but more commonly it implies a recognition or

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
appreciation of what is before one's eyes (they can see) a great deal in Paris, but nothing in an English meadow—Jefferies (if the policeman saw him at all, he probably observed him with misgiving—Wolfe) the look of one who has seen all, borne all, known all—Styron The term may imply the exercise of other powers than the sense of sight, including a vivid imagination (I can see her plainly now, as she looked forty years ago) ("Methinks I see my father." "Where, my lord?" "In my mind's eye, Horatio"—Shak.) or mental insight (he was the only one who saw the truth) or powers of inference (though he appeared calm, I could see he was inwardly agitated) Behold carries a stronger implication of a definite ocular impression and of distinct recognition than see; it also suggests looking at what is seen (we have sailed many weeks, we have sailed many days, (seven days to the week I allow) but a Snark, on the which we might lovingly gaze, we have never beheld till now—Lewis Carroll) a whole tribe living in a craterrike valley, every member of which believes it would be death for him or her to behold the sea—Frazer Descry and esp'y imply a seeing in spite of difficulties (as distance, darkness, or partial concealment). Descry often suggests an effort to discover or a looking out for someone or something (the grass was high in the meadow, and there was no descripting her—George Eliot) (Sir Austin ascended to the roof ...) and described him hastening to the boathouse by the riverside—Meredith but esp'y usually implies skill in detection (as of what is small, or not clearly within the range of vision, or is trying to escape detection) (the seamen espied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship—Swift) (flowers we esp'y beside the torrent growing; flowers that peep forth from many a cleft and chink—Wordsworth) View and survey, on the contrary, imply the seeing of what is spread before one or what one can examine steadily or in detail. Both terms as often imply mental consideration as a physical seeing or looking over. View usually implies or requires a statement of a particular way of looking at a thing or a particular purpose in considering it (view the panorama with delight) viewed a piece of property that he thought of viewing) view a painting from various angles) view the industry of the country, and see how it is affected by inequality of income—Shaw) the effort is an interesting one if you view it in terms of the techniques of political symbolism—Lerner Survey more often implies a detailed scrutiny or inspection by the eyes or the mind so that one has a picture or idea of something as a whole (the captain surveyed him from cap to waistcoat and from waistcoat to leggings for a few moments—Hardy) he surveyed the room from the weathered blue window in later times?—Bennett) (his lightning dashes from image to image, so that we are unable at first to perceive the points of contact—Day Lewis) Discern, like descry, often implies little more than a making out of something by means of the eyes (at length he discerned, a long distance in front of him, a moving spot, which appeared to be a vehicle—Hardy) sometimes we discern the city afar off—Benson) In its more distinctive use the term usually implies the powers of deeply perceiving and of distinguishing or discriminating what the senses perceive (ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?—Mt 16:3) (his grave eyes steadily discerned the good in men—Masefield) (he tried quickly to think of something else, lest with her uncanny intuition she discern the cloud of death in his mind—Buck) Ana scrutinize, scan, examine, inspect: pierce, penetrate, probe (see ENTER): consider, study, contemplate 2 See, look, watch can all mean to perceive something by means of the eyes. See (see also SEE) stresses the reception of visual impressions (he is now able to see clearly) (have the power of seeing) Look stresses the directing of the eyes to something or the fixing of the eyes on something in order to see it (if you will only look, you will be able to see what I am doing) he refused to look in the mirror the nurse gave him) Watch (see also TEND) implies a following of something with one's eyes, so as to see every movement, every change, a sign of danger, or a favorable opportunity (watch for a while and tell us what you see) (spend the night watching a sick friend) (watching the clock as closely as a cat watches a mouse)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
seek, search, scour, hunt, comb, ferret out, ransack, rummage are comparable when they mean to look for or go in quest of in the hope of finding. Seek has become widely extended in application and may take as its object either a person or a concrete thing or something intangible or abstract and may imply either a quest that involves great effort or one that makes slight demands; the term is more often used in the written than in the spoken language (they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him—Lk 2:44-45) <seek the truth> (a small steadfast streak that caused me to seek a more subtle and painful punishment for my victim—Dahl) <wisdom must be sought for its own sake or we shall not find it—Inge> Search implies both effort and thoroughness. It differs from seek especially in taking as its object the place in which or the person on whom something is sought; it therefore connotes an investigating, an exploring, a penetrating scrutinizing, or a careful examining (search every section of the country for spies) (search the house from top to bottom for a lost ring) (I have searched every nook and cranny) (search all the persons present when the money disappeared) (searched his memory for a name) (the book was edited in a way no editor could ever have time or love to find; it was searched sentence by sentence, word for word—Mailer) Seour, which means in general to run over or to traverse swiftly especially in pursuit or in search, can be used more narrowly to mean to make an exhaustive search of a territory or of something comparable to a territory for a thing that must be found (scour the coast for lurking submarines) (scour the neighborhood for the missing child) (the next morning Archer scoured the town in vain for more yellow roses—Wharton) (scoured the coppices and woods and old quarries, so long as a blackberry was to be found—D. H. Lawrence) Hunt basically comes close to scour in its general sense for it implies a pursuit of and often a search for something, but especially game. In the extended sense in which the term is here considered it implies specifically a vigorous and, often, unavailing search for something as elusive as game (they hunted till darkness came on, but they found not a button, or feather, or mark—Lewis Carroll) <hunt evidence far and wide> (I've hunted for the lost papers everywhere but I can't find them) (in . . . hunting up earlier quotations for recent words—Murray) Comb implies methods of searching as painstaking or thoroughgoing as those involved in going through the hair with a fine comb (comb the countryside for the escaped convicts) (comb the factories for more men for the army) (the Pacific Ocean between San Francisco and Hawaii is being combed today by aircraft and shipping for signs of the two planes—Morning Post) Fret out stresses the finding of something that is difficult to get at and usually suggests a vigorous, arduous, persistent and, often, tricky method of search (fret out a secret) (one of the professor's specialties being to fret out captured . . . political commissars for execution—Shirer) (I have ferreted out evidence—Dickens) Ransack and rummage imply a search usually of a limited area; both tend to stress the manner of going through what is examined and suggest a haphazard and often disorderly or heedless pulling about and turning over of miscellaneous items. Though the two are often interchangeable, ransack is especially appropriate when one wishes to stress careless haste, lack of regard for the rights of others, or improper motives on the part of the searcher, while rummage may be chosen when a more neutral word is needed or when lack of a definite object of search is to be implied; thus, a thoughtless child might ransack the refrigerator to make himself a snack and then go rummage through his toys after a lost ball; a thief ransacks a house in search of loot, but rummages through a drawer with no clear and specific notion of what he may find (pass a rainy day rummaging about in the attic) (the men ransacked the thatched huts, rummaged among the pots, the fishing gear, the shell ornaments—M. S. Douglas) (apparently unlimited search, such as ransacking parts of an office can never be justified—Paul Wilson) (ransacked his father's shelves, dipped into a multitude of books—Macaulay) (stooped and deliberately rummaged in the dust at his feet, as if searching for the squirming threads of death it might contain—Wylie) <the impatience with which a community without tradition rummages through ways of life which other peoples, other cities have worked out for themselves slowly and painfully—Gordimer> Ana inquire, question, *ask, interrogate: pursue, chase, *follow, trail seem, look, appear can mean to be as stated in one's view or judgment, but not necessarily in fact. Often they are used interchangeably with apparently no difference in meaning (he seems tired) (the students look eager) <the orchestra appeared ready to begin> But even in such phrases seem suggests an opinion based on subjective impressions and personal reaction rather than on objective signs (a tiny pebble in the middle of your back seems to grow all night, and by the crack of dawn has grown to boulder size—Boy Scout Handbook) (my other visits to Greece were over twenty years ago. How would it seem after such a long time, and seen in such a different way—Chubb) while look implies that the opinion is based on a general visual impression (her . . . lips looked parched and unnatural—Glasgow) Appear may convey the same implication as look but it sometimes suggests a distorted impression such as can be produced by an optical illusion, a restricted point of view, or another's dissembling (his tongue . . . could make the worse appear the better reason—Milton) <the attempt has been made to make it appear that this conflict is not between religion and science, but between the latter and theology. This seems to me a cheap and worthless evasion—Cohen> Ana *infer, gather, judge, deduce, conclude seeming *apparent, illusory, *tangible Ana *plausible, specious, credible: dissembling, disguising, masking, cloaking, camouflaging (see disguise) seemly proper, nice, *decorous, decent Ana fitting, suitable, appropriate, meet (see fit): congruous, compatible, congenial, consistent, *consonant Ant unseemly seethe *boil, simmer, parboil, stew segment section, sector, division, *part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel segregate vb *isolate, exclude, insulate, sequester Ana *separate, divide, part, sever: *detach, disengage: *choose, select, single seize *take, grasp, clutch, snatch, grab Ana *catch, capture, snare, ensnare, trap, entrap: appropriate, confiscate, usurp, *arrogate select adj Select, elect, picked; exclusive can mean marked by a superior character or quality which distinguishes the person, the thing, or the group so qualified from others (as in value, excellence, or favor). Select implies that the person or thing has been chosen with discrimination in preference to others of the same class or kind (the hotel caters to a select clientele) (the Milton of poetry is, in his own

Ana *gaze, gape, stare, glare
seedy *shabby, dilapidated, dingy, faded, threadbare Ana drooping, flagging, sagging, wilting (see droop): sickly, *unwholesome, morbid: worn (see Haggard)
words again, the man of "industrious and select reading"—Arnold. Select is also often used, with little or no implication of choice or selection, in the sense of superior or exceptional (a select audience) <persecution of that sort which blows down and crushes all but a very few select spirits—Macaulay> Eleet commonly implies careful or discriminating selection and it carries a stronger implication than select of admission to some carefully restricted or inner circle; sometimes it also suggests the award of special privileges <that delicious phantom of being an elect spirit . . . unlike the crowd—Kingsley> <Darwin was one of those elect persons in whose subconscious, if not in their conscious, nature is implanted the realization that "science is poetry"—Ellis> Picked, like select, may or may not imply actual choice; the term commonly applies to what is conspicuously superior or above the average though it may suggest little more than the best available <a picked team> <the candidates are all picked men> <the picked moments of exaltation and vision which great tragedy brings—Montague> Exclusive in its most general sense implies a character in a thing that forces or inclines it to rule out whatever is not congruous or compatible with it or is its opposite or antithesis in constitution or character <mutually exclusive colors when mixed in the right proportions form a neutral gray> <exclusive concepts—animal and vegetable, for instance—Bowen> <didacticism and a sense of humor are mutually exclusive qualities—Lowes> As applied especially to persons, groups, or institutions exclusive implies tendencies or rules which prevent free acceptance or admission of those not conforming to imposed standards or not satisfying the requirements of those who are fastidious, snobbish, or highly critical <a weak, critical, fastidious creature, vain of a little exclusive information or of an uncommon knack in Latin verse—Eliot> <the exclusive caste system of a rigid feudalism—Binyon> Ana *choice, exquisite, rare, delicate, dainty, recherché: superlative, surpassing, peerless, *supreme Ant indiscriminate select vb *choose, elect, prefer, opt, pick, cull, single Ana *assort, sort, classify: discriminate, discern (see corresponding nouns at DISCERNMENT) Ant reject —Con refuse, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE vb) selection *choice, preference, election, option, alternative Ana choosing, culling, picking (see CHOOSE) discrimination, *discernment, insight, acumen Ant rejection self-abnegation *renunciation, abnegation, self-denial Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forbearance, forgoing, eschewal (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): surrendering or surrender, resignation, abandonment, relinquishment (see corresponding verbs at RELINQUISH) self-assertive assertive, *aggressive, pushing, pushy, martial Ana obtrusive, intrusive, officious, meddlesome, *impertinent: bold, audacious (see BRAVE): positive, certain, *sure, cocksure self-assurance assurance, *confidence, self-confidence, aplomb, self-possession Ana coolness, collectness, imper turbability (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): compose, sangfroid, *equanimity Con diffidence, shyness, bashfulness, modesty (see corresponding adjectives at SHY) self-complacent *complacent, self-satisfied, smug, priggish Ana & Con see those at COMPLACENT self-confidence *confidence, assurance, self-assurance, self-possession, aplomb Ana composure, *equanimity: sureness, sanguineness (see corresponding adjectives at CONFIDENT) self-denial self-abnegation, abnegation, *renunciation Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forbearance (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): abstaining, refraining (see REFRAIN): renouncing or restraint, curbing or curb, checking or check (see corresponding verbs at RESTRAIN) self-esteem self-love, *conceit, egotism, egoism, amour propre Ana *pride, vanity, self-respect, self-regard, self-admiration (see base words at REGARD n) Ant self-distrust self-love self-esteem, *conceit, egotism, egoism, amour propre Ana *pride, vanity, vainglory: complacency, self-complacency, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT) Ant self-forgetfulness self-possession *confidence, self-confidence, assurance, self-assurance, aplomb Ana *equanimity, composure: coolness, collectness, imperturbability, nonchalance (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): poise, savoir faire, *tact selfsame *same, very, identical, identic, equivalent, equal, tantamount Ana alike, *like, identical, uniform Ant diverse self-satisfied *complacent, self-complacent, smug, priggish Ana satisfied, content (see under SATISFY): conceited, egotistic, egoistic (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT) semblance *appearance, look, aspect Ana *likeness, similitude, resemblance, analogy, affinity: *pose, affectation, air: *form, figure, shape semianual *biannual, biennial sempiternal eternal, *infinite, boundless, illimitable, uncircumscribed Ana *everlasting, endless, interminable, unceasing: *immortal, deathless, undying; *lasting, perdurable send, dispatch, forward, transmit, remit, route, ship are comparable when they mean to cause to go or to be taken from one place or person or condition to another. Send, the most general term, carries a wide range of implications and connotations and is capable of replacing any of the remaining terms especially when joined with a suitable modifying adverb. Basically it implies the action of an agent or sometimes an agency or instrumentality that initiates passage of one to another typically by ordering or directing (sent a messenger to the bank) <if the body is rotated in any dimension of space, certain definite and fixed messages will be sent to the brain by the vestibular sense—Armstrong> or by using force (sent an arrow into target) <there can come a cloudburst, an inch or two or three falling within an hour to wash out fields, send rivers flooding, wreck houses—La Farge> or by employing some available facility or inherent capacity or power (send a letter by airmail) <the burning forest sent smoke over the city> <diseases that rack the human frame and send epidemics of sickness over great tracts of the earth's surface—Swinton> Often the term carries special connotations characteristic of particular idioms; thus, when one sends a child to college, one makes it possible for him to go by providing funds; when a teacher sends her pupils back to their books after recess she leads them to shift their focus from one activity (play) to another (study); when a story sends its hearers into gales of laughter it impels attention and alters mood; when something (as music or a personality) sends one, it induces an intense A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
emotional response. Dispatch tends to suggest speed in sending and to heighten notions of specific destination or cause, though the use of a speedy means is as likely to be stated as implied (the police chief dispatched several detectives to the scene of the murder) (two destroyers were dispatched to the aid of the sinking vessel) (dispatch word to them by radio) (a messenger was dispatched with a reprieve but failed to arrive before the soldier had been shot—Amer. Guide Series: Conn.) Forward (see also advance) implies a sending on or forward especially of something that has been delayed or stopped before reaching the person to whom it is to be delivered (the letter had been forwarded from his old address—J. D. Beresford) or, in commercial use, of something that has been asked for or ordered (the goods ordered will be forwarded by parcel post) Transmit (see also carry) fundamentally implies a sending or passing from one place, person, or point to another; it often emphasizes the means rather than the fact of sending (the information can be most rapidly transmitted by radio) (the virus of yellow fever is transmitted by a mosquito) (prophets, who are . . . a vehicle through which to transmit a revelation—W. W. Howells) Remit (see also excuse) especially in reference to money can mean merely to send (profits, dividends, interest, rents and royalties may be remitted to any country—Mikesell) but often implies a sending in response to a demand (please remit the balance due on your account) In more general and in legal use the term is likely to imply a sending or referring back (as for further action or consideration) (where an appellate court . . . reverses an original sentence . . . and remits the record for appropriate action, the lower court may proceed to sentence the defendant anew in proper form and according to law—U. S. v. Keenan) (there may be disputes whether an issue belongs to the side of civil or to that of administrative law. Such conflicts and disputes are remitted . . . to the arbitrating authority—Ernest Barker) Route implies a sending along of something according to a predetermined route, and often suggests the reaching in proper succession of one person or place after another (route a memorandum to the various staff members) (route the films to a chain of motion-picture theaters) Ship applies to the sending especially of heavy goods or articles specifically by ship or more generally by any normal commercial transportation channel (ship coal to distant lands) (ship freight by rail) (kept busy . . . shipping mackerel and cod—C. R. Summer) Ana *speed, quicken: direct, order (see command): *go, leave, depart

sensation 1 Sensation, percep, sense-datum, sensum, image can denote the experience or process which is the result of the activity of a sense organ and its associated neural structures. Sensation (see also sensation 2), the most general of these terms, is applicable to a specific awareness (as of heat, pain, or odor) resulting from adequate stimulation (as sensory receptors receive a stimulus from without or within the body, whether this awareness enters fully into consciousness or not; specifically it means an impression received by a sensory end organ (as the retina of the eye, the taste buds of the tongue, or the tactile corpuscles of the skin) or by a combination of such end organs (the four basic taste sensations, sweet, sour, bitter, and salty) (gave himself up to the enjoyment of the sensations provided by a perfect spring day) (a reptile that appears . . . to squander more than two-thirds of its existence in a joyless stupor, and be lost to all sensation for months together—Gilbert White) Percept, sense-datum, and sensum are technical terms especially of epistemology that are subject to widely varied interpretation, but that typically denote a strictly individual and personal neural event occurring centrally in response to sensory stimulation and constituting an immediate unanalyzable private object of sensation (it makes for a neat little burlesque of the central debate between concept—the large, institutionalized idea, and percept—the irrediculously personal vision which must be coped with in its own terms—Rago) (instead of an irregular mass of pink sensation mixed with blue and red and topped with brown, he recognizes his mother’s face. These emerging organized groups of sensations which cluster together (and soon seem to belong together) and serve to indicate things in the physical environment are called percepts; these may be defined briefly as “sensations plus meaning”—that is, groups of sensations that have become organized into meaningful wholes or patterns. Thus every physical object represents a percept, or at least a potential one—Hunter Mead) (observation of physical objects is primarily the noticing of sense-data; and each person has and observes his own color and sound sensa, just as he has and observes his own twinges, nausea and touch sense-data—A. C. Garnett) (a sense-datum is by definition whatever appears to the senses and in so far as we confine ourselves to a description of our sense-data we cannot possibly be in error—Pap) (our sense organs must select certain predominant forms, if they are to make report of things and not of mere dissolving sensa—Langer) Image (see also image 1) applies to a sensation that results in a mental representation of the thing seen, the sound heard, and the odor smelled and in the retention of that mental representation in the memory (after I had looked long at it, and passed on, the image of that perfect flower remained . . . persistently in my mind—Hudson) (I had never spoken to her, except for a few casual words, and yet her . . . image accompanied me even in places the most hostile to romance—Joyce) Image also refers to a mental representation that can be evoked in the mind in the absence of the thing represented; in this case, the term may apply to a mental representation that is in the memory as a result of previous sense experience or that is a construction of the imagination or fancy out of various bits of sense experience or as a result of a verbal description (when I recall London, Paris, Rome . . . the image that first presents itself is the earliest one—Grandgent) (a succession of efforts to call up before us veracious images of a bedroom, a bed, pillows, a lighted candle, a woman asleep, a man speaking to himself—Montague) Ana *impression, impress, print, stamp: feeling, feel (see atmosphere): consciousness, awareness (see corresponding adjectives at aware)

2 Sensation, sense, feeling, sensibility are comparable when they mean the power to respond or the capacity for or the act of responding to stimuli, especially external physical stimuli. Sensation in technical use often denotes nothing more than the mere seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling and does not imply recognition or comprehension (the first step, which most children take at the age of about five months, is to pass beyond mere pleasures of sensation, such as food and warmth, to the pleasure of social approbation—Russell) In more general use the term usually suggests somewhat more than mere receiving of impressions and may imply not only recognition but more or less clearly defined intellectual and emotional

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sense 722 sensible

reactions (as pleasure or pain or curiosity). It therefore may apply to responses to other than purely physical stimuli. The sensation of finding a command of no avail is to the mind what sitting down upon a suddenly withdrawn chair is to the body—DeLand. There are sensations you cannot describe. You may know what causes them but you cannot tell what portions of your mind they affect nor yet, possibly, what parts of your physical entity—F. M. Ford. Sense is applied specifically to any one of the perceptual powers associated with the sensory end organs (the sense of taste) (the sense of smell) or in the plural (occasionally in the singular) to the combined powers which enable a sentient being to establish relations between itself and what is external to itself. (The sudden, violent shock almost took away my senses—Hudson.) (My brain immediately stirred, my senses unusually quickened—Galsworthy.) But it differs from sensation, when applied to the power or act of responding to stimuli, in suggesting a less corporeal and a more intellectual reaction and often a less objective stimulus. In fact its most emphatic implication in this sense is often that of intense awareness or of full consciousness (She had no sense at all of any word I said—W. H. Davies) (filled with a sense of pleasure so great that it constantly gave me pins and needles all along the lower parts of my legs—Dahl.) (With a haze suspended all around them so that their sense of direction and their sense of time were obscured—Cheever.) A deep sense of loss . . . a sense of loss and unbelief such as one might feel to discover suddenly that some great force in nature had ceased to operate—Wolfe.

Feeling (see also feeling 2; atmosphere 2) in its most specific meaning denotes the sense that has its end organs in the skin; usually it signifies the sense of touch (Had no feeling in his fingertips) but often it is more inclusive and suggests other sensations (as heat, cold, or pressure) that are typically perceived through stimulation of the skin (A feeling of chill in the air) But feeling is also used to denote a response to a stimulus or a set of stimuli that is a combination of sensation, emotion, and a degree of thought (Judged a situation by his feelings rather than by the facts) (You know her feelings about the vulgarity of these people) Often also, the term denotes not the response, but the power to respond in general or as a characteristic (He complains that she has no feeling) (The delicacy of his feeling makes him sensibly touched—Hume.) In this latter sense feeling is often replaced by sensibility, especially when a keenly impressionable nature and unusually delicate powers of appreciation or its opposite are implied (The extreme sensibility to physical suffering which characterizes modern civilization—Inge) (She was a creature of palpitating sensibility, with feelings so delicate that they responded to every breath—Crothers.) Sometimes sentimental or affected responsiveness is suggested (The nerveless sentimentalist and dreamer, who spends his life in a weltering sea of sensibility—James.)

Ana perceptibleness or perceptibility, tangibleness or tangibility, palpableness or palpability, ponderableness or ponderableness (see corresponding adjectives at perceptible): reaction, action, behavior (see corresponding verbs at act): response, answer (see under answer vb) sense n 1 *sensation, feeling, sensibility Ana awareness, consciousness, cognizance (see corresponding adjectives at aware): perception, *discernment, discrimination, penetration 2 Sense, common sense, good sense, horse sense, gumption, judgment, wisdom can all mean the quality of mind or character which enables one to make intelligent choices or decisions or to reach intelligent conclusions. Sense, because of its numerous significations, is often, when this meaning is intended, called common sense, good sense, or horse sense. All four terms imply a capacity—usually a native capacity—for seeing things as they are and without illusion or emotional bias, for making practical choices or decisions that are sane, prudent, fair, and reasonable and that commend themselves to the normal or average good mind (When it came to taking care of myself, I had little to offer next to the practical sense of an illiterate sharecropper—Mailer.) (Jane is a goose,) said the doctor, irritably. "Maggy is the only one that has any sense in that family"—DeLand. (The common sense of common men . . . has not been seriously affected by these still academic aberrations of our alleged wise men—Niebuhr.) (Women have often more of what is called good sense than men. They have fewer pretensions; are less implicated in theories; and judge of objects . . . more truly and naturally—Hazlitt.) Gumption implies native wit or sound common sense often combined with initiative and drive (There isn't a grain of intelligence in it. Nobody with more gumption than a grasshopper could go and sit and listen—D. H. Lawrence) (In practical talk, a man's common sense means his good judgment, his freedom from eccentricity, his gumption—James.) Judgment seldom applies to a native quality though it usually suggests a foundation in native good sense. But it also suggests intellectual qualities (as discernment of facts or conditions that are not obvious as well as knowledge of those that are ascertainable and an ability to comprehend the significance of those facts and conditions and to draw correct unbiased conclusions from them) which are the result of training, discipline, and experience (Tis true that strength and bustle build up a firm. But judgment and knowledge are what keep it established—Hardy) (The ultimate test of true worth in pleasure, as in everything else, is the trained judgment of the good and sensible man—Dickinson.) Wisdom is of all these terms the one of highest praise. It often suggests great soundness of judgment in practical affairs and unusual sagacity (Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom—Coleridge) but it is also capable of suggesting an ideal quality of mind or character that is the result of a trained judgment exercised not only in practical affairs but in philosophical speculations, of wide experience in life and thought, of great learning, and of deep understanding (For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it—Prov 8:11) (Wisdom is said to be the funded experience which man has gathered by living; but for so many harvests the crop is still a light one. Knowledge he has gained and power, but not goodness and understanding—Repliplier.)

Ana *prudence, foresight, discretion: understanding, comprehension, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at understand): intelligence, brain, wit (see mind) 3 *meaning, acceptation, signification, significance, import Ana denotation, connotation (see under denote) sense-datum sensum, percept, *sensation, image sensibility feeling, sense, *sensation Ana perception, *discernment, penetration, discrimination, insight; sensitiveness, susceptibility (see corresponding adjectives at liable): emotion, *feeling, affection sensible 1 *material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, objective Ant intelligible 2 *perceptible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, ponderable Ana sensational, perceptual, imaginal (see corresponding nouns at sensation): obvious, patent, manifest, *evident: *carnal, fleshly, sensual Ant insensible
sensitive

3 *aware, conscious, cognizant, alive, awake
Ana perceiving, noting, remarking, observing, seeing (see SEE): knowing, *intelligent: understanding, prehending, appreciating (see UNDERSTAND): sensitive, susceptible (see LIABLE)
Ant insensible (of or to) —Con impassible, insensitive, anesthetic (see INSENSIBLE)
4 prudent, sane, judicious, *wise, sage, sapient
Ana sagacious, perspicacious, astute, *shrewd: foresighted, discreet, provident (see under PRUDENCE): reasonable, *rational
Ant absurd, foolish: fatuous, asinine

sensuous 1 susceptible, subject, exposed, open, *liable, *carnal, fleshly, animal
see those at SENSUAL

sensual 1 *carnal, fleshly, animal
Ana *bodily, physical, corporeal, somatic: *coarse, gross, vulgar: lewd, lascivious, lustful, wanton (see LICENTIOUS)
2 *sensuous, luxurious, voluptuous, sybaritic, epicurean
Ana see those at SENSUAL

sensum sense-datum, percept, *sensation, image

sensuous, sensual, luxurious, voluptuous, sybaritic, epicurean are comparable when they mean having to do with the gratification of the senses or providing pleasure by gratifying the senses. Both sensual and sensuous can imply reference to the sense organs and to perceptions based on the reactions of those organs and then come very close to sensory in meaning, but more typically both apply to things of the senses as opposed to things of the spirit or intellect. In this use sensuous is more likely to imply gratification of the senses for the sake of the aesthetic pleasure or the delight in beauty of color, sound, or form that is induced while sensual (for fuller treatment see CAR

sensum sense-datum, percept, *sensation, image

sentence vb Sentence, condemn, damn, doom, proscribe can all mean to decree the fate or punishment of a person or sometimes a thing that has been adjudged guilty, unworthy, or unfit. Sentence is used in reference to the determination and pronouncement of punishment or penalty following an act of judging and an adverse verdict (was tried on the charge of inciting to riot and sentenced to thirty days in jail—E.S.Bates) (he tries and sentences them on their merits, in the swift summary way of boys, as good, bad, interesting, silly—Emerson) Condemn (see also CRITICIZE) implies both an adverse judgment and a sentence which carries with it a penalty (as forfeiture of one’s freedom, one’s rights, or one’s life) (Napoleon was condemned to exile) (cells for condemned prisoners) (was not inexorably condemned, as so many had feared at first, to be a vassal state in Hitler’s unspeakable New Order—Shirer) or, in the case of a thing, a forfeiture of its existence or of some status which has legally protected it from invasion; thus, to condemn an old building is legally to decree its destruction; to condemn a piece of property is to take it over for the uses of the state, on payment of its appraised value. Damn, akin to condemn, is not employed in modern law. In theological use it implies the condemnation of the soul to hell or to eternal punishment (he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned—Mark 16:16) In general use, when it carries any implication, it is often employed in curses, imprecations, or expressions of strong disapproval (I give thee sixpence! I will see thee damned first—Canning) Otherwise it usually implies a verdict that is destructive or annihilating in its effects (if we fail, then we have damned every man to be the slave of fear—BarUCH) Doom adds to condemn the implication of a punishment or penalty that cannot be evaded or escaped because imposed by an inexorable power (I am thy father’s spirit, doomed for a certain term to walk the night—Shak) (he does certain things that are very brave . . . he gambles that he can be terribly, tragically wrong, and therefore be doomed, you see, doomed to Hell—MaIler) This idea of fate or destiny is so strongly stressed in doom that in some cases the impli
sententious

The word in more general uses suggests ostracism or interdiction as the result of a judgment by some authoritative or influential body or group (dancing was once proscribed by many churches). You ... your garb proscribed, must yet receive one degradation more.

Ana *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: condemn, denounce, blame (see CRITICIZE): determine, settle, rule, *decide Con acquit, absolve, vindicate, exonerate, *excule

sententious pregnant, meaningful, significant, *expressive, eloquent

Ana formal, conventional, ceremonious (see CEREMONIAL): *showy, ostentatious: terse, pithy, compendious (see CONCISE)

sentient, sensitive, impressionable, impressionable, responsive, responsive, susceptible can all mean readily affected by stimuli, usually external stimuli. Sentient implies a capacity to be affected through the senses; it may describe inclusively the lowest thing in animal life that feels, or the infant aware only of rudimentary sensation, or the man with the most highly developed powers of sensation or perception. The term sentient creature or sentient being may apply to a creature or being within these classes or between them (the flowers in remote forests that no eye has ever seen, the shells of delicate form and rare color hidden forever in the deep waters of the sea—these fulfill the ends of their existence, though they have delighted no sentient being—Binyon)

Whatever fate may have in store for the most sentient ... the most civilized, the most socially developed people of the modern world—Brownell) or it may apply to some-thing animate or inanimate to which similar powers are ascribed (it seemed the sentient earth must feel the summer—Mary Austin) Sensitive (see also LIABLE) applies usually to human beings who are quick or sharp in sensing anything. It may imply senses that respond to the most delicate of stimuli (to enjoy her [style] the reader must have ... a sensitive ear; especially must he have a sense of “pitch” in writing—Cather) or it may imply quick emotional reactions that are the outward signs of one's being easily moved or stirred (of age indeed and of death they had a horror proportional to their acute and sensitive enjoyment of life—Dickinson) or an acuteness of mind that is linked with acuteness of sense and of emotion (France, the most intellectually sensitive of modern nations—Babbit) Sometimes sensitive is applied not only to a part of the body (as a section of skin or an organ) which is abnormally or excessively reactive to stimuli but to inanimate things (as a photographic film, a thermometer, or an explosive) which responds quickly to some specific influencing factor (as light, heat, or shock) (the high vacuum tubes which constitute the sensitive brain of modern radio—Morrison) Impressive implies occasionally and impressionable regularly a readiness to be influenced, not only by a stronger power, but by a power that succeeds in producing an impression. They do not imply, as sensitive usually does, a power to judge accurately and delicately; rather they suggest crudeness or immaturity or indifference to the quality of the thing that impresses (the mind impressionable and soft with ease imbibes and copies what she hears and sees—Cowper) (what he couldn’t think of was David submitting, during his most impressionable years, to the worst superstitions of Capitalism—Mary Austin) Responsive, which implies sensitiveness to stimuli in particular or in general, suggests in addition a readiness to respond or react in the way that is wanted. Since it usually occurs only in a good sense, it is likely to connote alertness, cooperativeness, and enthusiasm (we shall presumably find them most responsive to the language, literature, and history of their own country—Inge) (she took up life, and became alert to the world again, responsive, like a ship in full sail, to every wind that blew—Rose Macaulay) Susceptible (see also LIABLE) suggests a fitness in disposition or in temperament to be affected by certain stimuli. Though it comes close to impressionable or responsive it more often implies weakness than does either of them, the weakness sometimes being stated but more frequently implied or suggested (as by the person considered or the circumstances attending) (in France it is ... bad manners to be too sus- ceptible—Browell) (she is susceptible to flattery) (he is very young and very susceptible to the charms of women) (his temper was not very susceptible of ... enthusiasm—Gibbon)

sentiment 1 emotion, affection, *feeling, passion

Ana thought, impression, notion, *idea: ideal, standard, exemplar (see MODEL)

2 *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion

Ana *truth, verity: conclusion, judgment (see under INFERENCE)

sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, mushy, mushy, sentimental can all mean comparable when they mean unduly or affectedly emotional. Sentimental usually suggests emotion that does not arise from genuine or natural feeling but is evoked by an external cause, by a particular mood, by an excess of sensibility, or for the sake of the thrill, or is merely an affectation that is temperamental, the moment's fashion, or designed to achieve an end (sentimental songs) (his sense of character is nil, and he is as pre-tentious as a rich whore, as sentimental as a lollipop—Mailer) (a sentimental person, interested in pathetic novels and all unhappy attachments—Thackeray) (we are all for tooting on the sentimental flute in literature—Stevenson) (he had an alert and a sentimental mind and worried about the health of Mr. Hiram's cart horse and ... the inmates of the Sailor's Home—Cheever) Romantic implies emotion that has little relation to things as they actually are, but is derived more from one's imagi-nation of what they should be ideally or from one's conceptions of them as formed by literature, art, or daydreams (the process of growing from romantic boyhood into cynical maturity—Shaw) (its premise is romantic, if only because it assumes that every sparrow ... is a warbler, if not a nightingale—J. M. Brown) (it has become the fashion to smile a little at hopes for the world ... But it could be that it is precisely such dreams and visions that are needed—Edman) Mawkish, when it simpering with delight and mawkish with pathos—J. D. Hart) Maudlin stresses a lack of balance or self-restraint

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
that shows itself in emotional excess (as unrestrained tears and lamentations); usually also it suggests extreme or contemptible silliness (the mob became not only enthusiastic but maudlin—Disraeli) (saying things that were inept, maudlin, unhinged, and knowing then that these very words must drive him on and on toward . . . more helpless depths of drunkenness—Styron) Sappy, mushy, and slushy come close to mawkish in their suggestion of distasteful and disgusting sentimentality. Sappy (chiefly in British use) often carries a strong suggestion of silliness in showing affection (they do not permit themselves to show much family affection, so who are we to object if they go soppy over a few four-footed friends?—Huxley) (a naturally sad but never soppy poet—Fraser) Sappy may suggest softness or wishy-washiness (Stuffy rolled over on her back and paddled the air hysterically, a hypocrite, trading shamelessly on her sex and the mushy hearts of humans—Panter-Downes) (you may . . . be a sharp, cynical sort of person; or you may be a nice, mushy, amiable, good-natured one—Shaw) Slushy applies chiefly to utterances or personalities that are so sentimental or emotionally confused as to seem senseless (slushy stories) (pander to everything that's shoddy and slushy and third-rate in human nature—Buchan)

>Ana emotional, affectionate, feeling, passionate (see corresponding nouns at FEELING): affecting, moving, pathetic, touching: affected, pretended, counterfeited, feigned, simulated (see AFFECT)

**separate** vb Separate, part, divide, sever, Sunder, divorce can all mean to become or cause to become disunited or disjoined. Separate implies a putting or keeping apart; it may suggest a scattering or dispersion of units (forces that separate families) (separate the parts of a watch) or a removal of one from the other (separate a husband from his wife) (the business of government cannot and should not be separated from the day-to-day lives of the human beings who conduct it—T. E. Dewey) (separate the wheat from the chaff) (separated his feelings from his work) or the presence of an intervening thing or things (the Atlantic separates Europe from America) (a thousand miles separate the two branches of the family) ("What separates the men and the girls? A fence or something?" “Just foliage, dear, and upbringence”—Wouk) Part usually suggests the separation of two persons or things in close union or association; often also it suggests a complete or final separation (as by death or violence) (if aught but death part thee and me—Ruth 1:17) (part two combatants) Divide commonly stresses the idea of parts, groups, or sections resulting from literal or figurative cutting, breaking, or branchings (divide a pie into six pieces) (divide the government into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches) (the that will divide a minute into a thousand parts—Shak) Divide often, in addition, carries an implication of apportioning, distributing, or sharing (divide the candy among the children) (divide profits) (the grocer got along well with his assistant. They divided tasks and waited on alternate customers—Malamud) (divided his estate equitably among his heirs) Often divide is used in place of separate, especially when mutual antagonism or wide separation is connoted (united we stand, divided we fall) (the broad and deep gulf which . . . divides the living from the dead, the organic from the inorganic—Inge) (the suspicion which the Citizens' Committee predicted would divide neighbor from neighbor—Clinton) Sever adds the implication of violence by or as if by cutting and frequently applies to the separation of a part from the whole or of persons or things that are joined in affection, close affinity, or natural association (sever a branch from the trunk by one blow of the ax) (sever the head from the body) (severed from thee, can I survive?—Burns) (the hour is ill which severs those it should unite—Shelley) (finding herself severed from formal and religious education, she struggled with a sense of guilt—Hervey) Sunder often implies a violent rending or wrenching apart (even as a splitted bark, so Sunder we—Shak) (the Romans sundered copper-bearing rock by alternately playing fire and water on it—New Yorker) (man's most significant personal relationship is sundered in an atmosphere of chicanery and buffoonery—Cohn) Divorce implies the separation of two or more things so closely associated that they interact upon each other or work well only in union with each other (its academic tendency to divorce form from matter—Day Lewis) (you cannot divorce accurate thought from accurate speech—Quiller-Couch) Divorce can specifically refer to the legal dissolution of a marriage, a use in which it contrasts with separate which implies a mutually agreed ending of cohabitation without actual legal termination of the marital state. Ana cleave, rend, split, rive (see TEAR): estrange, alienate: disperse, dispel, *scatter: detach, disengage

**Ant** combine

**separate** adj 1 distinct, several, discrete Ana diverse, disparate, *different, divergent, various: *free, independent 2 single, solitary, particular, unique, sole, lone Ana special, especial, specific, individual: peculiar, distinctive (see CHARACTERISTIC): detached, disengaged (see DETACH)

**sequel** outcome, issue, *effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, event Ana termination, *end, ending: conclusion, closing, finishing or finish (see corresponding verbs at close)

**sequence** series, *succession, progression, chain, train, string Ana ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER)

**sequent, sequential** *consecutive, successive, serial Ana following, ensuing, succeeding (see FOLLOW): continuous, *continual

**sequester** vb *isolate, segregate, seclude, insulate Ana *separate, sever, sunder

**serene** tranquil, *calm, peaceful, placid, halcyon Ana *still, stilly, silent, noiseless, quiet: *cool, collected, composed: smooth, effortless, *easy Con disturbed, disquieted, agitation, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

**serial** adj *consecutive, successive, sequent, sequential Ana following, ensuing, succeeding (see FOLLOW): continuous, *continual

**series** *succession, progression, sequence, chain, train, string

**serious** grave, solemn, somber, sedate, staid, sober, earnest

* succession, progression, sequence, chain, train, series

* distinct, several, discrete

**seriousness** serious, *serious, grave, solemn, somber, sedate, staid, sober, earnest

* termination, *end, ending: conclusion, closing, finishing or finish (see corresponding verbs at close)

**serendipity** serious, grave, solemn, somber, sedate, staid, sober, earnest

* succession, progression, sequence, chain, train, series

* distinct, several, discrete

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*See also explanatory notes facing page 1*
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
although in some use both ideas are connoted (do not transplant a tree once it is established) (American sculptors . . . whose reputation was already established—Wharton) (the child initiates new processes of thought and establishes new mental habits much more easily than the adult—Eliot) (the novel as I have described it has never really established itself in America—Trilling) (at the end of the first growing season, the grass was firmly established—Farmer's Weekly).

Ana *implant: *fasten, attach, fix, affix: *prescribe, assign, define

Con eradicate, deracinate, uproot (see EXTERMINATE): *abolish, annihilate, extinguish: displace, supplant, *replace

set 1. Set, circle, coterie, clique can all denote a more or less carefully selected or exclusive group of persons having a common interest. Set applies to a comparatively large group, especially of society men and women bound together by common tastes (a solid citizen of the fast and fraticial international set—Kenneth Fearing) (I was myself living in several sets that had no connection with one another—Maugham) (her college set had stayed rigidly in a rigid path . . . which they considered smart—Wouk) Circle implies a common center of the group (as a person or a cause that draws persons to him or it) or a common interest, activity, or occupation (the work of the younger writers . . . has even penetrated into academic circles—Day Lewis) (like sex, the word segregation was not mentioned in the best circles—Lillian Smith) (she felt violently the gaps that death made in her circle—Pritchett) (an active figure in Madrid's literary and theatrical circles—Current Biog.) Coterie stresses the notion of selectness or of congeniality within the small circle; clique heightens the implication of an often selfish or arrogant exclusiveness (we three formed a little coterie within the household—Symonds) (the poetry of revolt is apt to become the poetry of a coterie—Lowes) (the best English society—mind, I don't call the London exclusive clique the best English society—Coleridge) (the corruption and debauchery of the homosexual clique—Shirley Jackson) (every hoodlum in every crack gang and clique who fancied himself with the blade—Mailer)

setting *background, environment, milieu, mise-en-scène, backdrop

settle 1. *set, fix, establish

Ana *secure, anchor, moor, rivet: *order, arrange

Ant unsettle

2. *calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, lull, soothe, tranquilize

Ana placate, appease, *pacify, mollify, conciliate

Ant unsettle—Con *discompose, disquiet, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset

3 determine, *decide, rule, resolve

Ana *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: *close, end, conclude, terminate

sever *separate, Sunder, part, divide, divorce

Ana rive, cleave, rend, split (see TEAR): *cut, hew, chop: *detach, disengage

several 1. *distinct, separate, discrete

Ana individual, particular, *special, especial

2. *many, sundry, various, divers, numerous, multifarious

Ana *single, separate, particular: detached, disengaged (see DETACH)

severely individually, respectively, *each, apiece

severe, stern, austere, ascetic can all mean given to or characterized by strict discipline and firm restraint.

Severe is applicable to persons and their looks, acts, thoughts, and utterances or to things (as laws, penalties, judgments, and styles) for which persons are responsible. In all these applications it implies rigorous standards of what is just, right, ethical, beautiful, or acceptable and unsparring or exacting adherence to them; it not only excludes every hint of laxity or indulgence but often suggests a preference for what is hard, plain, or meager (a severe teacher) (severe impartiality) (severe in dress) (these bleak and severe Sunday mornings, though they left me with a respect for the Bible, had the effect of antagonizing me against it—Edmund Wilson) Very often the word suggests harshness or even cruelty (a severe penalty) (severe discipline) (severe criticism) (a severe test of his endurance) It is then by extension referable also to things for which persons are not responsible but which similarly impose pain or acute discomfort (a severe attack of lumbago) (I do not think that she anticipated anything so severe as arsenic on her blackberries—Shirley Jackson) (a severe winter) Stern, though it often implies severity when applied to persons or their acts or words, stresses inflexibility or inexorability of temper; thus, a severe judge may appear kindly though dispassionately just, but a stern judge reveals no disposition to be mild or lenient; to be made of stern stuff is to have an unyielding will or an extraordinarily resolute character (he wanted to bang on his desk, arise magnificently, like a good confessor, being purposeful and stern—Styron) In extended use stern is applied to what cannot be escaped or evaded (stern necessity) (the stern compulsion of facts—Buchan) or to what is harsh and forbidding in its appearance or in its external aspects (the stern and rockbound land . . . on which his lot was cast—Faulkner) (a marble bath that made cleanliness a luxury instead of one of the sternest of the virtues, as it seemed at home—Shaw) Austere is chiefly applied to persons, their habits, their modes of life, the environments they create, or the works of art they produce; in these applications austere implies the absence of appealing qualities (as feeling, warmth, color, animation, and ornament) and therefore positively implies dispassionateness, coldness, reserve, or barrenness (my common conversation I do acknowledge austere, my behavior full of rigor—Browne) (secretly, these austere tyrants seized with delight upon so estimable an excuse for censuring the child initiates new processes of thought and styles) for which persons are responsible. And even the seeking of what is painful or disagreeable (for the austere dignity and simplicity of their existence—Pater) (mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty—a beauty cold and austere, like that of sculpture—Russell) (a landscape lightly strewn with snow, and rendered graciously austere by long, converging lines of leafless poplars—Wylie)

Ascetic implies laborious and exacting spiritual training or discipline, self-denial, abstention from what is pleasurable, and even the seeking of what is painful or disagreeable (strong-willed and ascetic, he discovered in discipline the chief end for which the children of Adam are created—Parrington) (a people possessed of the epicurean rather than the ascetic ideal in morals—Brownell) The idea of discipline, especially by abstention from what is pleasurable or easy or self-indulgent for the sake of spiritual or intellectual ends may be emphasized (for science is ascetic. It is a discipline and a control of personal impulse that could arise only in a relatively mature civilization—Baker Brownell) (there was in him a real nobility, an even ascetic firmness and purity of
character — Ellis

Shabby

- Ellis

**Shabby**

Shabby, dilapidated, dingy, faded, seedy, threadbare refer to the appearance of persons and of things and mean showing signs of wear and tear. Shabby applies to persons and places and suggests a lack of freshness or newness in those items that contribute to appearance; sometimes the term applies directly to the things, especially clothes, which so contribute. Poverty is often suggested as the cause of this run-down condition but various other causes (as neglect or indifference) may also be suggested. Old Bart, shabby and inconspicuous, dunking pound cake with his dirty fingers — W. S. Burroughs (villages . . . with their shabby, unpainted shacks, dropping with decay — Brooks) 

**Dilapidated** (compare dilapidate under ruin) implies a worse appearance than shabby, usually suggesting a broken-down or tumble-down condition resulting from neglectful lack of repairs or from careless abuse. A dilapidated fence with its gate hanging from one hinge; sat down in a dilapidated easy chair minus a cushion — Purdy

**Dingy** (an old toy is so much better . . . . The very fact — Purdy)

Dingy applies to what implies lack of freshness but it connotes the effects of gradual soiling that dulls the colors or dims the brightness; (out of his dingy retreat, dirty and uncomfortable, he would appear resplendent — Obert Sitwell) 

**Shabby in attire, dingy of linen — Thackeray** (counting another man’s money . . . in a dingy office — Shaw) (he flashed from dingy obscurity into splendor — H. G. Wells)

**Faded** also implies lack of freshness but it connotes the loss of vigor or brightness that shows that a person or thing has passed its prime and is revealing signs of drooping and withering; her slightly stale and faded gush about Chopin and her memories of Paris in the spring — Edmund Wilson (she lives with her mother, a faded tired woman who played Lady Capulet — Wilde) her clothes were always the same and it is hard to remember what she wore.

**Dingy to a feeling of warmth — Henry Miller**

Dingy applies to what is no longer fresh or new in appearance and shows the effects of gradual soiling that dulls the colors or dims the brightness.

**Dingy retreat, dirty and uncomfortable, — Obert Sitwell**

Dingy also implies lack of freshness but it connotes the effects of gradual soiling that dulls the colors or dims the brightness

**Threadbare** (see also TRITE) in its basic use implies such wear of fabric that all nap is worn away and the threads are visible; the curves of hips and breasts already discernible under the too short and often threadbare clothes — Metalious but often this basic notion is lost and the emphasis is on the shabby state typical of or the effect of extreme grinding poverty (the only opportunity . . . to find escape from the grim, drab, threadbare unpicturesque poverty of her inharmonious home — Dorothy Canfield) (England, which has a threadbare Treasury — Sulzberger) (finally got threadbare enough and hungry enough to overlook my scruples — O’Leary)

**Shabby** (see HAGGARD) dowdy, frowzy, slatternly: shopworn, *trite: decrepit (see WEAK)

**Con** trim, spik, spick-and-span, neat, tidy: *new, fresh, new-fashioned

Contemplative, despicable, pitiable, sorry, scurvy, cheap, beggarly — bell, base, vile

**Shadow**

Shade, shadow, umbrage, umbra, penumbra, adumbration can mean the comparative darkness caused by something which intercepts rays of light. Shade carries no implication of a darkness that has a particular form or definite limit but the term often stresses protection from the glare, heat, or other effect of the light that is cut off (the forest, one vast mass of mingling shade — Shelley) (chiaroscuro, by which light reveals [in paintings] the richness of shade and shade heightens the brightness of light — Ellis) (the trees afforded shade and shelter — Carter) Shade usually applies to shade which preserves something of the form of the object which intercepts the light; (it [the garden] . . . has neither arbor, nor alcove, nor other shade, except the shadow of the house — Cowper)

**Shade**

Saw . . . the shadow of some piece of pointed lace, in the Queen’s shadow, vibrate on the walls — Tennyson (the shadowless winter, when it is all shade and therefore no shade — Jefferies)

In extended use shade implies darkness or obscurity; shadow, insubstantiality or unreality (there no shade can last in that deep shadow behind the tomb — Tennyson) (’tis but the shadow of a wife you see, the name and not the thing — Shak)

**Umbrage** (see also OFFENSE) applies chiefly to the shade cast by heavy foliage or trees, though sometimes it refers to the mass of trees or foliage which make for heavy shade.

**Umbrage**

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seemed real, though hid—Krutch} (the great ordinances of the Constitution do not establish and divide fields of black and white. Even the more specific of them are found to terminate in a penumbra shading gradually from one extreme to the other—Justice Holmes} Adumbration applies to something that is so faint or obscure a figure, sketch, or outline of something which actually exists or is to come that it serves as a foreshadowing of it or a hinting at it (the lugubrious harmony of the spot with his domestic situation was too perfect for him, impatient of effects, scenes, and adumbrations—Hardy} (if the Parthenon has value, it is only as an adumbration of something higher than itself—Babbitt}

**Ana** darkness, dimness, obscurity (see corresponding adjectives at DARK): shelter, cover, retreat
Con brightness, brilliancy, radiance, effulgence (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT): glaring, glow, blaze

2 ghost, spirit, specter, apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, revenant

3 *blind, shutter

4 tint, color, hue, tinge, tone

5 *gradation, nuance

**Ana** distinctness, difference (see DISSIMILARITY): touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, dash, tinge

6 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tinge, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, tincture, streak

**Ana** trace, vestige: tint, tinge (see COLOR)

**shadow n** *shade, umbrage, umbra, penumbra, adumbration*

**Ana** form, figure, shape, configuration, conformation: darkness, obscurity, dimness (see corresponding adjectives at DARK): silhouette, contour, *outline

**shadow vb** *suggest, adumbrate

**Ana** foretell, forecast, predict, prognosticate: foresee, foreknow, divine

**Con** reveal, disclose, discover, divulge, tell

**shake vb** 1 Shake, tremble, quake, totter, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither are comparable when they mean to exhibit vibratory, wavering, or oscillating movement often as an evidence of instability. Shake, the ordinary and the comprehensive term, can apply to any such movement, often with a suggestion of roughness and irregularity (the earth itself seemed to shake beneath my feet—Hudson} (he shook with fear) (his body shook with laughter) Tremble applies specifically to a slight, rapid shaking of the human body, especially when one is agitated or unmanned (as by fear, passion, cold, or fatigue) (she stood with her hand on the doorknob, her whole body trembling—Anderson) (she is so radiant in her pure beauty that the limbs of the young man tremble—Meredith} The term may apply also to things that shake in a manner suggestive of human trembling (not a breath of breeze even yet ruffled the water: but momentarily it trembled of its own accord, shattering the reflections—Richard Hughes} Quake may be used in place of tremble but it commonly carries a stronger implication of violent shaking or of extreme agitation (his name was a terror that made the dead quake in their graves—Ouida} (his accusing hand . . . stiffly extended, quaking in mute condemnation—Terry Southern} Often the term suggests either an internal convulsion (as a heart broken by some unendurable blow) a quivering of the heart (the dead heart of his old hound) a quiver of his nerves (a faint quiver of his mouth) a quiver of his eye (a quiver of his eye) or to a sudden, often seeming, quivering of a thing (his heart quivered, as a ship shivers at the mountainous crash of the waters—Bennett} (when the first star shivers and the last wave pales—Flecker} Shudder usually suggests the effect of something horrible or revolting; physically it implies a sudden sharp quivering that for the moment affects the entire body or mass (the spotted shadow of the heaven tree shuddered and pulsed monstrously in scarce any wind—Faulkner} (I am afraid of it,) she answered, shuddering—Dickens} (it was one of those ills, from which we turn away our eyes, shuddering—Deland} (the chill of an age-old recognition shuddered my spine; a voice was sounding in the dimly lit air—Miller} Quaver sometimes implies irregular vibration or fluctuation, especially as an effect of something that disturbs (the breeze . . . set the flames of the streetlamps quavering—Stevenson} but often it stresses tremulousness especially in reference to voices and utterances affected by weakness or emotion (a reedy, quavering voice—Doyle} (dead returned, and the words quavered as she spoke them—Meredith} (the quavering, envenomed voice of . . . Scrooge—Styron} Wobble implies an unsteadiness that shows itself in tottering, or in a quivering characteristic of a mass of soft flesh or of a soft jelly, or in a shakiness characteristic of rickety furniture (this table wobbles) (bumping when she trots, and wobbling when she canter—Whyte-Melville} antique French automobiles wobbling giddily along the road—Panter-Downes} (picked up his glass and half emptied it. His hand wobbled so that some of it ran down his chin—Charteris} Teeter implies an unsteadiness that reveals itself in see-sawing motions (an inebriated man teetering as he stands) (stood on chairs and teetered on stepladders—Dos Passos} Shimmer suggests the fairly violent shaking of the body from the shoulders downward which is characteristic of the dance of that name and, therefore, may suggest vibratory motions of an abnormal nature (all kinds of starlets get an opportunity to shimmer around for the edification of Pharaoh and his court—McCarten} (a lizard shimmered across her path—Miller} (I often see the
sham vb feign, simulate, counterfeit, pretend, *assume, affect
Ana *invent, create: ape, mock, mimic, imitate, *copy
sham adj *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony
Ana feigned, assumed, affected (see ASSUME): hoaxing, bamboozling, hoodwinking, duping (see DUPE): deceptive, delusive, delusory, *misleading
shame n *disgrace, dishonor, disrepute, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloquy, odium
Ana humiliation, degradation, abasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): mortification, chagrin (see corresponding adjectives at ASHAMED)
Ant glory: pride
shameless, brazen, barefaced, brash, impudent can apply to persons and their acts that defy the moral code or social decorum when they are characterized by boldness and a lack of a sense of shame. Shameless implies a lack of effective restraints (as modesty, a sense of decency, an active conscience, or concern for the respect of others) *(a shameless neglect of her children) *shameless gossips *(shameless graft) *regards every compromise his comrades have made to get the machine going as a shameless betrayal of principle—West *(no composer . . . makes such shameless use of patriotic feelings to advertise his product—Virgil Thomson)
Brazen implies not only complete shamelessness but defiant insolence *(at first a futile, now a brazen, thief) *(a brazen minister of state, who bore for twice ten years the public hate—Swift) *(solicited praise and power with the brazen, businesslike air of a streetwalker on the prowl—Rover) Barefaced implies absence of all effort to disguise or to mask one’s transgressions; it connotes extreme effrontery *(a barefaced lie) *(barefaced lie) *(barefaced deceptions, they manage to convince themselves at the time that they are speaking the truth—Muggeridge)
Brash so strongly implies impetuosity that it does not stress shamelessness as clearly as the preceding words; however, it is often used in place of shameless when heedlessness and temerity make one indifferent to the claims of conscience or one’s sense of decency *(a brash intrusion on another’s privacy) *(brash reporters) *(deeply I repented of brash and boyish crime—Linday) *(felt secure enough in his wealth to make several futile attempts at joining the country club—Syron) Impudent adds to shameless implications of bold or pert defiance of considerations of modesty or decency *(conduct so sordidly unladylike that even the most impudent woman would not dare do it openly—Shaw) *(women are getting impudent all over again and corsetieres, dreaming of the old, elegant, secure, confining days, may well despair—Lois Long) *(she has a passion for impudent adventure, and . . . has quite properly explored a number of improper relationships—Payne)
Ana *abandoned, profligate, dissolute: *hardened, inured, callous: *vicious, villainous, iniquitous
Con modest, pure, *chaste, decent: *shy, diffident, bashful
shape vb *make, form, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge
shape n *form, figure, conformation, configuration
Ana *outline, contour, profile, silhouette: *appearance, look, aspect, semblance
shapeless *formless, unformed
Ana *rude, rough, crude
Ant shapely —Con proportionate, *proportional, commensurate
share, participate, partake can mean to have, get, use, exercise, experience, or engage in something in common

sharp

with another or others. Share implies that one as the original owner or holder grants the part use, enjoyment, or possession to another (willing to share her room at the convention) (sharing lunch with a squirrel) or that one as the receiver accepts the part use, enjoyment, or possession of something that belongs to or comes from another (she asked all to share in the salad) (I shared my sister's room last night when we had a guest) (the employees shared in the profits) (she shared unwillingly the grocer's fate though . . . her dissatisfaction went no farther than nagging—Malamud). But share may also take for its subject a group and imply a community of possession or use (you do not share the great earth among you fairly—Jeffries) (flowers have always been sinister to me when they are lovely—they seem to share the elusive character of a flower—Mailer) Partake implies that one has or takes a part or a share in a thing (as a work, an experience, or an enterprise) (participate in a discussion) (may I ask you whether your wife participates in this undertaking?—Meredith) (the commerce of the United States with foreign nations, is that of the whole United States. Every district has a right to participate in it—John Marshall) (they participated, with a curious, restrained passion, in the speech made by the red-haired man. He spoke for them—Isherwood)

Partake implies that one accepts, takes, or acquires a portion of a thing (as food, drink, a pleasure, or a burden) (both partook of salted bread that a slave proffered—Hervey) (we do not only meet to share each other's burdens, but to partake in each other's joys—Spurgeon) (adventurers who were willing to partake his fortunes—Kinglake) or comes to have some of the essential or distinguishing characters of a thing (the story itself ceases to be merely melodramatic, and partakes of true drama—T. S. Eliot)

Ana *communicate, impart: divide, dispense, *distribute

sharp, keen, acute can all mean having a fine point or edge, but it is in several of their extended senses that they are most likely to come into comparison. As applied to persons or their qualities, especially of intellect, all three can indicate possession of alert competence and clear understanding. In such use sharp is likely to suggest an incisive self-centered quality, sometimes manifest in alert rationality, sometimes in devious cunning (she could never hear enough of this girl's worldly wisdom, vulgar sharp wit, and intimate gossip about well-known people—Wouk) (a man whose sharp face and sharp voice seemed wholeheartedly dedicated to chicanery and lewdness—Cheever) (the mumbo jumbo . . . interested him. He was sharp enough to guess that these formalities were in implying a penetrating quality of mind but it is keen

sharpen, shear

<Russell's critique of the honor of some god—Hervy>

Shear, poll, clip, trim, prune, lop, snip, crop are comparable when they mean to cut off something (as a work, an experience, or an enterprise) (may I ask you whether your wife participates in this undertaking?—Meredith) (the commerce of the United States with foreign nations, is that of the whole United States. Every district has a right to participate in it—John Marshall) (they participated, with a curious, restrained passion, in the speech made by the red-haired man. He spoke for them—Isherwood)

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sharpen, shear

<Russell's critique of the honor of some god—Hervy>
just it to something, or to prepare it for a definite use
<trim a straggly hedge> <trimmed his hair and beard>
<trim the rough edges from a piece of cloth> <what was not trimmed from our pages by an editor's nudge was
given away in the hagglings of publisher and author—
Mailer> Prune implies a trimming of a plant (as a tree or
shrub) by cutting out superfluous parts (as dead branches)
not only to improve its shape but to promote its growth or
bearing <prune the rosebushes in the garden> Conse-
sequently prune in broader use implies a cutting down or
out or excision so as to remove useless or needless material
(as in written matter) <prune a manuscript before sending
it off to the printer> (a good personal library, like a tree,
must be pruned occasionally to stay healthy—adv>
Lop implies a cutting off or away or by as if by an axe,
especially of what is superfluous; typically it suggests
pruning and the removal of dead or unnecessary branches
or boughs, but it may suggest the similar removal of
something that may be regarded as improperly associated
or as an excrescence, a nuisance, or an interference
<superfluous branches we lop away, that bearing boughs
may live—Shak> <Virginia, even after Maryland had been
lopped off, remained a dominion of imperial extent—
Morrison> Snip, like clip, may imply the employment of
scissors, but it may also suggest the use of sharp fingernails
or of any other instrument by which a part may be
pinched or cut off; it differs from clip in emphasizing
suddenness and quickness in movement. It, therefore,
often suggests a cutting off of a small piece at a time or a
cutting into bits <snip off a loose thread> <snip the dead
flowers from a plant> <the child, with its newly found toy,
a pair of scissors, was clipping the newspaper into pieces>
Crop, in most of its meanings, implies the cutting off of
the top (as of a tree or grass), but when it emphasizes that
implication, it usually suggests the cutting off of a piece at
the top (as for identification or punishment) or a cutting
extremely close (as of the hair) <the stiff-necked sectaries
... who had been glad to stand in pillories and suffer their
ears to be cropped rather than put bread in the mouths of
priests—Brooks> <his hair ... had been cropped by the
prison barber—Teats>
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
shed vb *discard, cast, molt, slough, scrap, junk
Ana remove, shift, transfer (see MOVE): reject, repudiate,
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
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Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

Ana *outright, out-and-out, arrant, unmitigated
glitter, flashing or gleaming
or<br>
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see TEAR)
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Ana remove, shift, transfer (see MOVE): reject, repudiate,
to a shallow place, especially one that is difficult to navigate (dangerous shoals in uncharted waters) Bank, often as the plural banks, is applied to one that is formed by a muddy, sandy, or gravelly elevation but is deep enough to make navigation safe for lighter craft (as fishing boats) (the Grand Bank, also called the Banks of Newfoundland, is a noted fishing ground) and reef, to one where rock lies dangerously close to the surface (the reef-bound shores of Bermuda). Technically shoal is applied to elevations which are not rocky and on which the water is not more than 6 fathoms deep, bank to a similar elevation rising from the continental shelf and usually having a broad flat top under deeper water, and reef to a rocky elevation on which the water at low tide is 6 fathoms or less in depth. Bar carries implications found in many senses (as of length, narrowness, and hindrance). It is applied to a ridge of sand or gravel piled up at and often across or nearly across a river's mouth or an entrance to a harbor and obstructing navigation.

**Shoot**

**n** cock, stack, heap, pile, mass, bank (see *under HEAP vb*).

**vb** cock, stack, *heap, pile, mass, bank*

**shock** collision, clash, concussion, *impact, impingement, percussion, jar, jolt

*Ana* *encounter, skirmish: assault, onslaught, onset: shaking, rocking, agitation, convulsion (see corresponding verbs at SHAKE)*

**shocking** appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful, ghastly, gruesome, lurid, macabre, grisly, grim: ghastly, abhorrent, abominable, hateful: repugnant, repellent, distasteful, obnoxious

*shoot* vb *fly, dart, float, skim, scud, sail*

*ana* *encounter, skirmish: attack, assault, onslaught, onset: shaking, rocking, agitation, convulsion (see corresponding verbs at SHAKE)*

**shorten** *brief*

*ana* decreased, lessened, reduced, diminished (see DECREASE): shortened, abridged, abbreviated, curtailed (see SHORTEN): *concise, terse, laconic*

*ant* long

2 crisp, brittle, friable, *fragile, fragile*

**shortcoming** *imperfection, deficiency, fault*

*ana* defect, flaw, *blemish: failing, frailty, foible, fault

*con* *excellence, merit, virtue, perfection*

**shorten**, curtail, abbreviate, abridge, retrench can all mean to reduce in extent, especially by cutting. Shorten commonly implies reduction in length or duration (shorten a road by eliminating curves) (to shorten a visit). It is also often used of apparent rather than actual length (they shortened the journey by telling stories) (if we really have a murderer in our midst, your easiest method of shortening your own young life would be to let him know how clever you are—Mary Fitt) (the vaccines will not even shorten the course of a cold—Fishbein) Curtail adds to shorten the implication of making cuts that impair completeness or cause deprivation (the interruption curtailed his speech) (the outdoor ceremony was curtailed because of the storm) (curtailed rights) (emergency order drastically curtailing the use of fuel—Current Biog.)

*Abbreviate* implies reducing by omitting some normally present or following part; thus one abbreviates a word by cutting out or cutting off letters; one abbreviates a discussion by bringing it to a close sooner than planned or anticipated (their outing was abbreviated by a sudden drenching downpour) (a stocky square-jawed man of great physical strength and energy, though of abbreviated intelligence—Shirer) Abridge expresses reduction in compass or scope rather than more than in length (I feel you do not fully comprehend the danger of abridging the liberties of the people—Lincoln) but it may imply the retention of all that is essential and the relative completeness of the result (abridge a dictionary) Retrench stresses reduction in extent or costs of something felt to be in excess (retrench expenses) (the lords are retrenching visibly, and are especially careful to avoid any form of ostentation—Nancy Mitford)

*ana* reduce, *decrease, lessen, diminish: contrast, shrink, condense

**shore** n Shore, coast, beach, strand, bank, littoral, fore-

*ana* analogous words

*ant* antonyms

*con* contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
show 735  shrewd

. . . showed plainly in public life—Wecter> Manifest
implies a fuller, plainer, and more indubitable revelation than show in handwriting the Chinese believe that the inner personality of the writer is directly manifested—Binyon> It is said that . . . a race manifests in all its history the same innate mental and emotional characteristics—Benedict> (the devotion manifested for these cherished beasts sometimes produced uncomfortable results—Reppier> Evidence is often used in place of show indicated his appreciation) but it specifically implies that the outward act or utterance serves as proof of the existence or the actuality of something not fully proved or in question> (argued that their honesty was evidenced by their acts> Initiative is evidenced by willingness to accept responsibility—McCain> (chaste, elegant, entirely in the contemporary mode, evidencing stylistic affiliations only with other contemporary buildings—Mumford> Evince implies some outward marks or tokens (as of an interest, an emotion, or a power) > He has evinced no interest in the project> (Cashel, bitterly humiliated by his own tears, and exasperated by a certain cold triumph which his captor evinced on witnessing them—Shaw> (the first paragraph evinces an ignorance of religious poetry, or an indifference to it—Tate> He had never evinced any special interest in countries beyond our immediate borders—S. H. Adams> Demonstrate (see also PROVE 1) is used chiefly in reference to feelings; it ordinarily implies obvious or even deliberately displayed external signs (as effusiveness, enthusiasm, emotional excitement, or significant actions> (demonstrate his approval by loud applause> (Paul was a person who demonstrated all his sentiments—Thackeray> (demonstrated his own brand of intrinsigance—Funk> Ana *reveal, disclose, discover: present, *offer, proffer, tender
Con *hide, conceal, secrete

2 Show, exhibit, display, expose, parade, flaunt can all mean to present in such a way as to invite notice or attention. One shows something which he enables others to see or look at (as by putting it forward into view intentionally or inadvertently or by taking another where he may see it) > (show our new home to friends> (show the city to an out-of-town guest> (the picture purported to show the earth's convexity—Martin Gardner> (I don't think he ever showed his full powers—Laski> One exhibits something which he puts forward prominently or openly, either with the express intention or with the result of attracting others' attention or inspection> (exhibit the museum's collection of Whistler engravings> (exhibit articles made by children in school> (in many fashionable gown shops, garments are not exhibited but are shown only to prospective purchasers> (exhibit unreasonable fear> (if any crude redress of injustice, they should exhibit their petitions in the street—Shak> He exhibited with peculiar pride two cream-colored mules—Cather> (a group of rectangular buildings, exhibiting the stark functionalism of a toy village—Marquand> One displays something when he spreads it out before the view of others or puts it in a position where it can be seen to advantage or with great clearness (the exhibition was criticized because many paintings were not properly displayed> (the male makes a play for the female . . . by strutting before her, displaying his accomplishments, his prowess, his charms—Edmund Wilson> One exposes something when he brings it out of hiding or concealment or from under cover and shows, exhibits, or displays it consciously or unconsciously. The term sometimes means little more than to exhibit or display> He . . . looked me over as if I had been exposed for sale—Conrad> (the tide was low and the mud-banks were exposed and reeking—Cheever> Often it means to reveal publicly something and especially something disagreeable that has been or should be concealed> (afraid to expose his ignorance by asking questions> (it was my duty to leave no stone unturned to discover and expose the awful truth—Rose Macaulay> Frequently it carries the additional implication of unmasking (it was . . . his friends . . . that he attacks in this terrible story of the passing stranger who took such a vitriolic joy in exposing their pretensions and their hypocrisy—Brooks> One parades something by displaying it ostentatiously or arrogantly> (smugly parading his honesty> (I can't believe that God wants the strong to parade their strength—Hellman> He is a writer who does not raise his voice. He avoids emphasis. His finest phrases . . . are tucked away, not paraded—J. M. Brown> Sometimes the term implies not merely ostentation or arrogance but an intent to deceive or mislead> (parades her love for her husband only because she actually did not love him—Parshire> (speaking with open contempt of mature persons who paraded their deference to the wishes of a father—Krutch> One flaunts something when one parades it shamelessly, often boastfully, and offensively> (they flaunt their conjugal felicity in one's face—Wilde> (you vaunted your fathomless power, and ye flaunted your iron pride—Kipling> (over this was an unbelievable flaunting of opulence—Hervey> Ana *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, argue, prove: intimate, hint, *suggest
Ant disguise

show n *exhibition, exhibit, exposition, fair
showy, pretentious, ostentatious can mean making or presenting an outward display that is by implication greater than what is necessary or justifiable. Showy, the ordinary term, carries less definite implications than the other words. It implies an imposing, striking, or impressive appearance, but it often suggests cheapness, inferiority, or poor taste> (showy brass ware—Shaw> (showy furniture> (showy decorations> (undue conspicuousness or gaudiness (a showy wallpaper design> (showy peonies> or overattention to superficial qualities> (the showy talents, in which the present age prides itself—Newman> Preentious (see also AMBITIOUS 2) suggests even less warrant for display, for it usually implies an appearance that is not justified by the thing's actual value or actual cost or by the person's actual worth, rank, performance, or capability; the term therefore implies a criticism of what ever is described> (I'd rather you didn't call me "sir" . . . it might give rise to the idea that I had asked you to . . . It might appear rather pretentious—Mackenzie> (his sense of character is nil, and he is as pretentious as a rich whore, as sentimental as a lollipop—Mailer> (a brilliant sham, which, like a badly built and pretentious house, looks poor and shabby after a few years—Cather> Ostentatious streses vainglorious display or parade but it does not necessarily imply either showiness or pretentiousness> (ostentatious public charities—Wilde> (the ostentatious simplicity of their dress—Macaulay> (thought their cortège ostentatious . . . slaves marching ahead with drums, porters bearing food and . . . gifts, and an armed escort—Hervey> Ana *gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy, meretricious: splendid, gorgeous (see SPLENDID): opulent, sumptuous, luxurious

shrew scold, vixen, termagant, *virago, amazon
shrewd, sagacious, perspicacious, astute can all mean acute in perception and sound in judgment, especially in reference to practical affairs. Shrewd implies native
closeness, acumen, and an exceptional ability to see below the surface; it often also connotes hardheadedness
(a shrewd bargain)  (a shrewd observer)  (a shrewd remark)  (the shrewd wisdom of an unlettered old woman —Pater)  (the hard mind of a shrewd small-town boy, the kind of boy who knows you have a real cigar only when you are the biggest man in town —Mailer)  (she had had a mania for buying and selling land, and was a shrewd judge of values —Wolfe)  Sagacious is usually applied to persons or their decisions, their judgments, and their methods of pursuing their ends; it stresses penetration, discernment, judiciousness, and often, farsightedness (the auctioneer, a small sagacious individual . . ., was directing his two blue-jowled assistants in the business of displaying to their best advantage the remaining pieces —Wylie)  (he left an estate of approximately $172,000, accumulated through sagacious investments —Dillard)  Perspicacious is applied chiefly to mental sight or insight and suggests unusual power to see through and to understand what is dark, hidden, mysterious, or puzzling (a perspicacious reader of character)  (a perspicacious critic)  (we must make allowance also for those blind spots which are found in the most perspicacious mortals —L. P. Smith)  (some perspicacious manufacturer of another product . . ., beat the rap the same way —Ace)  (it occurred to the perspicacious reddleman that he would have acted more wisely by appearing less unimpressionable —Hardy)  Astute implies a combination of shrewdness and perspicacity and often, in addition, connotes an ability to keep one’s counsel or an incapacity for being fooled, especially where one’s own interests are concerned (savages . . . are often as . . . astute socially as trained diplomats —James)  (the man who can make millions by an astute business deal —Hobson)  Astute, opprobriously used, heightens the suggestion, sometimes present in perspicacious, of artfulness, diplomacy, or craft. It may connotate merely shrewd discernment and sagacity (I have described above our low-caliber presi-dents—they, too, are more or less astute party hacks —Edmund Wilson)  Ana knowing, *intelligent, smart, clever, quick-witted: politic, diplomatic, smooth (see suave): *wise, prudent, sensible, judicious: penetrating, piercing, probing (see enter)  *sharp, keen, acute shreik vb  *shout, yell, scream, screech, squeal, holler, whoop Ana vociferate, clamor, bellow, *roar: vent, ventilate, air, voice, *express shriek n  shout, yell, scream, screech, squeal, holler, whoop (see under SHOUT vb)  Ana vociferation, clamor, bellow, roar (see under ROAR vb) shrink 1  *contract, constrict, compress, condense, deflate Ana *decrease, reduce, diminish, lessen: *shorten, abridge, retrench, curtail Ant swell —Con *expand, amplify, distend, dilate, inflate 2  *recoil, flinch, quail, blench, wince Ana cringe, cow (see fawn)  (retract, *recede: bald, shy, boggle, scumble, *demur shrivel *wither, wizen Ana parch, desiccate, *dry: wear, scorch, *burn shroud vb  *cover, overspread, envelop, wrap, veil Ana *hide, conceal, screen, bury: cloak, mask, camouflage, *disguise shudder vb  shiver, quiver, quaver, *shake, tremble, quake, totter, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither shun avoid, evade, elude, *escape, eschew Ana *decline, refuse, reject: balk, shy, scumble, *demur, stick, stickle: scorn, disdain, *despise Ant habituate shut vb  *close shut out eliminate, *exclude, debar, rule out, blackball, disbar Ana *prevent, preclude, obviate: *hinder, obstruct, block, bar shutter n  *blind, shade shy adj  Shy, bashful, diffident, modest, coy can mean showing disinclination to obtrude oneself in the presence or company of others. Shy implies a shrinking, sometimes constitutional, sometimes the result of inexperience, from unfamiliarity or contact with others; shyness usually manifests itself in a certain reserve of manner or in timidity in approaching others (the savage . . . is a shy person, imbued with the notion that certain things are not to be talked of to strangers —Inge)  (shy in the presence of strangers and bold with people she knew well —Anderson)  Bashful implies an instinctive or constitutional shrinking from public notice that usually expresses itself in awkwardness of demeanor and is especially characteristic of childhood and adolescence; as applied to mature persons it connotes abnormal or excessive shyness and lack of savoir faire (he hesitated, awkward and bashful, shifted his weight from one leg to the other —London)  (as he grew up, he became increasingly bashful, and he never had a close friend of either sex —Donovan)  Diffident implies a distrust, which may or may not be warranted, of one’s own ability, opinions, or powers that gives rise to hesitation in their exercise (he was conservative and diffident by nature, and even after all these years he felt tongue-tied in the presence of those stricken by grief —Styron)  Modest, without implying self-distrust, may denote an absence of all undue confidence in oneself or one’s powers (the most modest, silent, sheepfaced and meek of little men —Thackeray)  but often it stresses not an inner lack of confidence but a manner free from brashness, boldness, and self-assertiveness (stood at ease . . . with the modest air of a man who has given his all and is reasonably assured it is enough —Wolfe)  (entirely natural, modest, and unaffected in manner —Elliot Clark)  Coy suggests assumed or affected shyness, often with the further implication of coquetry (I was vexed, and resolved to be even with her by not visiting the wood for some time. A display of indifference on my part would, I hoped, result in making her less coy in the future —Hudson)  (without being in the least coy, Mrs. Gross displayed a certain half smiling modesty —Ferry Southern)  Ana *timid, timorous: wary, chary, *cautious, circumspect Ant obtrusive shaky vb  bark, boggle, scumble, *demur, jib, stickle, stick, strain Ana *recoil, shrink, quail, blench: *hesitate, waver, falter, vacillate sic vb  *urge, egg, exhort, goad, spur, prod, prick Ana *incite, instigate, abet: encourage, countenance, *favor sicken *disgust, nauseate Ana revolt, offend, repulse (see corresponding adjectives at offensive) sickly *unwholesome, morbid, diseased, pathological Ana ailing (see corresponding noun at disease): *weak, feeble, frail, infirm: mawkish, mushy, maudlin (see sentient-mental) Ant robust —Con *healthy, sound, wholesome, hale, well side *phase, aspect, facet, angle sidereal *stellar, astral A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sidestep vb *dodge, parry, shirk, duck, fence, malinger
Ana avoid, evade, elude, shun (see ESCAPE)

sieve n *blockade

sigh vb Sigh, sob, moan, groan are comparable as verbs
when they mean to emit a sound, commonly an inarticulate
sound, indicative of mental or physical pain or distress
and as nouns, such a sound. Sigh implies a deep audible
respiration that is a usually involuntary expression of grief,
intense longing, regret, discouragement, weariness, or
boredom (sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, men were
deceivers ever—Shak.) *a sigh uttered from the fullness
of the heart—Hazlitt) *the stranger sometimes seemed
to be under stress, sighed much and muttered inaudibly
to himself—Malamud) Sob implies a sound made by
a convulsive catching of the breath when weeping or when
both speaking and crying or when trying to restrain
tears; the noun, however, more often refers solely to this
sound and does not do the verb, which often implies accompany-
ing tears and speech ("Ah!" It was a long, grievous sound,
like a sigh—almost like a sob—Dickens) *the mother
. . . knelt by his side, and they prayed, and their joint
sobs shook their bodies, but neither of them shed many
tears—Meredith) *she sobbed out her story (like a child
sobbing itself to sleep) Moan implies a low, pro-
longed, usually inarticulate sound, especially one that
is indicative of intense suffering of mind or body (they
are quick to hear the moans of immemorial grief—
Blunden) *Polly moaned, overwhelmed with retro-
spective shame and embarrassment—Huxley) *to hear
the piteous moan that Rutland made—Shak.)
The term, however, is often extended to sounds suggest-
ive of pain, complaint, or murmuring (the moan of the
wind) (the moan of doves in immemorial elms—Tenny-
son) (the rain and the wind splashed and gurgled and
moaned round the house—Kipling) Groan implies a
heavier sound than moan and more often suggests an
unbearable weight of suffering or a strong spirit of re-
belligiousness to pain or discomfort (thy groans did make
wolves howl—Shak.) *the whole creation groaned and
travailed in pain together until now—Rom 8:22) Often
however, in extended use the term carries no hint of
suffering but implies noises made in strong disapproval
or in pretended suffering (greet a speaker with groans)
by or something that moves or swings heavily (trees
groaning in the wind) (the door upon its hinges groans—
Keats) *the groan under the floorboard had changed to
a scream—Atkins)
Ana lament. *deploure, bemoan, bewail: *long, yearn,
pine, hunger, thirst

sign n groan, moan, sob (see under sigh vb)
Ana regret, *sorrow, grief

sight n *look, view, glance, glimpse, peep, peek
Ana *prospect, outlook: vision, *revelation

sidestep 737

sightless *blind, purblind

sign 1 Sign, mark, token, badge, note, symptom can
denote a sensible and usually visible indication by means
of which something not outwardly apparent or obvious
is made known or revealed. Sign is the most compre-
sensive of these terms, being referable to a symbol (see
also CHARACTER 1) or a symbolic device or act (the mace
is the sign of authority) (make the sign of the cross)
or to a visible or sensible manifestation of a mood, a
mental or physical state, or a quality of character (good
manners are signs of good breeding) (they are gestures
of exclusion—not snobbery, merely signs of a private
life with all its unique standards—Fadiman) *suicide
is the sign of failure, misery, and despair—Ellis) or to
a trace or vestige of someone or something (the signs
of her fate in a footprint here, a broken twig there, a trillion
dropped by the way—Conrad) or to objective evidence
that serves as a presage or foretoken (signs of an early
spring) (there are signs that poetry is beginning to
occupy itself again with the possibilities of sound—Day
Lewis) (two men that night watched for a sign, listened
for a wonder—Gwyn Jones) and concretely to a placard,
board, tablet, or card that serves to identify, announce,
or direct (watch for a road sign) (a brilliantly lighted bar
sign) (did you see the sign announcing the new play?)
("for rent" signs in the dingy windows) Mark (see
also CHARACTER 1) may be preferred to sign when the
distinguishing or revealing indication is thought of as
something impressed upon a thing or inherently charac-
teristic of it, often in contrast to something outwardly
apparent or displayed (the bitter experience left its
mark on him) (courtesy is the mark of a gentleman)
(the distinguishing marks of Victorian poetry) *what,
then, are the marks of culture and efficiency?—Suz-
allo) (the unrealized schemes of [the past] . . . have usu-
ally left their mark in the shape of some unfinished pier,
half completed parade—Angus Wilson) Concretely also
mark is applied either (1) to some visible trace (as a scar
or a stain or a track) left upon a thing (birthmark) (the
marks of smallpox) (the high-water mark is observable
on the pier's supports) (the marks of an army's passage)
they found not a button, or feather, or mark, by which
they could tell that they stood on the ground where the
Baker had met with the Snark—Lewis Carroll) or (2)
to something that is affixed in order to distinguish, identify,
or label a particular thing or to indicate its ownership
(a trademark) (a laundry mark) Token (see also PLEDGE)
can replace sign and also mark except in their specific
concrete applications when the sensible indication serves
as a proof of or is given as evidence of the actual existence
of something that has no physical existence (how could
he doubt her love when he had had so many tokens of
her affection?) (the savages bore gifts as tokens of their
desire for peace and friendship) (tokens tossed his way—
an occasional salute, a "well done" for the preflights
. . . a tense smile—were hoarded fervently—Pynchon)

Badge designates a piece of metal or a ribbon carrying
an inscription or emblem and worn upon the person as
a token of one's membership in a society or as a sign of
one's office, employment, or function (a policeman's
badge) (each delegate wore a badge) (a gold key is the
badge of membership in Phi Beta Kappa) In extended
use badge often is employed in place of sign, mark, or
token when it is thought of in reference to a class, a group,
a category of persons, or as a distinctive feature of their
dress, their appearance, or their character (for sufferance
is the badge of all our tribe—Shak.) (essentially we were
taught to regard culture as a veneer, a badge) of class dis-

*See also explanatory notes facing page 1
<tolerance, moderation, and pity are the abiding notes which help to keep Chaucer's poetry level with life—H. S. Bennett> Symptom can apply to any of the physical or mental changes from the normal which can be interpreted as evidence of disease, but in medical use it is commonly restricted to the subjective evidences of disease primarily apparent to the sufferer and is then opposed to sign, which is applied to the objective evidences of abnormality that are primarily determined by tests and instruments (symptoms and signs taken together constitute the evidence on which a diagnosis can be based). In extended use the term tends to follow popular rather than professional medical use and is applicable to an outward indication of an inner change (as in an institution, a state, or the body politic) or to an external phenomenon that may be interpreted as the result of some internal condition (as a weakness, defect, or disturbance) (even that . . . is treated lightly as a foible of the age, and not as a symptom of social decay and change—T. S. Eliot).<the belief that a young man's athletic record is a test of his worth is a symptom of our general failure to grasp the need of knowledge and thought in mastering the complex modern world—Russell> (she wanted . . . to be alone so that she could study and afterwards remember each symptom of this excitement that had caught her—Auchincloss).<An indication, betokening, attesting or attestation (see corresponding verbs at indicate): manifestation, evidencing or evidence, demonstration, showing or show (see corresponding verbs at show): intimation, suggestion (see corresponding verbs at suggest)> 2 Sign, signal can both mean a motion, an action, a gesture, or a word by which a command or wish is expressed or a thought is made known. Sign (see also Sign 1; Character 1) is the general term that in itself carries no explicit connotations; it is used in reference to a bodily motion (as a shrug) or a gesture (as a beckoning) or an action (as a pantomime) by which one conveys a thought, a command, a direction, or a need to another with whom one either cannot communicate orally (as by reason of deaf-mutism, or lack of a common language, or distance) or does not wish to communicate orally (as from consideration of others or desire for secrecy) (put a finger to her lips as a sign for quiet) (the explorer made signs to the natives to show his friendly intentions) Signal usually applies to a conventional and recognizable sign that typically conveys a command, a direction, or a warning (she was startled by a ring at the door, the certain signal of a visitor—Austen) (the flying of the first champagne corks gave the signal, and a hum began to spread—Meredith) (at a signal given by the train conductor, the engineer climbed into his engine—Anderson) Signal is also applied to mechanical devices which by operating lights, moving barriers, or sounding an alarm, take the place of a guard, a watchman, or a policeman (traffic signals) (railroad signals) 2 Signification, import, *meaning, sense, acceptance (see under Denote): Signification significance, import, *meaning, sense, acceptance 2 *importance, import, consequence, moment, weight Ana *worth, value, *influence, authority, credit, prestige: merit, *excellence, virtue, perfection Significant *expressive, meaningful, pregnant, eloquent, sentientious Ana cogent, telling, convincing, compelling, *valid, sound: forcible, forceful, *powerful: important, momentous, weighty (see corresponding nouns at Importance) Signification significance, import, *meaning, sense, acceptance Ana signifying, meaning, denoting (see Mean vb): denotation, connotation (see under Denote 2) Signify import, *mean, denote Ana convey, *carry, bear: *denote, connote: imply, *suggest silent 1 Silent, uncommunicative, taciturn, reticent, reserved, secretive, close, close-lipped, closed-mouthed, tight-lipped are comparable when they mean showing restraint in speaking to or with others. Silent and uncommunicative often imply a tendency to say no more than is absolutely necessary as a matter of habit (he had had a rather unhappy boyhood; and it made him a silent man—Conrad) (a stern, silent man, long a widower—Cather) (whose uncommunicative heart will scarce one precious word impart—Swift) or an abstinence from speech on some particular occasion typically because of caution or the stress of emotion (a silent, shaky embrace, each afraid to entrust words to her trembling lips—Styron) (she found the presidential nominee uncommunicative regarding plans to put women in high office—Current Bio.) Taciturn implies a temperamental disinclination to speech; it usually also connotes unsociableness or the nature of one who grudgingly converses when necessary (Benson was . . . a taciturn hater of woman—Meredith) (always taciturn, he now hardly spoke at all—Cete) (the farmer was taciturn and drove them speechlessly to the house—Buck) Reticent implies the disposition to keep one's own counsel or the habit or fact of withholding much that might be said, especially under particular circumstances; the term does not usually connote silence but, rather, sparing speech or an indisposition to discuss one's private affairs (all subsequent autobiographies and confessions seem in comparison reticent, wanting in detail—L. P. Smith) (he had been characteristically reticent regarding the details of his own financial affairs—Marquand) (it was a matter upon which he was reticent, and with persons of his kidney a direct question is never very discreet—Maugham) Reserved implies reticence but it also suggests formality, standoffishness, or a temperamental disposition to the give and take of friendly conversation or familiar intercourse (a reserved and distant demeanor) (grave, though with no formal solemnity, reserved if not exactly repressed . . . she was yet a woman of unmistakable force of character—Ellis) (habitually was reserved in speech, withholding her opinion—Sackville-West) Secretive also implies reticence, but it adds an implication of disparagement that reticent usually lacks, for it suggests an opposition to frank or open and often connotes an attempt to hide or conceal something that might properly be told (a secretive public official is the despair of reporters) (the rapport between this man and his parents was so intense and tacit that it seemed secretive—Cheever) (his voice became secretive and confidential, the voice of a man divulging fabulous professional secrets—Dahl) Close (see also Close 1 & 2) comes near to reticent and secretive in its meaning but it usually denotes a dis-
position rather than an attitude or manner and, therefore, often suggests taciturnity (he was too close to name his circumstances to me—Dickens) Close-lipped and close-mouthed are often used in place of close not only as more picturesque terms but also as more clearly implying a determined refusal to disclose something that another desires to know (he is always close-mouthed about his plans) (she proved a good secretary because she was close-lipped about all matters of a confidential nature) (those few who knew actual combat destination kept close-lipped—Dodson) (the family has been . . . extraordinarily close-mouthed about even the broad outline of its commercial affairs—Freeman Lincoln) Tight-lipped carries a stronger implication of resolute but not necessarily temperamental reticence (infinite caution, tight-lipped, unshakable patience, these must be his rule—Buchan)

Ana restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see restraint): discreet, prudent (see under prudence)

Ant talkative —Con *vocal, articulate, fluent, voluble, glib: loquacious, garrulous (see talkative)

2 *still, stilly, quiet, noiseless

Ana *calm, serene, tranquil, placid, peaceful

Silhouette *outline, contour, profile, skyline

Ana shadow, *shade, adumbration

Silken, Silky *sleek, slick, glossy, velvety, satiny

Silly 1 *simple, foolish, fatuous, asinine

Ana *irrational, unreasonable: *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass, dumb: vacuous, *empty

2 *foolish, absurd, preposterous

Ana inane, wishy-washy, *insipid: puerile, juvenile (see yothful): ridiculous, ludicrous, *laughable

Similar *like, alike, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, uniform, identical

Ana *same, equivalent, equal, identical: corresponding, correlative, complementary, *reciprocal

Ant dissimilar —Con *different, disparate, diverse: *opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithetical, antonymous

Similarity *likeness, resemblance, similitude, analogy, affinity

Ana *comparison, contrast, collation, parallel: agreement, accordance, harmonizing or harmony, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at agree)

Ant dissimilarity

Simile *analog, metaphor

Similitude *likeness, similarity, resemblance, analogy, affinity

Ana *comparison, contrast, collation, parallel: agreement, accordance, harmonizing or harmony, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at agree)

Ant dissimilarity

Simulate *drug, medicinal, pharmaceutical, biologic

Ana childlike, *childlike: dull, dense, dumb, slow, *stupid, crass: *ignorant, illiterate, untaught

Ant wise

Simple *drug, medicinal, pharmaceutical, biologic

Simpleton *fool, moron, imbecile, idiot, natural

Simulate feign, counterfeit, sham, pretend, *assume, affect
human beings it usually implies utterance in words with musical inflections or modulations and often suggests such modulated utterance as an art to be practiced, studied, or learned (sing an aria) (sing the part of Faust) (sing a plaintive song) (she studied singing diligently but lacked the voice to profit from instruction) (grasshoppers chirping, and birds singing—Shaw) (the rigging sang in the wind) Trolley usually suggests the use of full round tones in singing (while mountains were unloosing their hair to the music waterfalls trolled like bells for the wedding—Babette Deutsch) and is especially applicable to the hearty voices of jovial men raised in singing or the resounding celebration in song of great events or deeds (let us be jocund. Will you trolley the catch you taught me but whiere?—Shak) (strange adventure that we're trollying: modest maid and gallant groom—Gilbert) Carol suggests the voices of youthful, lively, or joyous singers, usually of persons, sometimes of birds; it may or may not suggest the singing of cars, but it often implies merriment or effortlessness and spontaneity (used to carol cheerfully in the morning, locked in the single bathroom—Canby) (a wren on a tree stump caroled clear—Masfield) Descant (see also DISCOURSE) implies part singing or, especially, the singing of a higher part in harmony with the plainsong of the tenor in a contrapuntal treatment. Descant often merely implies harmonious singing or singing in harmony with (they will . . . sing so sweetly, and withall descant it so finely and tunably—Topsell) (a device by which several singers appear to be descanting, when in fact only one is doing so—Grove's Dict. of Music) Warble frequently implies singing in a soft and gentle voice but with various modulations (as turns and trills and quavers); often it means no more than to sing melodiously or with sweetness (warble his native woodnotes wild—Milton) (the skylark warbles high his trembling thrilling ecstasy—Gray) Trill basically means to sing with trills or vibrations (as by rapidly alternating two notes a degree apart) (trill like a canary but it is often extended to refer to the making of sounds involving vibration without much thought of musical quality (with a shrill trilling from the countless leaves in between gusts of wind—Idriess) (rilled his soup into his mouth with a swift sucking vibration—The Use of English) (could hear the noise of a telephone trilling—James Helvick) Hyperm implies a lifting of the voice in some sort of worship or praise, especially of God (evening by evening, as they came to the setting sun, they hymned Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Pusey) (the thrush concourting with the lark that hymned on high—Pollok) Chant may mean little more than sing, but often it is used specifically to imply the method of singing adopted by priests or choristers singing unmetrical verse where the emphasis is upon musical recitation of phrases, measured even tones, and a reverential spirit. Intone also comes very close to the specific sense of chant in meaning but sometimes carries a stronger connotation of reciting in sustained monotone (the Psalms were chanted) (the priest intoned the Gospel of the Mass) (I joined with choirs of monks, intoning their deep sonorous dirges—L. P. Smith) (they would take hands and ring-a-rosy about him, chanting at the tops of their voices, until good humor was restored—Mary Austin)

simultaneous 740 single

simultaneous synchronous, coincident, *contemporary, contemporaneous, coeval, coetaneous, concomitant, concurrent

*Ana concurring, coinciding, agreeing (see AGREE)

Con *preceding, foregoing, antecedent, previous: following, succeeding, ensuing (see FOLLOW)

sin *offense, crime, scandal

sinewy *muscular, athletic, husky, brawny, burly

sincere, wholehearted, whole-souled, heartfelt, hearty, unfeigned can mean genuine in feeling or expression or showing such genuineness. Sincere stresses the absence of hypocrisy, dissimulation, or falsification in any degree; it therefore usually connotes a strict adherence to truth, a revelation of just what one feels, thinks, or sees and no more, and an unwillingness to embellish, exaggerate, or make pretenses of any sort (the loathing with which he describes the sodden Vienna working classes is . . . so sincere that one thinks for a moment that out of it must come a people's rebel—Dorothy Thompson) (in spite of her confusion, something strong and sincere and questing emanated from her—Styron) Wholehearted and whole-souled imply the absence of all reservations and therefore stress not only sincerity, but also qualities (as earnestness or devotion or zealousness) which suggest that one's whole being is stirred or moved (the service they one and all gave . . . was wholehearted and even passionate—Sackville-West) (whole-souled dislike of totalitarianism) (who could help liking her? her generous nature, her gift for appreciation, her wholehearted, fervid enthusiasm?—L. P. Smith) (demonstrated a whole-souled allegiance to the democratic world—Limb) Heartfelt places the emphasis upon the depth and genuineness of the feeling which finds expression in words, in signs of emotion (as tears), or in acts; the term suggests that one is deeply stirred or moved, and it is applied usually to what might, by contrast, be formally or conventionally expressed or outwardly indicated (heartfelt interest in the poor and suffering) (our sympathy for you therefore is heartfelt, for we are sharing the same sufferings—Sir Winston Churchill) Heartily comes closer to wholehearted than to heartfelt, but it carries a stronger implication than wholehearted of vigor or energy in expression or manifestation, and may connote simple honesty, great warmth, or exuberance in the display of feeling (receive a hearty welcome) (a hearty laugh) (in the hearty tones natural when the words demanded by polite-ness coincide with those of deepest feeling—Hardy) (the overwhelming mass of American citizens are in hearty accord with these basic policies—Roosevelt) Unfeigned is often used in place of sincere, especially when the absence of simulation is to be stressed; the term usually emphasizes spontaneity as well as genuineness (I confess to unfeigned delight in the insurgent propaganda—Lowes) (an unfeigned interest in people and scenes—Brann)

Ana candid, open, *frank, plain: honest, honorable, conscientious, scrupulous, *upright: *straightforward, aboveboard, forthright

Ant insincere

sinewy *muscular, athletic, husky, brawny, burly

Ana robust, *healthy, sound: *strong, tough, tenacious, sturdy: nervious, *vigorous, energetic

sing vb Sing, troll, carol, descant, warble, trill, hymn, chant, intone all mean to produce musical tones by or as if by means of the voice. Sing is the general term used of human beings and of animals and things that produce musical or sustained tones. In its primary application to

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the complete statement of a single selected facet of experience—Day Lewis) (that was the greatest single thing that had ever happened to her. No one had ever looked at her and made a respectful gesture before—Theodore Sturgeon) Something sole is the only one that exists, that acts, that has power or relevance, or that is to be or should be considered (he is the sole heir) (this is his sole invention) your conscience must be the sole judge in this case) acquire the sole rights of publication (his sole object was to study the form of his sitter's head in every detail—Alexander) (California is not the sole repository of political virtue in the United States—Armbrister) Something unique (see also STRANGE) may be the only one of its kind in existence (the medal is unique, for no duplicates were made) (of the world's geniuses he strikes me as being unique—Mailer) or it may stand alone because of its unusual character (the unique character of the English conquest of Britain—Malone) (they stand alone, unique, objects of supreme interest—Osborne) Something lone (see also ALONE) is not only single but also separated or isolated from others of its kind; the word often replaces single (a lonesome tree; a lonesome hill) (to sit beneath a lonesome tree) (Keats) (the ambitious Aaron Burr, who played a lone hand against the field—Parrington) (constitutes the lone industry of the community—Amer. Guide Series: Vt.) Something solitary (see also ALONE) stands by itself, either as the sole instance or as a unique thing (her world was the Church, in which she hoped that her solitary child would some day be a polished pillar—Buchan) (began to eat again fiercely, like a great strong animal, tackling the solitary meal of its day—O'Flaherty) Something separate (see also DISTINCT 1) is not only single, but disconnected from or unconnected with any of the others in question (turning over in his thoughts every separate second of their hours together—Wharton) (group consciousness . . . makes the individual think lightly of his own separate interests—Cohen) Something particular (see also SPECIAL; CIRCUMSTANTIAL; NICE 1) is the single or numerically distinct instance, member, or example of the whole or the class considered or under consideration (a special provision for a known and particular territory—Taney) (Richard . . . replied that he had an engagement at a particular hour, up to which he was her servant—Meredith) (reality is a succession of concrete and particular situations—Huxley) Ana individual, particular, *special, especial, specific Ant accompanied: supported: conjugal single vb prefer, *choose, select, elect, opt, pick, cull Ana *take, seize, grasp: grab: accept, *receive, admit: *decide, determine, settle singular *strange, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, outlandish, curious Ana *different, diverse, divergent, disparate: *exceptional: *abnormal, atypical, aberrant Con ordinary, *common, familiar: *usual, customary, habitual sinister, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient all mean seriously threatening, portending, or promising evil or disaster, usually imminent or already initiated evil or disaster. Sinister is the most commonly employed of these words and the widest in its range of reference. It may be applied not only to something perceptible (a sinister cloud) (a sinister look) but to something imperceptible (a sinister influence) (a sinister intention) In either case sinister often expresses a judgment based on experience or on an interpretation of outward signs and implies on the part of the observer a resulting fear or apprehension of approaching evil or of lurking dangers; thus, a cloud is describable as sinister when it has the color, shape, or general character of one that the observer believes to precede a tornado; a person's influence may be interpreted as sinister when it is judged in the light of some of its visible effects (she was about half a mile from her residence when she beheld a sinister redness arising from a ravine a little way in advance—Hardy) (some of the customers did look sinister enough—scar-faced thugs in rugged caps—Wouk) (I did not wish him to know that I had suspected him of harboring any sinister designs—Hudson) Sinister is also applied to something that works or operates so covertly, insidiously, or obliquely that it is likely to find those whose well-being it threatens off guard (a sinister disease) (a sinister policy) (the sinister power exercised . . . by the combination in keeping rivals out of the business and ruining those who already were in—Justice Holmes) Baleful carries an even stronger suggestion of menace than sinister for it implies inevitable suffering, misery, or destruction; often it imputes perverseness, noxiousness, or hellishness to the thing so described. It is applicable to something that works openly and without indirection (this dread power . . . can be made a giant help to humanity; but science does not know us how to prevent its baleful use—Baruch) as well as to something that works occultly or obliquely (deceit contrived by art and baleful sorcery—Shak) (culling their potent herbs and baleful drugs—Milton) (the baleful power of fanaticisms and superstitions—Edmund Wilson) (the baleful horoscope of Abdallah had predicted the downfall of Granada—Prescott) Malign (see also MALICIOUS) carries over from its earliest sense a suggestion of an inherently evil or harmful tendency or disposition, even though the term in this sense is characteristically applied to immaterial things (as appearances, aspects, forces, or influences) rather than to persons (the eyes were no longer merely luminous points; they looked into his own with a meaning, a malign significance—Bierce) (believe that lions will only kill humans under a malign human influence—Wyatt) It also carries connotations (as of boding evil or disaster) derived from its reference in astrology to the aspects or the influences of the stars (a struggle between two forces, the one beneficent, the other malign—Bryce) (the spirit of competition, which, according to Rousseau, was one of the earliest of the malign fruits of awakening intelligence—Grandgent) (dense masses of smoke hung amid the darting snakes of fire, and a red malign light was on the neighboring leafage—Meredith) and occasionally suggests a force or power contributory to boded disaster (the prickly topic of symbolism, with its malign power to set the wise by the ears—Montague) Malefic and maleficient carry a stronger suggestion of balefulness than does malign, for both regularly imply not only a tendency toward but an active force productive of evil or disaster; thus, a malign influence bodes disaster; a malefic or maleficient influence is putting the threat of disaster into effect (the malefic arts of sorcery, witchcraft, and diabolism) (conjurations for the expulsion of malefic demons—Norman Douglas) (Saturn . . . represents malefic force. Cold, hostile, merciless . . . he blights all that he gazes on—Evangeline Adams) (like everything that has outlived its usefulness nationalism has changed from a beneficent influence into a maleficient force—C. K. Street) (at times his maleficent power burst open the peak, sent fire through the jagged holes, and destroyed villages—Dickens) Ana *ominous, portentous, fateful, unpropitious, ill-fated, auspicious: *secret, covert, furtive, underhand, under-
handed: *malicious, malignant, malevolent, spiteful

sink vb *fall, slump, subside

Ana *droop, sag, yield; submerge, immerse, *dip: ebb, abate, wane: disappear, *vanish

sinuous *winding, flexuous, serpentine, tortuous

Ana circuitous, roundabout, *indirect: *crooked, devious

sire vb beget, get, procreate, *generate, engender, breed, propagate, reproduce

site n *place, position, location, situation, spot, station

Ana *area, tract, region, zone: *field, territory, province: section, sector (see PART): *locality, district

situation 1 *place, position, location, site, spot, station

Ana *area, race, tract, zone: section, sector (see PART): *locality, district, vicinity, neighborhood

2 *state, condition, mode, posture, status

Ana * juncture, pass, crisis, exigency, emergency: *predicament, plight, quandary, dilemma: case, *instance

size n Size, dimensions, area, extent, magnitude, volume are here compared primarily as terms meaning the amount of space occupied or sometimes of time or energy used by a thing and determinable by measuring. Size usually refers to things having length, width, and depth or height; it need not imply accurate mathematical measurements but may suggest a mere estimate of these. The size of this box is 10 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 5 inches deep. Are these not the right size? What is the size of the room? That exceptional mushroom, skull-like in its proportions and bold in size—Muller Size is also referable to things which cannot be measured in themselves, but can be computed in terms of the number of individuals which comprise them or the amount of space occupied by those individuals. The mere complexity and size of a modern state is against the identification of the man with the citizen—Dickinson Since dimension means measurement in a single direction (as the line of length, or breadth, or depth) the plural dimensions, used collectively, is a close synonym of size: in contrast, however, it usually implies accurate measurements that are known or specified: (the window frames must be exactly alike in dimensions) (the dimensions of the universe are not calculable) (the dimensions of the lot are 75 by 100 feet) (no reliable calipers exist long enough to stretch into the next century and measure the dimensions of greatness—Fadiman Area is referable only to things measurable in the two dimensions length and breadth. It is used of plane figures or of plane surfaces (as the ground, a floor, or an arena) and is computed in square measure: (the estate is 200 acres in area) (the forest fire covered an area of ten square miles) (the area of a rectangle is computed by multiplying its length by its breadth) (the major areas of the world are in the throes of revolutionary social change—Geismar) Extent is referable chiefly to things that are measured in one dimension; it may be the length or the breadth, but it is usually thought of as the length: (the driveway's extent is 100 feet) (the wings of the airplane are 75 feet in extent) However it is often used as though it were the equivalent of area (the base of St. Katherine's Dock House is vast in extent and confusing in its plan—Conrad) (the reports . . . constantly express amazement at the extent and severity of Russian attacks and counterattacks—Shirer) The word is also referable to measured time or to space measured in terms of time; thus, the duration of a thing is the extent of its existence (few lives reach the extent of one hundred years) (Germany was . . . a nine days' march from north to south, and of incalculable extent from west to east—Buchan) Magnitude, largely a mathematical and technical term, may be used in reference to size or two-dimensional extent (a queer little isolated point in time, with no magnitude, but only position—Rose Macaulay) It may be used also in reference to something measurable whose exact quantity, extent, or degree may be expressed in mathematical figures; thus, the magnitude of a star is indicated by a number that expresses its relative brightness (an alpha particle bearing a positive charge equal in magnitude to twice the electron charge—Darrow) (the magnitude of the structure as a whole and the massive nature of its details are never obtrusive—O. S. Nock) Volume (see also bulk) is also a technical term; it is used in reference to something that can be measured or considered in terms of cubic measurements; thus, the volume of a solid cylinder is equal to the cubic measure of air it displaces, and that of a hollow one, to the cubic measure of its capacity; two objects that are equal in volume may differ greatly in weight; when a thing expands, it increases in volume (we could readily store a million times as many stars in the present volume of the system—B. J. Bok) (you may say that the waves . . . are not like real waves; but they move, they have force and volume—Binyon) Ana amplitude, *expanse, spread, stretch: *bulk, mass, volume

skedaddle *scuttle, scurry, scamper, sprint

Ana flee, fly, *escape, decamp: retreat, *recede: withdraw, retire (see go)

skeleton *structure, anatomy, framework

skepticism *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, mistrust

sketch n 1 outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, plot, blueprint (see under sketch vb)

Ana design, plot, *plan, scheme, project: *chart, map 2 précis, aperçu, *compendium, syllabus, digest, pance, survey

sketch vb Sketch, outline, diagram, delineate, draft, trace, plot, blueprint are comparable when they mean to present or to represent something by or as if by drawing its lines or its features. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, plot, blueprint. Sketch may imply a drawing, a painting, a model, or a verbal presentation (as in a description or exposition) of the main lines, features, or points with the result that a clear, often a vivid, but not a detailed impression or conception of the whole is given (then, in a calm historian's tone, he proceeded to sketch . . . some pictures of the corruption which was rife abroad—Joyce) (this lecture is a humble attempt to sketch out a metaphysics of natural science—Inge) (a sculptor's sketch of his design for a memorial) (in some of Miss Jewett's earlier books . . . one can find first sketches, first impressions, which later crystallized into almost flawless examples of literary art—Cather) Outline (compare outline n 1) differs from sketch in suggesting emphasis upon the contours of a thing that is represented or the main points of a thing expounded and in implying more or less inattention to the details which fill up, amplify, or particularize; the term therefore usually implies a more rigid selection and greater economy in treatment and less consideration for qualities which give pleasure than sketch implies and, often, suggests a presentation of a thing as a simplified whole (outlining a plan for a future investigation—Conant) (the detailed study of history should be supplemented by brilliant outlines, even if they contained questionable generalizations—Russell) (the gist of the books was preserved in a series of small outlines—Southern) Diagram implies presentation by means of a graphic design (as a mechanical drawing, a pattern showing arrangement and distribution of parts,
or a chart, map, or graph) of something which requires explanation rather than representation or portrayal.

Diagram the nervous system

He diagrammed his route on the table—Cather

Spread out on the table a number of maps and aerial photographs that diagrammed what the Authority is up to—Robert Rice

There was little or no desire to amend the comprehensive diagram of... constitutional theory—Times Lit. Sup.

Delineate and delineation come close to describe and description and depict and depiction. Though they carry a strong implication of drawing a thing so as to show its lines or features with great distinctness, they tend to stress amplifying details and therefore often imply greater fullness or richness in treatment than the preceding words (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials. He could delineate whatever he elected with technical skill—Jefferies)

The culture of beauty and the delineation of ugliness are not in natural opposition—Pound

He had a capacity for delineating emotions he had never felt—Edman

Draft, especially as a verb, implies accurate drawing to scale, especially of an architect's plan for a building to be constructed or of a design (as for a ship, a machine, or an engine) (young architects usually spend their first years in drafting plans rather than in designing buildings)

The term may apply to the drawing up of a preliminary statement which when corrected, polished, and copied will serve as a final statement

Draft me a proper letter to send him—Shaw

I have three or four drafts of each essay or chapter that I have written, and... all of them run to about twice the length of the finished piece—Geismar

The legislature did pass a measure... yet the controls were suggested—some insist drafted—by the industry itself—Armbrister

Trace and tracing in their perhaps most common use refer to redrawing an existing design by following its lines as seen through a superimposed transparent sheet, but they can also apply when a precise and detailed pattern is to be formed by or as if by drawing. The terms are more likely to suggest accuracy in or as if in following or sometimes shakiness resulting from or as if from following a continuous line than they are to imply anything about the qualities of what is to be traced

Trace an outline to be colored with crayons

Make a tracing of a diagram

Continuous blood pressure tracings have been recorded—Armstrong

Time was tracing purple reminders on his nose and cheeks—Costain

Kurler swore, a palsied, tottering sound, and traced his name, a shaking, wandering line—Lowell

With my eyes I traced the line of the horizon, thin and fine, straight and... till I was back to where I'd started from—Millay

His fumbling brain had traced the braille of an enduring and bitter truth—Hervey

Plot is often used in place of diagram or draft or, less often, sketch when a map, chart, or graph rather than a design is implied; distinctively it throws emphasis upon the indicating of specific locations (as points, areas, sections, or objectives) so that their relation to each other or the whole is clear; thus, one who diagrammatically represents the condition of business during a given year by means of a graph is said to plot a graph or... the course of a hurricane

Plot... the exact position of the ship—Heaton

Blueprint, from its common application to a photograph in white lines on blue paper of a draftsman's mechanical drawing or of an architect's plan, in extended use implies precise and detailed sketching or delineation; it suggests not the act of drawing or drawing up but the effect produced by what is drawn or drawn up (people engaged in the amusing and innocuous pastime of blueprinting a new social order—The Commonweal)

The political leaders of the two countries are guided by the same political blueprints—Bevan

Ana design, plot, plan, scheme, project (see under PLAN n): chart, map, graph (see under CHART n)

Skewbald *variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, dappled, freaked

Skid vb *slide, slip, glide, glissade, slither, coast, toboggan

Skill *art, cunning, craft, artifice

Ana proficiency, adeptness, expertise (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT): efficiency, effectiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EFFECTIVE): *readiness, facility, dexterity, ease

Skilled *proficient, adept, expert, masterly

Ana apt, ready, *quick, prompt: practiced, exercised, drilled (see PRACTICE vb): competent, qualified, *able, capable

Ant unskilled

Skillful *proficient, adept, expert, skilled, masterly

Ana dexterous, adroit, deft: efficient, *effective: *conversant, versed

Ant unskilled

Con awkward, clumsy, inept, mala- droit, gauche

Skin 1 float, *fly, dart, scud, shoot, sail

2 *brush, graze, glance, shave

Ana *slide, glide, slip, slither: float, scud, shoot, sail, dart. *fly: *flit, hover

Skinny scrumpy, exiguous, *meager, scanty, scant, spare, sparse

Skin n Skin, hide, pelt, rind, bark, peel can all denote an outer removable coat which adheres to and protects the inner tissues of a body or organism. Skin, the most general term, applies especially to the outer covering of animals, whether it is as delicate as the one which covers the human body or as tough as the one which covers a rhinoceros; it is used also of the outer coverings of various fruits, plants, and seeds especially when they are thin and tight (the skin of an apple) (the skin of an almond)

Skin applies to this integument whether it covers the living organism or has been stripped from it. Hide applies to the tough skin of large animals (as the rhinoceros or the horse); in commercial use it is applied specifically to the raw or undressed skins of cattle, horses, and other large animals, sometimes in distinction from those of calves, sheep, and goats, which are commonly described merely as skins. Pelt is applied chiefly to the skin of an animal that is covered with hair, fur, or wool; in commerce it usually denotes an undressed skin of any of these animals and especially of a furred animal. It is applied also to the skin of a sheep or goat stripped of wool or hair and ready for tanning. Rind applies chiefly to the thick, tough, and often inelastic outer layer which covers certain fruits (as oranges and melons) or the stems and roots of some woody perennial plants (then usually called bark).

The hardened skin on smoked meats (as bacon) and the hardened crust of molded cheeses are also called rinds. A skin or rind of a fruit or a portion of it that is or may be stripped free is called peel (slip on a banana peel) (can- sied orange peel)

Skin vb Skin, decorticate, peel, pare, flay can mean to strip something of its skin or thin outer covering. Skin is the most general of these terms, being applicable to any animal as well as to any plant or plant part that is covered by or as if by a skin (skin calves slaughtered for the market) (do not skin, but wash the eggplants in iced water—Dione Lucas) (skin the bark off a birch tree)

Decorticate is applicable when an outer layer (as of bark, fiber, or husk) is to be removed by stripping (obviated the necessity of fully decorticating the canna stalks—Edward Samuel) (the decorticated seeds are crushed and pressed—Riegel)

Peel and pare are fre-
quently interchanged but distinctively peel may imply that the skin or outer covering can be removed by stripping or by pulling off while pare tends to be used when it requires to be cut off, usually with some of the adjoining substance; thus, freshly boiled potatoes can be easily peeled, but uncooked ones must be either scraped or pared; one speaks usually of peeling an orange because its rind may be stripped by the hand; one speaks usually of paring an apple since the skin is not easily detached from the flesh; one peels a hard-boiled egg. But pare may also be used of anything that is cut close and so is applicable to many things which do not have a skin or rind

Flay tends to be applied largely to persons often in threats or in descriptions of torture or of cruel punishment (as scourging) he said he would flay the man alive if he again caught him prowling around they killed and flayed a number of slaves and captives—Coon a campaign pledge to ban the medieval practice of flaying unruley convicts—Time the son and his mother flay one another with their words—Fowlie

**skinny** scrawny, rawboned, angular, gaunt, lank, lanky, lean, spare Ant: fleshy

**skip** vb Skip, bound, hop, curvet, lope, lollipop, ricochet can all mean to move or advance with successive springs or leaps. The first three words are commonly referable to persons or animals but they may be used in reference to inanimate things. Skip suggests quick, light, graceful movement and a continuous alternation of touching a surface and springing clear of it; often also when referred to living creatures it denotes suppleness or excess of animal spirits wanton as a child, skipping—Shak. small yachts skipped here and there—Villiers Bound (see also JUMP) implies longer and more vigorous springs than skip and carries a stronger suggestion of elasticity and buoyancy of spirit like a roe I bounded o'er the mountains—Wordsworth I saw her bounding down the rocky slope like some wild, agile creature—Hudson (the ball struck the earth and bounded across the field)

**hop** suggests a less flowing or springy movement than the two preceding words; at times it connotes jerkiness and lack of dignity in movement. It implies a succession of small quick leaps (as of birds, toads, or grasshoppers) he does not walk, he hops and in reference to children he does not waltz, he skips. Hop suggests the tendency of a mountain goat or the man who progresses at an uneven pace, hopping forward almost recklessly for many yards... formerly interchanged but distinctively peel may imply that the skin or outer covering can be removed by stripping or by pulling off while pare tends to be used when it requires to be cut off, usually with some of the adjoining substance; thus, freshly boiled potatoes can be easily peeled, but uncooked ones must be either scraped or pared; one speaks usually of peeling an orange because its rind may be stripped by the hand; one speaks usually of paring an apple since the skin is not easily detached from the flesh; one peels a hard-boiled egg. But pare may also be used of anything that is cut close and so is applicable to many things which do not have a skin or rind

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eslatternly, slash, slit, *cut, hew, chop, carve
slap
slant

woman, clad in old dress and apron—<Coutts>

overcrowded one, there is no meaning in words

Ana contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1

attitude, *position, stand: bias, prejudice, *predi-
tion of a definite directing of the inclination by a human
agent or by some shaping or molding force <the old man

leaning the mast . . . against the wall—<Hemingway>

<olive trees leaning from the hillsides, twisted by the
sun—<Davenport>

<without looking up at him she leaned

herself towards him—<Marsh> or of a resting or an intent

<rest either literally or figuratively against a support >both

items lean heavily on nostalgia, both bring happy memories

of an era unfortunately ended—<Cerf> <the others treated

me gently, fearing to be classed as Bolshevists by

association. Naturally, I leaned toward those who leaned
towards me—<Dent>

Ana veer, *swerve, deviate, diverge

slant n *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, angle
Ana attitude, *position, stand: bias, prejudice, *predi-

servation, slit, *cut, hew, chop, carve
Ana rive, rend, cleave, split (see TEAR): penetrate, pierce,

<enter

slovenliness, especially in dress

sleek, slick, glossy, velvety, silken, silky, satiny are com-
parable when they mean having a smooth bright surface

or appearance. Sleek and slick are sometimes interchange-
able with this meaning <dark slick leaves—<Langley> <the
sleek blue plums—<Wylie> but more often sleek connotes

a smoothness or brightness that is the result of close at-
tention or is an indication, especially when the reference

is to a person or animal, of being in excellent physical

condition <let me have men about me that are fat: sleek-
headed men and such as sleep o' nights—<Shak.> <a beau-
tiful panther . . . so bright of eye, so sleek of coat—
<Thackeray> <the metal felt sleek and warm to his touch
—<Cloete> <a child's mind thrills at the touch of fur be-
cause it is sleek—<Montague> and it may also suggest a

smoothness of finish resulting from overattention to or

overrefinement in dress and appearance <curse me the
sleek lords with their plumes and spurs—<Lindsay> some-
thing sleek about him, something that suggested a well-bred
dog—<Anderson> <the poise, assurance, and sophistication

of all these sleek faces—<Wolfe>
Slick, by contrast, is more likely to apply when the intent is to suggest

such an extreme of smoothness as to provide an unsafe or slip-
pery surface <the grass was sleek from the night's dew,

and the men slipped frequently—<Mailer>
In extended use slick is less likely than sleek to suggest desirable

qualities and often carries more than a hint of contempt

<as much a snob surfaced commercial product as a
serious piece of literary art—<Gurko> <new hotels . . . so
sleek and shiny—<Basso> <everything was to be sleek,

which was Marvin's term of approbation; but not too

sleek, which was his abomination—<Mary Austin>

Glossy implies a surface that is exceedingly smooth and shining,

whether by nature or by art <the glossy leaves of the

beech tree> <downy peaches and the glossy plum—
<Dryden> <glossy as black rocks on a sunny day case in
ice—<Dorothea Wordsworth>
Velvety implies the extreme

softness associated with the surface or appearance of

velvet. The word is often used of things as they appeal
to the sense of touch or of sight or of both <a velvety

skin> <a velvety flower> <a land of velvety meadows

and lush gardens—<Mumford> <the velvety flanks of the
cattle—<Glasgow> but it is also applicable to sounds that

carest the ear or to tastes or odors that are delightfully

bland <even her high notes are velvety> <the boy reading

in his queer, velvety bass voice—<Galsworthy>
Silken implies the smoothness and luster as well as the softness

of silk <silken hair> <to what green altar . . . lead'st thou

that heifer lowing at the skies, and all her silken flanks

with garlands dressed—<Keats> <the lazy movement of

their bodies beneath their silken doekskins—<O'Meara>

The term is used in reference both to things that appeal
to other senses than those of touch or sight and to imma-

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
terial things that are softly soothing and pleasant to the spirit or mind (a silken voice) (the silken sonority of the strings—Virgil Thomson) (silken words) Silky is sometimes used in place of silken (fingers, silky and soft—Watts-Dunton) (blue, silky October days—Glover) (his eyes between his silky lashes gone soft—Boyle) but when the reference is to persons or their voices, manners, or productions it, more often than silken, suggests an ingratiating or a specious quality (put his talent for writing silky satire to most profitable utilitarian uses—Derwent May) (Tchaikovsky's Meditation was no silky simper of tone, but something that glowed inside—Cassidy) (there have been many able varmints since, but none quite as silky or loathsome—Perelman) Satiny applies to what is not only soft but smooth and shining (the satiny petals of a flower) (beautiful women with satiny backs were moving through the crowd—Wolfe) Ana *bright, lustrous, brillianit: smooth, even (see LEVEL)

sleep vb Sleep, slumber, drowse, doze, nap, catnap, snooze mean to take rest by a suspension of consciousness. Sleep, the usual term, implies ordinarily the periodical repose of this sort in which men and animals recuperate their powers after activity, but it may indeed such repose indulged in temporarily or at odd times (the young baby sleeps most of the time) (he sleeps fitfully) (they slept soundly all night) (he slept away his fatigue) (sleep off the effects of an opiate) (doped to make him sleep away the hours of travel—Ervine) Sleep can also refer to a condition (as dormancy, indolence, or death) felt to that sweet sleep which thou owdest yesterday—Shak.) (drowsy tinkleings lull the distant folds—Gray) (the leisurely swishing of the water to leeward was like a drowsy comment on her progress—Conrad) Somnolent may be in place of drowsy; usually, however, it connotes the sluggishness or inertness characteristic of one who is sleepy or drowsy or the capacity for inducing such rather than the actual impulse to sleep or doze (a somnolent want of interest—De Quincey) (Eustacia waited, her somnolent manner covering her inner heat and agitation—Hardy) (the somnolent pages of a three-volume novel) Slumberous is often used in the sense of sleep or drowsy or somnolent; occasionally it carries a distinctive connotation in which it usually suggests quiescence or the repose of latent powers (I . . . heard the mountain's slumberous voice—Shelley) (Eustacia's manner was as a rule of a slumberous sort, her passions being of the massive rather than the vivacious kind—Hardy) Ana *lethargic, sluggish, comatose

slender *thin, slim, slight, tenuous, rare Ana *lean, spare, lanky, skinny: flimsy, flaccid, flabby, *limp: trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry, puny

slide vb Slide, slip, glide, doze, nap, catnap, snooze: moving with reference to things which pass rapidly (the fool slides down banisters) (the fool slides o'er the ice that you should break—Shak.) (when it's quiet you can slide in there in a skiff—Gardner) but also, especially in extended use, with reference to things which pass rapidly A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
before one because of one's own swift and easy motion
<br>if house after house slid by as we neared the city—or
<br>which move easily, unobtrusively, or gradually from one
<br>place or condition to another <prose that slides into
<br>poetry> <shadows slid along the huge wooden tables—
<br>Sinclair Lewis> <slide one's hand into another's pocket>
<br>it was inevitable that existentialism should slide out of
<br>men's minds—Cousins> Slide carries a stronger impli-
<br>cation than of a frictionless and unobstructed sur-
<br>face but a weaker suggestion of continued contact; it
<br>typically suggests involuntary rather than voluntary slide,
<br>often, definitely implying a loss of footing and a fall
<br>slip on the ice) he had hurt his elbow through dropping
<br>his stick and slipping downstairs—Bennett> <half-slipped,
<br>half-slid down toward the wide level ribbon that marked
<br>the frozen Schuykill—Mason> When only swift, easy
<br>motion is implied, slide heightens the emphasis upon quiet-
<br>ness, stealth, or skillfulness <while we were talking, he
<br>slipped from the house> Things ad rated to slip that pass
<br>quickly or without notice (as from one's grasp, one's con-
<br>trol, one's memory, or one's observation) <the book
<br>slipped from her feeble hands> the details have slipped
<br>from his mind) it leaves us without our being aware that it
<br>is slipping away—J. M. Brown> A father can't make
<br>offhand remarks to a 4-year-old and have them
gently slip into oblivion—McNulty> or as a result of one's
<br>negligence or inattention <the bus slipped by while they
<br>were engaged in conversation> <the tool slipped and
<br>cut his hand> he slips into occasional inaccuracies—
<br>Anthony Boucher> Glide comes closer to slide than to
<br>slip in its stress upon such continued smooth, easy,
<br>usually silent motion as is characteristic of some dances,
<br>but it may or may not imply unintermittent contact with
<br>a surface and, apart from its context, it seldom carries
<br>any suggestion of danger they glide, like phantoms,
<br>into the wide hall—Keats> (even the swallows, the rest-
<br>less swallows, glided in an effortless way through the
<br>busy air—Jefferyes> <two monsterlike cameras on trucks
<br>that glided backwards and forwards—Edmund Wilson>
<br>I glide over these interesting items to dwell at some
<br>length on two men, now dead—Henry Miller> Often,
<br>like slide and, to a lesser extent, slip, glide is used in
<br>reference to things that apparently move because the
<br>observer is moving <the landmark marks have failed, the
<br>fogbank glides unguessed—Kipling> <soft fell the splash
<br>of the oars . . . softly the banks glided by—Meredith>
<br>Skid is employed especially in regard to wheeled vehicles
<br>the tires of which on an icy, wet, or dusty road fail to
<br>grip the roadway, thereby causing the wheels to slide
<br>without rotating and the vehicle to go out of control <the
<br>car skidded on the icy patch and ran into a telegraph
<br>pole> In extended use skid, like slip, usually implies a
<br>element of danger or recklessness or a lack of complete
<br>control or grasp <he ran fast, occasionally skidding on
<br>an icy patch, but always quickly recovering his balance>
<br>A jet plane . . . crashed into a house in northwest Kansas
<br>City, skidded across a street and plowed into another
<br>home—Wall Street Jour.> <his timid, tired voice skidding
<br>into a hoarse whisper—Capote> Glissade, basically a
<br>mountainbearing term implying a long slide down a snow-
<br>covered slope, carries the major implications of both
<br>slide and glide but stresses skillful technique and control
<br>the danger of glissading, for inexperienced persons, is
<br>that they may glissade in the wrong place—Conway>
<br>Wilkins and I glissaded down the long snow slopes, and
<br>our porters . . . came sliding and tumbling after—Hillary>
<br>In extended reference to things glissade tends to lose its
<br>implication of skill and differs little from slide, slip, or glide
<br>rock fragments are streaming or glissading down from
<br>above—C. A. Cotton> you will really feel the buoyancy
<br>of the craft as it glissades over the Atlantic swell—The
<br>Motor> Slither typically implies a sliding down or along
<br>a rocky, pebbly, or other rough surface with noise and
<br>clatter <the rest [of the tile] bounced on the roof and then
<br>slithered down it and off it—Masefield> <the African
<br>Queen was slithering and grating over the mud and the
<br>tree roots—Forester> or it may suggest a gliding, sliding,
<br>sometimes undulating motion suggestive of a snake's
<br>movement <crawling through walls and slithering along
<br>the ground—de Kruif> <a crocodile slithering down a
<br>sandbank into a stream—Moorehead> <a muffled slithering
<br>sound which he knew could be made only by men
<br>moving through a thin patch of jungle—Maier> Both
<br>coast and toboggan basically imply a downward move-
<br>ment (as of a sled or toboggan) on a smooth or slippery
<br>course under the influence of gravity and thereby come
<br>close to slide and glide <coasted his car down the long
<br>hill—the village> <as Boylston Place ran downhill, it
<br>afforded in winter an irresistible chance for coasting, that
<br>is, for tobogganing with single or even with double or
<br>longer sleds—Santayana> But they differ in their ex-
<br>tended use, for coast usually stresses movement in the
<br>absence of continuously applied force (as of momentum
<br>or gravity) to coast from Earth to the moon . . . we must
<br>achieve a velocity of 25,000 mph—A. C. Clarke> <swal-
<br>lows were coasting in and out the smashed mill roof—
<br>Barlett> and often suggests an easy drifting <the country
<br>seems in a mood to coast along—U. S. News and World
<br>Report> while toboggan is likely to stress a building up
<br>of momentum and a resulting wild speed in a usually un-
<br>controllable downward movement <three depth charges,
<br>each weighing 400 pounds, broke loose and tobogged
<br>wildly on the main deck—Bigart> could it be possible
<br>that man, who fondly called himself Homo sapiens, was
<br>tobogganing into another self-destructive war while the
<br>wounds of the last were still throbbing—Pinckney> <the
<br>Chinese dollar, which, amid all the speculating, had been
<br>tobogganing steadily—Vanya Oakes>
negligence or carelessness. Slipshod implies an easygoing tolerance of details that are inaccurate, incongruous, or lacking in precision, or careless indifference to the niceties of technique or to qualities that make for perfection (as thoroughness, soundness, and fastidiousness) (a slipshod style) (a slipshod piece of carpentry) (a slipshod performance of a symphony) (was at first a slipshod observer . . . he had a positive distaste for exactitude—Peattie) (had the conscientious craftsman's contempt for slipshod work—Spaeth) Slowly, a stronger term than slipshod, implies laziness and disorderliness which is evident throughout and is not merely a matter of detail. The term may be used of a person or his appearance and imply diametrical opposition to neat or tidy (a slovenly housekeeper) (this person showed marks of habitual neglect; his dress was slovenly—George Eliot) (the beatnik is slovenly—to strike a pose against the middle class you must soil their compulsion to be neat—Mailer) or it may be applied to processes, technique, or workmanship without significant change in value (slovenly thinking) (the slovenly manner in which the dinner was served—Conrad) (a tendency to think that a fine idea excuses slovenly workmanship—Lowell) Unkempt is applied usually to something that requires to be kept in order if a favorable impression is to be produced. It implies extreme negligence amounting to neglect (unkempt hair) (an unkempt garden) (add to this unkempt, untended, this grammatically anachronical Russian tongue the jargon of German Marxism: no simile can cope with the situation—Edmund Wilson) (most of the shops . . . had become petticofigging little holes, unkempt, shabby, poor—Bennett) Disheveled is more likely to describe a temporary state of ruffled disorder or disarray following intense effort (as in doing something or coping with some emergency) (she hoped she appeared calm. She was conscious of a disheveled appearance—Hervey) or in extended application a lack of normal planned orderliness (as of concept or development) (a disheveled movie that charges futilely about—McCarten) Sloppy implies a general effect of looseness and of spilling over. When applied to a person or his appearance it usually suggests loose, ill-fitting, unpressed garments, but it often also carries connotations of slovenliness (his sloppy appearance at breakfast offended her) (her hair was thin and tied in a sloppy knot at the back of her not too clean neck—Metalious) When applied to ideas or their expression, style, or manners or to a work or its workmanship, the word usually suggests a lack of control and precision or of confinement within proper limits, manifested in incoherency, emotional excess, or formlessness (it is a sloppy bit of reporting, poorly organized, loaded with pointless personal details—Sugree) Ana *negligent, neglectful, slack, lax, remiss: *careless, heedless, inadvertent: *indifferent, unconcerned: *slatternly, dowdy, frowzy, blowzy Con *precise, accurate, exact, *correct: fastidious, finicky, *nice slit vb slash, *cut, hew, chop, carve slither *slide, slip, glide, skid, glissade, coast, toboggan slog *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, swath, clout, slap, cuff, box slogan *catchword, byword, shibboleth Ana *phrase, expression, locution, idiom slope vb *slant, incline, lean sloppy slovenly, unkempt, disheveled, *slipshod Ana *negligent, neglectful, slack, remiss, lax: mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy (see SENTIMENTAL): *slatternly, dowdy, frowzy, blowzy Con *careful, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious: fastidious, finicky, *nice slothful indolent, faineant, *lazy Ana *inactive, inert, supine, passive, idle: slack, remiss, lax, *negligent, neglectful: *slow, leisurely, deliberate, dilatory, laggard slow adj 1 *stupid, dull, dense, crass, dumb 2 Slow, dilatory, laggard, deliberate, leisurely can apply to persons, their movements, or their actions, and mean taking a longer time than is necessary, usual, or sometimes, desirable. Slow (see also STUPID), the term that is the widest in its range of application, may also be used in reference to a thing (as a mechanism, a process, or a drug) that is the opposite of quick or fast in its motion, its performance, or its operation. In its varying applications slow often suggests a reprehensible or discreditable cause (as stupidity, lassitude, indolence, or inaction) (a slow student) (slow wits) (slow movements) (he is as slow as a snail) (slow in getting results) (an unimaginative man, slow of comprehension—Times Lit. Sup.) but it may suggest either extreme care or caution (a slow but capable worker) (slow to take offense) (he is slow making changes) (he spoke with a slow, slightly thick precision, making elegant gestures—Wouk) or a tempo that is required by nature, art, or a plan or schedule (a slow convalescence) (a slow stream) (a slow movement in music) (a slow train) or a falling behind because of structural or mechanical defects or untoward difficulties (a slow watch) (the train is slow tonight because of the snowstorm) Dilatory is relatively a term of restricted application referable to persons or to things for which persons are responsible as their actors, performers, or creators and implying slowness that is the result of inattention, procrastination, or indifference (a dilatory correspondent) (though dilatory in undertaking business, he was quick in its execution—Austen) (he was temporizing, making, with unconscious prudence, a dilatory opposition to an impending catastrophe—Bierce) Laggard is even more censorious a term than dilatory, for it implies a failure to observe a schedule (as for arriving or performing) or to obey a call or demand promptly; it frequently suggests loitering or waste of time (a laggard pupils keep a whole class back) (for Love was laggard, O. Love was slow to come—Millyard) (in its coverage of spot news events, radio has been especially laggard—Rover) (directed him and another general to . . . prod laggard manufacturers into speeding up production—Kahn) Deliberate (see also DELIBERATE 2) applies to persons, usually directly but sometimes indirectly, and then is applied to things for which a person is responsible; the term suggests absence of hurry or agitation and a slowness that is the result of care, forethought, calculation, or self-restraint (deliberate enunciation) (deliberate movements) (he returned with the same easy, deliberate tread—Cather) (she ate her food in the deliberate, constrained way, almost as if she recoiled a little from doing anything so publicly—D. H. Lawrence) Leisurely also implies a lack of hurry or a slowness that suggests that there is no pressure for time; the term applies not only to persons and their acts but to things that have no relation to persons (breakfast was a leisurely meal—Archibald Marshall) (his departure, like all his movements, was leisurely. He did not take the first
available boat or the second—Waugh> (took leisurely leave, with kisses all around, of a half dozen young men—K. A. Porter)

**Ant** fast

slow vb slacken, *delay, retard, detain

**Ana** *moderate, temper, qualify: reduce, abate, *decrease, lessen

**Ant** speed —Con accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry

(see **SPEED** vb)

sluggish *lethargic, torpid, comatose


**Ant** brisk: expeditious: quick (of mind)

sluice vb *pour, stream, gush

**Ana** flood, inundate, deluge (see corresponding nouns at **FLOOD**)

slumber vb *sleep, drowse, doze, nap, catnap, snooze

**Ana** relax, rest, repose (see corresponding nouns at **REST**)

slumberous *sleepy, drowsy, somnolent

**Ana** irritable, indifferent, insensible, insensitive, insensitive (of mind)

slump vb *fall, drop, sink, subside

**Ana** *plunge, dive, pitch: sag, flag, *droop

slushy *sentimental, mushy, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy

sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily, guileful, artful are comparable when they mean having or showing a disposition to attain one's ends by devious or indirect means. Sly implies a lack of candor which shows itself in secretiveness, in suggestiveness rather than in frankness, in underhandedness, or in furtiveness or duplicity in one's dealings with others (with knowing leer and words of sly import—Irving) (because the state is hostile, writers have become sly, circumspect and disingenuous—Philip Toynbee) More often than the remaining words, sly is used with weakened force to imply a lightly arch or roguish quality (he was unpretentious, earnest, full of sly humor—Rollo Brown) Cunimg (see also CLEVER 2) stresses the use of intelligence in overreaching or circumventing; nevertheless, it often suggests sly inventiveness rather than a high-grade mentality, and a perverted sense of morality (every man wishes to be wise, and they who cannot be wise are almost always cunning—Johnson) (all gods are cruel, bitter, and to be bribed, but women-gods are mean and cunning as well—Bottomley) (the fellow's eyes were now sly and cunning as a cat's, now hard and black as basalt—Wolfe) Crafty also implies a use of intelligence but it usually suggests a higher order of mentality than cunning: that of one capable of devising stratagems and adroit in deception (he disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise—Job 5:12) (as a crafty envoy does his country's business by dint of flinting and conviviality—Montague) (crafty senior tactician for the Republicans and a man with an astonishing record of maintaining political control of his country—Michener) Tricky usually suggests unscrupulousness and chicanery in dealings with others; in general it connotes shiftiness and unreliability rather than skill in deception or in maneuvering (here was Woman, with a capital W, tricky and awful, inconsistent as the weather—Styron) (he avoided the mean and tricky: he was always an honorable foe—W. C. Ford) Foxy implies shrewdness in dodging discovery or in practicing deceptions so that one may follow one's own devices or achieve one's own ends; it usually connotes experience and is rarely applied to the young or to novices (where one was legitimate—and a foxy play—the other was a snide trick—Lieber) (this time the lecherous Alsatian uses a foxier gambit to achieve his ends—Perelman) (a foxey old man) Insidious suggests a lying in wait or a gradualness of effect or approach and applies especially to devious and carefully masked underhandedness (<an insidious tempter> (persuaded that these people . . . are all part of an insidious conspiracy to undermine the world as he knows it—Edmund Wilson) (that form of bias which is most insidious, precisely because it pretends to be unbiased—Moerby) Wily and guileful stress an attempt to ensnare or entrap; they usually imply treacherous astuteness or sagacity and a lack of scruples regarding the means to one's end (nor trust in the guileful heart and the murder-loving hand—Morris) (shun the insidious arts that Rome provides, less dreading from her frown than from her wily praise—Wordsworth) (the headmaster, wily, had not confiscated these articles; he had merely informed the parents concerned—Bennett) Artful implies insinuating or alluring indirectness of dealing; it usually also connotes sophistication or coquetry or clever designs (<being artful, she cajoled him with honey-mouthed flattery until his suspicion was quieted—John Bennett> oddly enough, they stayed sober. The artful Henry had told them that all the wine in Panama was poisoned—Chidsey) (a furtive, clandestine, stealthy, covert (see **SECRET**); devious, oblique, *crooked: astute, *shrewd

**smack** n 1 *taste, flavor, savor, tang, relish

2 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupcion, tincture, tinge, shade, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

small, little, diminutive, petite, wee, tiny, weeny, minute, microscopic, miniature can all mean conspicuously below the average in magnitude, especially physical magnitude. Small (opposed to large) and little (opposed to big, great) are often used without distinction. But small, more frequently than little, applies to things whose magnitude is determined by number, size, capacity, value, or significance (<a small attendance> (<a small boy> (<a small box> (<a small house> (<a small change> (<a small income> (<a small matter> (<a fear of life, memory of hard times, dread of small slights in the community . . . combined to keep the household temperature low—Buck) Small is also preferred when words like quantity, amount, size, and capacity are qualified (give me a small quantity of flour) (they have only a small amount of money) (the small size of the rooms was disappointing) Small also applies to intangible and immeasurable things which, however, may be said to be limited in some pertinent or significant way (he has a small mind) (her sadness at the small prospect of seeing him again—Archibald Marshall) ("I never . . . thought you could be so small about anything," said Selena, who was just angry enough to use the word small—Salinger) Little is usually more absolute in its implications than small, which often connotes less magnitude than is ordinary or is to be expected or is desirable; it may be preferred to small, therefore, when there is the intent to convey a hint of pettiness, of pettness, or of insignificance in size, amount, quantity, or extent (<take little interest in politics> (a foolish consecuity is the hobgoblin of little minds—Emerson) (the bull Bill . . . had picked out was a fierce, waspy little animal—Gipson) (she enjoyed the little violets, currants—coffee, fresh water, women—T. E. Lawrence) (this little man, whose intellectual resources were hardly more than a combination of prejudice and syntax—Sheenan) (how unsubstantial then appear our hopes and dreams, our little ambitions, our paltry joys!—Benson) Little is also appropriate in the sense of a small amount, a small quantity, or a small extent; thus, one asks for a little sugar or a small quantity of sugar; one sees that the garden is little or of small extent (<spading up a little culture along with the history—Schulberg> Little is also appropriate
when the context carries a note of tenderness, pathos, or affection <our little house> <the air turned cold ... so that the littlest kids cried from cold as much as fright—Grau> <her pathetic little smile> <sleep, my little one—Tennyson> Diminutive not only carries a stronger implication of divergence from a normal or usual size or scale than small or little, but it often carries the meaning of extremely or even abnormally small or little <the bedrooms are small but the parlor is diminutive> <in so hot a climate peach trees will produce only diminutive fruits in very small quantities> <the horses are so diminutive that they might be, with propriety, said to be Lilliputian—Cowper> <a diminutive financial wizard, who looked like a Kewpie doll—J. D. Hart> Petite is the usual term to describe a trim, well-shaped woman or girl of diminutive size <a bit incongruous that such a petite woman should write such huge tomes—Fisher> Wee is found especially in dialectal use in place of small or little <a wee lad> <a wee drop of whisky> or in more general use as an equivalent of diminutive <a little wee face, with a little yellow beard—Shak> <the one to the bachelor uncle ... was sweetly girlish, and just a wee bit arch—Gibbons> Tiny goes further than diminutive or wee in suggesting extreme lilleneess or a smallness out of proportion to most things of its kind or in comparison with all other things <they were prominent eyes yellowed with tiny red veins—Avram Davidson> <the behavior of the invisible, intangible, inconceivably tiny electrons and atoms—Darrow> <tiny, Swiss-made replicas ... about the size of a small, oblong wristwatch—Terrry Southern> Teeny and weeny, found chiefly in childish or playful use, occur also in paired or reduplicated forms (as teeny-weeny and teeny-tiny) <one day this teeny-tiny woman put on her teeny-tiny bonnet and went out of her teeny-tiny house to take a teeny-tiny walk—Fairy Tale> <he gave a weeny, weeny yawn—Wiggin> Minute means extremely small on an absolute scale, usually a microscopic or near-microscopic scale <a minute animalcule> <minute grains of sand> <ants that marched their minute columns over the floor—Hervey> <the tremendous forces imprisoned in minute particles of matter—Inge> Microscopic applies to what is so minute that it is literally observable only under a microscope <microscopic organisms> or is of a comparable minuteness in its class <no matter how microscopic his wage, he forced himself to save a dollar or two a year—Irving Stone> <the lady of the dreadnought class with a leash on the microscopic animalcule—Cross> Miniature applies to what is complete in itself but is built, drawn, or made on a very small scale <in circus parades, Tom Thumb and his menage rode together in a miniature red coach, drawn by two small ponies—Green Peyton> <it was one of the miniature Italian cities ... all compact and complete, on the top of a mountain—L. P. Smith> <we may thus picture an atom as a miniature solar system—Eddington> Ana *petty, puny, paltry, trifling, trivial Ant large —Con big, great (see LARGE): vast, *huge, immense, enormous smaller *less, lesser, fewer small-town *insular, provincial, parochial, local Ana narrow, narrow-minded, *illiberal, intolerant, hide-bound, bigoted: circumscribed, limited, confined, restricted (see LIMIT vb) Ant cosmopolitan smart 1 bright, knowing, quick-witted, *intelligent, clever, alert Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: *shrewd, astute, perspicacious Ant dull (of mind) 2 modish, fashionable, *stylish, chic, dressing Ana elegant, exquisite (see CHOICE adj): finished, *consummate Ant dowdy, frowzy, blowzy smash vb *crush, mash, bruise, squash, macerate Ana shatter, burst, crack, *break: *press, squeeze, crowd, jam smell, scent, odor, aroma all denote a property of a thing that makes it perceptible to the olfactory sense. Smell not only is the most general of these terms but tends to be the most colorless. It is the appropriate word when merely the sensation is indicated and no hint of its source, quality, or character is necessary <our horses ... often reared up and snorted violently at smells which we could not perceive—Landor> <the smells of these offices—the smell of dental preparations, floor oil, spittoons and coal gas—Cheever> It is also the preferred term when accompanied by explicitly qualifying words or phrases (the rank smell of weeds—Shak> <the rented coarse black gown ... gave out a musty smell, as though it had been lying long disused—Wouk) A smell of marigold and jasmine stronger even than the reek of the dust—Kipling> and occasionally, even when unqualified, it implies offensiveness <traced the smell to a stopped-up drain—Cobden was much upset when he saw the middle classes leaving the smells of the ... towns for the scents of the countryside—Lewis & Maude> Scent tends to call attention to the physical basis of the sense of smell and is particularly appropriate when the emphasis is on the emanations or exhalations from an external object which reach the olfactory receptors rather than on the impression produced in the olfactory centers of the brain <the scent of the first wood fire upon the keen October air—Pater> <if the air was void of sound, it was full of scent—Galsworthy> <the heavy scent of damp, funereal flowers—Millay> Presently a scent came with it, dank and pervasive. It was the must of the forest—Hervey but scent can apply specifically to emanations evidencing the passing of a body (as an animal) and may suggest a high level of sensory efficiency in a perceiver <the dog caught the scent of a rabbit> or from its use as a synonym of perfume the term may suggest a pleasant quality <the rich, vital scents of the plowed ground—Glasgow> Odor is oftentimes indistinguishable from scent, for it too can be thought of as something diffused and as something by means of which external objects are identified by the sense of smell. But the words are not always interchangeable, for odor usually implies abundance of effluvia and therefore does not suggest, as scent often does, the need of a delicate or highly sensitive sense of smell (the odors of the kitchen clung to her clothes)> <he smelled her perfume, a sweet pungent odor, intimately coquettish—Stryon> <gave off a kind of sweetish rich animal-vegetable odor, such as one associates with the tropics—Purdy> For these reasons odor usually implies general perceptibility and is the normal word in scientific use especially when the classification or description of types is attempted (science, while recognizing the potency of our sense of smell, has not yet satisfactorily classified and catalogued the many varieties of odors that we recognize—Morrison) Aroma usually adds to odor the implication of a penetrating, pervasive, or, sometimes, a pungent quality; it need not imply delicacy or fragrance, but it seldom connotes unpleasance, and it often suggests something to be savored, with the result that it is used of things that appeal both to the sense of smell and taste or by extension to one’s aesthetic sense <the fresh river smell, rank and a little rotten, and spiced among these odors was the sultry aroma of strong boiling coffee—Wolfe> an atmosphere, impalpable as a
perfunctory yet as real, rose above the heads of the laughing guests. It was the aroma of enjoyment and gaiety—Gibbons> the aroma of a wood fire is the significant part of a camper’s delight—Morrison>

Ana > fragrance, redolence, perfume, bouquet, incense; savor, flavor (see taste)

smidgen > particle, bit, mite, whit, atom, iota, jot, tittle

smile vb > Smile, grin, simper, smirk

vb) n

smirk

vb

simper, grin, smile (see under SMILE

smog

n

even, plane, plain, flat, *level, flush

smirch

vb

grin, simper, smirk, grin (see under SMILE

smirk

n

even, plane, plain, flat, *level, flush

smirch

vb

grin, simper, smirk, grin (see under SMILE

smite *strike, hit, punch, slug, slog, clout, slap, cuff, box

Ana > beat, pummel, buffet: *punish, discipline, correct

smog fog, mist, *haze

smooth adj 1 even, plane, plain, flat, *level, flush

Ana > sleek, slick, glossy

Ana rough —Con harsh, uneven, rugged, scabrous (see ROUGH)

2 effortless, *easy, light, simple, facile

Ana agreeable, *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, grateful; serene, tranquil, *calm, placid, peaceful

Ana labored —Con *hard, difficult, arduous

3 bland, diplomatic, politic, *suave, urbane

Ana polite, courteous, courtly (see CIVIL): oily, unctuous, slick, *folsome

Ant blunt —Con blunt, brusque, curt, gruff, crusty

(see BLUFF)

4 *soft, bland, mild, gentle, lenient, balmy

smother vb > suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, choke, strangle, throttle

smug self-complacent, self-satisfied, priggish, *complacent

Ana self-respecting, self-esteeming, self-admiring (see base words under REGARD n); pharisaical, sanctimonious, hypocritical (see under HYPOCRISY)

smuggled, bootleg, contraband are comparable in meaning transported in defiance of the law but each has implications and applications not shared with the others. Smuggled applies to what is taken out of or brought into an area (as a nation or district) clandestinely, especially to avoid payment of taxes or dues or to contravene the law (smuggled diamonds) the same route that the pirates used in taking their smuggled goods to market—Amer. Guide Series: La.) In extended use it may stress deftly elusive action or surreptitious procedure (make use of local knowledge and smuggled information to sow alarm among Communist officials—Economist) to the ordinary beholder there seem to be so many smuggled assumptions in the literature of social science—R. M. Weaver> Bootleg denotes a material thing (as liquor) made in or imported into a country or district and offered for sale or distribution in defiance of its prohibition in that country or of legal restrictions (as by rationing or licensing) on its use (bootleg whiskey) The term can imply fraud, deceit, and often secretiveness or concealment; thus, bootleg wiring is done by one who is not a legally qualified electrician and who may disregard safety requirements; bootleg prizefights are conducted without legal sanction and often with disregard of the welfare of fighters or patrons Congress arbitrarily said, “We know better than unions what is good for employees.” . . . Today several thousand employers and several million employees are operating under bootleg agreements in flagrant violation of the statute—A. E. Stevenson> Contraband applies to something of which the importation or exportation is declared illegal by law, proclamation, or treaty. Often the term is perfectly interchangeable with smuggled (waterfront resorts were notorious as smuggling centers . . . has been extremely common as a contraband cargo) cargoes were carried aboard motorboats and dories—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) or it may nearly replace bootleg (Benzedrine . . . has been extremely common as a contraband item for introduction into prisons and correctional institutions—Maurer & Vogel) but it alone is specifically applied to something of which the exportation to bellicose is expressly prohibited and which, therefore, is liable to seizure (eventually Great Britain was seizing almost everything sent to Germany and to the neutral states on Germany’s borders—Roehm et al)
Impregnate, Soak, saturate, drench, steep, sop, snare

ensnare, trap, entrap, bag, *catch, capture

drench, steep, impregnate, sop, snare

Therefore, hence, consequently, then, accordingly

curious, inquisitive, prying, nosy

snoopy

steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, swipe, cop

shear, poll, clip, trim, prune, lop, crop

scoff, jeer, gird, flout, gibe, fleer

grasp, grab, clutch, seize, *take

bark, bay, howl, growl, yelp, yap

snarl

sleep, slumber, drowse, doze, nap, catnap

trim, trig, shipshape, *neat, tidy, spick-and-span

snooze

sleep, slumber, drowse, doze, nap, catnap

*sober, temperate, continent, unimpassioned can

moan, groan, *sigh

defend, protect, shield, *parry, fortify, repel

behold, *appraise, examine, scrutinize

dine, eat, *consume

*behold, *appraise, examine, scrutinize

*pamper, fatten, nourish, feed, feed

*behold, *appraise, examine, scrutinize

*savor, relish, taste, savour

*behold, *appraise, examine, scrutinize

*A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
oneself, upon one's feelings seeking expression, or upon one's desires, especially sexual desires, seeking satisfaction (<i>my past life hath been as continent, as chaste, as true, as I am now unhappy—Shak.</i>) their strength is the strength of men geographically beyond temptation: the poverty of Arabia made them simple, <i>continent</i>, enduring—T. E. Lawrence) <i>not</i> . . . a subject of irregular and interrupted impulses of virtue, but a <i>continent</i>, persisting, immovable person—Emerson) Unimpassioned so stresses the absence of heat, ardor, or fervor that it often connotes lack of feeling and, therefore, coldness, stiffness, or hardness of heart (<i>when love is not involved in a union, any differences are likely to settle into . . . unimpassioned enmity—Hervey</i>) <i>he was tired, excited, on fire, and Deborah seemed so unimpassioned—Webby</i> but it often implies a subduing of feeling or passion by rationality (<i>the unimpassioned administration of disciplinary measures</i>) (his manner resembled their manner, reserved, logical, unimpassioned, and intelligent—W. C. Ford)

<i>Ana</i> abstaining, refraining, forbearing (see REFRAIN): forgoing, eschewing, abnegating (see FORGO): *cool, collected, composed: reasonable, *rational

<i>Ant</i> drunk: excited 2 grave, *serious, sedate, staid, solemn, somber, earnest

<i>Ana</i> *decorous, decent, proper: *calm, placid, tranquil, serene: dispassionate, impartial, *fair, equitable

<i>Ant</i> gay —Con light, frivolous, flippant, light-minded (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

<sobriety</i> *temperance, abstinence, abstemiousness, continence <i>Ana</i> moderateness, temperateness (see corresponding adjectives at MODERATE): quietness, stillness (see corresponding adjectives at STILL): seriousness, gravity, somberness, sedateness (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)

<i>Ant</i> drunkenness: excitement

<sociable</i> *gracious, cordial, affable, genial <i>Ana</i> *social, companionable, convivial, gregarious: intimate, *familiar, close: *amiable, obliging, compliant, good-natured <i>Ant</i> unsociable

social adj <i>Social</i>, gregarious, cooperative, convivial, companionable, hospitable are comparable rather than synonymous terms that all involve and often stress the idea of having or manifesting a liking for or attraction to the company of others. Social, a broadly inclusive word, is distinctly dichotomous. On the one hand it stresses sociability and the pleasant relation between individuals, singly or in groups (<i>a social club</i>) (<i>spent a social evening with her friends</i>) <i>Adams was known as a man of social talent, a good talker, admired for his richness of recollection and apt illustration—W. C. Ford</i> (<i>of a jovial, social disposition, with a host of friends—Westcott</i>) and may come close to <i>sociable</i> (which see under <i>GRACIOUS</i>) in meaning (<i>having to drive home, and not feeling very social</i>, <i>had very little like Balchin</i> <i>Pickney</i> is one of the most <i>social</i> of beings . . . Her hospitality is famous—<i>Stoney</i>). On the other hand it can stress relation to society and the community and approach <i>societal</i> in meaning; when applied with this notion to the individual or kind of individual it implies membership in or adherence to a more or less definitely organized society; thus, the common reference to man as a <i>social</i> animal implies that human beings as a result of qualities inherent in their fundamental animal nature tend to live in societies rather than in solitude (<i>there is every reason to believe that the origin of culture derives from the fact that man is a social animal</i>). <i>Social</i> species are those whose very existence depends on interaction among their members. It is important to repeat that these <i>social</i> essentials are not peculiarly human but are a basic fact in the existence of all mammalian species—Kimbll Young) In relation to immaterial things <i>social</i> may imply no more than relation to society (<i>established social custom</i>) (<i>the social aspects of cultures are the material traces of ideas and ideals in the habits and associations of men—McKeon</i>) but more often it stresses the consideration and responsibility of society for its members and especially its weaker members (<i>legislation which is enacted to protect and aid those who cannot help themselves is often called social legislation—W. H. Wilson & E. S. Oyster</i>) (<i>social rights—the right to work, to rest and leisure, to education, to material security in old age and in case of illness or disability—Mendel</i>) As applied to lower animals, <i>social</i> heightens the notion of <i>societal</i> and implies not mere physical association but association in a community with specialization of function and often of form (<i>the honeybee is a common social insect with the colony members specialized for reproduction or for work</i>) Gregarious sometimes approaches the first aspect of <i>social</i> (<i>a cheery, relaxed, fun-loving young man who enjoyed his own humor but enjoyed it all the more if it were shared by an appreciative audience. He was therefore gregarious, friendly, outgoing and extroverted—C. W. M. Hart</i>) (<i>always gregarious and eager for companionship, Tony tried twice to draw abreast of the men plodding along the unmarked trail—Herron</i>) but in its commoner societal applications it tends, in distinction to <i>social</i>, to imply a need or desire for contiguity (<i>he renounced . . . a life of solitude, and became a gregarious creature—Cowper</i>) (<i>impelled by gregarious instincts, Peter followed the crowd—H. G. Wells</i>) (<i>the gregarious bustle goes on as a matter of routine. Streets intersect, shops advertise, homes have party walls, and fellow citizens depend upon the same water supply; but there is no cooperation between human beings—Joyce</i>) or a living continguously rather than an active participation in the life of an integrated society (<i>the ordinary gregarious human life, led by us in contact with others and in the stress of our normal pursuits—Powy</i>) (<i>many solitary insects are gregarious, that is, they share certain common needs or react in the same way to certain external stimuli so that dense populations assemble locally—O. W. Richards</i>) (<i>it is at least plausible that the domestication of animals—which are almost exclusively gregarious animals—is based on the relation of the hunter to the wild herd—Franz Boas</i>) The remaining terms describe particular aspects of being social. Cooperative implies the existence of common ends which serve as the objectives of a group, a community, or society at large and of the need of mutual assistance in the attainment of those ends; the term therefore usually suggests shared effort, helpfulness, and a willingness to work for the welfare or well-being of the entire group (<i>leadership of a cooperative rather than of a competitive type—Sellers</i>) (<i>capacity for cooperative industrial effort—Mumford</i>) (<i>with regard to a young English statesman, we want to know two things mainly—his intrinsic value, and his cooperative capacity—Pull Mall Gazette</i>) (<i>if we are to develop a cooperative foreign policy, we shall have to learn to consult continuously with other nations—Dean</i>) Convivial is applied chiefly to persons, groups, or activities that manifest enjoyment of the company of others especially in festive joviality and eating and drinking (<i>at the insistence of a convivial uncle . . . she permits herself to drink three glasses of champagne—Edmund Wilson</i>) (<i>has a convivial temperament . . . gets on a first-name basis quickly—Dwight Macdonald</i>) (<i>dinners convivial</i>)

<i>Ana</i> analogous words <i>Ant</i> antonyms <i>Con</i> contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
and political—Shelley] she was a somewhat somber figure in that convivial household—Cather] Companionable implies a special fitness by nature or disposition for friendly and intimate association with others [thus we lived on unsocially together. More companionable . . . were the large crawling, running insects—crickets, beetles, and others—Hudson] and it is often applied to things (as situations or writings) that are felt to convey such a quality (they [swans] paddle in the cold companionable streams or climb the air—Yeats] the book is above all companionable, and has an insinuation of appeal that no other work quite possesses—More] Hospitable usually implies a disposition to receive and to entertain not only one’s friends but especially strangers; it therefore involves the generosity and more or less of the preceding terms (it was no small joy to these west-movers . . . to find this hospitable, talkative man who was everywhere bustling about, trying to be of service to them—Röwaag] your criticism, so hospitable to ideas, so inflexible in judging right from wrong—Quiller-Couch]

**A** *gracious, cordial, sociable, genial, affable: *amicable, neighborly, friendly**

Ant unsocial, antisocial, associational

**society** *elite, aristocracy, nobility, gentry, county***

2 *association, order, club*

**soft adj** Soft, bland, mild, gentle, smooth, lenient, balmy are applied to things with respect to the sensations they evoke or the impressions they produce and mean pleasantly agreeable because devoid of all harshness or roughness. Soft is applied chiefly to what soothes, calms, or induces a sensation of delicious quiet (as sweet as balm, as soft as air, as gentle—Shak] a soft answer turneth away wrath—Prov 15:1] ever, against eating cares, lap me in soft Lydian airs—Milton] to feel forever its soft fall and smell—Keats] This positive connotation is often apparent in the use of soft even when its major implication is the absence or the subdued quality (as pungency, vividness, intensity, or force); thus, a soft fragrance is lacking in richness but is quietly agreeable and not overpowering; a soft color is lacking in vividness, but it is mellow rather than dull; a soft voice though lacking in resonance is not faint or feeble but is pleasantly low and without harshness or stridency (the far shore of the river’s mouth was just soft dusk—Galsworthy] the soft shock of wizened apples falling from an old tree—Millay] listen to Yuriko’s voice as it floated, breathlike and soft, through the frail partitions—Mailer] Bland (see also suave) may be interchangeable with soft, but it generally suggests smoothness and suavity and stresses the absence of whatever might disturb, excite, stimulate, or irritate; thus, foods and beverages which are not unpleasant to the taste yet tend toward the insipid or are lacking in pungency, tang, or richness of flavor or ingredients may be described as bland; a bland climate not only is free from extremes but is neither stimulating nor depressing (bland fruits such as bananas] the doctor prescribed a bland diet] there was an unusual softness to the dark air and the bland starlight and an unusual density to the darkness—Cheever] the whole shabby performance . . . the bland reassurances instead of the hard sachromies—Michener] full, clear, with something bland and suave, each note floated through the air like a globe of silver—Cather] Both mild and gentle stress moderation; they are applied chiefly to things that are not, as they might be or often are, harsh, rough, strong, violent, unduly stimulating, or irritating and are therefore pleasant or agreeable by contrast (a mild cigar] mild weather] a man of mild and simple character who

. . . had shown no interest in anything at all except his collection of modern paintings—Dahl] a gentle breeze] a gentle heat] However, both words are capable of connoting positively pleasurable sensations, mild often being applied to what induces a feeling of quiet measured beauty or of serenity and gentle to what evokes a mood of placidity or tranquillity, or a sense of restrained power or force [a mild, rosy spring evening in which blackbirds sang on the budding boughs of the elms—Gibbons] some did shed a clear mild beam like Hesperus, while the sea yet glows with facing sunlight—Shelley] (O gentle sleep, nature’s soft nurse—Shak] he was gentle, waiting for whatever he awaited with a grace she respected—Malamud] she had a gentle face, and her eyes were fixed with compassion—Theodora Sturgeon] Smoo and (see also easy, level) in most of its senses suggests the absence or removal of all unevennesses or obstacles (as to use or enjoyment); often it comes close to mild in stressing the pleasant quality of what might be harsh or irritating, but unlike mild and bland it rarely if ever hints at weakness or insipidness. Distinctively it may approach mellow (which see under mature) and suggest qualities of excellence that come with time (as through ripening or aging) or are the result of careful and skilled handling that eliminates all harshness (a smooth whiskey] dancing every night to the island’s smoothest orchestra—N. Y. Times] In reference to persons or their works and accomplishments (as in the arts) smooth may carry further the notion of care and skill in handling and suggest a polished finish stemming from experienced knowledgeability or craftsmanship (Gottfried’s style is urbane and smooth and full of understatement, but the story he tells is one of wild passion—Artz] behind the smooth performance of choir, organ and minister were hours of preparation and careful timing—Dawson & Wilson] they themselves were smooth in manner, and they saw to it that in their presence life had no rough edges—Webb] or, in a less complimentary sense, a slick sophistication or meretricious attractiveness (he may be an authentic worker— but he’s also a smooth customer—Gilmoran] a smooth little blonde glides out of the bedroom—Time] a smooth wolf which has a highly polished technique in sidestepping marriage—Tilden] Lenient (see also forbearance) is applicable chiefly to things that are grateful to the senses or to the mind because they exert an emollient, relaxing, softening, or assuasive influence [earthly sounds, though sweet and well combined, and lenient as soft opiates to the mind—Cowper] in the lenient hush, strong torpid rhythms somehow flowed—E. P. O’Donnell] I poured her a lenient rum and water—Morley] Balm) also implies a soothing influence on the senses or mind, but beyond this it suggests refreshment and sometimes exhilaration. Coupled with one or another of these implications there is also frequently a suggestion of fragrance, especially the aromatic fragrance of balm-producing trees (all balm from the groves of Tahiti, came an indolent air—Melville] a lovely soft spring morning at the end of March, and unusually balm for the time of year—Butler d. 1902] in the balm atmosphere of that second victory she basks today—Fishwick]

**A** *mild, soft, gentle, bland, lenient, balmy, sweet*

Ant severe, harsh, rough, stormy, violent

**soil** *dirty, sullty, tarnish, foul, befoul, smirch, besmirch, grime, begrime* can all mean to make or become unclean. Soil basically implies fundamental defilement or pollution (as of the mind or spirit) [why war soils and disarranges

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
whatever it touches, I cannot say—Kenneth Roberts

<making that room our Chapter, our one mind where all that this world soiled should be refined—Masefield>

but in much of its use it applies to a making or becoming superficially and literally unclean (as by spotting or staining or smudging) <dressed in gray shirt and trousers appropriately soiled and wrinkled from a day's work—MacInnes>

In this sense the word is very close to the corresponding sense of dirty, which is slightly stronger in its implication of uncleanliness and especially of disagreeable uncleanliness; thus, "to soil one's clothes" may merely imply that the freshness of a clean or new thing is lost, but "to dirty one's clothes" usually implies some activity which has plainly left its unclean traces upon the garments.

In its extended use, too, dirty tends to stress the unpleasant effect and typically suggests a making squalid or nasty of something that in itself is normal, wholesome, or clean (their religion took most of the rural whites' pleasures away from them, dirtying sex and the human body until it was a nasty thing—Lillian Smith> <a burlesque idea of chivalry—Canyby>

Sully implies the staining or soiling of something that is pure, fresh, limp, or innocent <they would not sully their fingers when eating human flesh—Ellisofon>

It is used more often in reference to immaterial or spiritual than to physical soiling <if it is bounderish to traduce one's host, it is an even worse breach of etiquette to sully one's own nest—Guérard> <those sins of the body which smear and sully, debase and degrade, destroy and ruin, condemn to the deepest pits of Hell—Farrell> <a merciless massacre sullied the fame of his earlier exploits—J. R. Green>

Tarnish basically implies the dulling or dimming of the luster of a thing by chemical action (as of air, dust, or dirt) <silver tarnished by the sulfur in egg yolks> In extended use it suggests a dimming rather than a total sullying of something of value <with similar scandals . . . it is not surprising that the image of state government is woefully tarnished—Armbrister>

Sullies her tawdry, shoddy, garish components are exposed as never before; yet her overall beauty is scarcely tarnished—Temple Fielding>

Foul and the intensive form befoul stress a making filthy or nasty and apply either to a material or an immaterial thing. They often suggest pollution or defiling by something highly offensive or disagreeable <earth was scarred by mining pits and railway tracks; air was fouled and darkened by factory soot—J. D. Hart> <it is senseless to foul our municipal personnel with unproved charges of general corruption—Moses> <having befouled their own minds for hire, they made their living by befouling the minds of others—Anderson> <Milton was . . . virtuous after befouling himself; once smeared with the sluttish filth of an evil woman, he had finally been won over—Styron>

Smirch and the intensive form besmirch may emphasize a discoloring by or as if by soot, smoke, or mud; usually they come close to sully in implying a destruction of immaculateness <now, with the singular ratification of the politician besmirched, he sought to go before the electorate and be washed whiter than snow by their votes—S. H. Adams> <the parson's well-practiced and spellbinding condemnation of the besmirching, degrading, befouling, hideous, and bestial sins of the flesh—Farrell> but they seldom carry as clear an implication of an effect on real virtue or purity as they do of a darkening or blackening of appearance, reputation, honor, or good name <their infamy spreads abroad, smirching the whole class to which they belong—Jeffries> <as black-hearted a brigand as ever smirched a page of Highland history—Joseph> <her reputation . . . was not smirched by gossip, for she was known to love her husband and to be virtuous—Bowers>

Grime and the more usual begrime intensify the meaning of dirty and typically suggest deeply imbedded dirt often accumulated over a prolonged period <a rudely cut inscription grimed with dust of many a year—Henry Phillips> <she was always filthy, her legs grimed, her hair bedraggled, her face anything but clean—W. C. Williams> <wearing a dress that virtually swept the street; that would in fact actually sweep it from time to time, battering and begriming the hem—F. L. Allen> <they had stood, begrimed with train smoke—Stafford>

sojourn vb <reside, lodge, stay, put up, stop, live, dwell

solace vb <comfort, console

Ana *relieve, assuage, mitigate, allay, alleviate, lighten: gladden, rejoice, delight, *please, gratify

sole adj <single, unique, solitary, lone, separate, particular

Ana alone, *only: exclusive, picked, *select

solecism <anachronism

solemn 1 <ceremonial, ceremonial, formal, conventional

Ana liturgical, ritualistic (see corresponding nouns at FORM): *full, complete, plenary: imposing, august, majestic, magnificent (see GRAND)

2 <serious, grave, somber, sedate, earnest, staid, sober

Ana impressive, *moving: sublime, superb (see SPLENDID): ostentatious (see SHOWY)

solemnize celebrate, observe, *keep, commemorate

solidic 1 *ask, request

Ana *resort, refer, apply, go, turn: *beg, entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate

2 *invite, bid, court, woo

Ana importune, adjure (see BEG): *demand, claim, exact: evoke, elicit, extract, extort, *educe

solictor *lawyer, attorney, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate

solicitous careful, concerned, anxious, worried (see under CARE n)

Ana apprehensive, *fearful, afraid: agitated, disturbed, disquieted, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): uneasy, fidgety, jittery (see IMPATIENT)

Ant unmindful: negligent

solicitude *care, concern, anxiety, worry

Ana misgiving, *apprehension, foreboding, presentiment: compunction, *qualm, scruple: *fear, alarm, consternation, dismay

Ant negligence: unreadiness

solid *firm, hard

Ana compact, *close, dense: consolidated, concentrated, compacted (see COMPACT vb)

Ant fluid, liquid

solidarity *unity, union, integrity

Ana consolidation, concentration, unification (see corresponding verbs at COMPACT): cooperation, concurrence, combination (see corresponding verbs at UNITE)

solidify *harden, indurate, petrify, cake

Ana *compact, consolidate, concentrate: condense, *contract, compress: congeal, coagulate, set, clot, jelly, jell

solitary 1 *alone, lonely, lonesome, lone, forlorn, lorn, desolate

Ana isolated, secluded (see corresponding nouns at SOLITUDE): retired, withdrawn (see GO): forsaken, deserted, abandoned (see ABANDON)

2 *single, sole, unique, lone, separate, particular

Ana alone, *only

solitude, isolation, alienation, seclusion mean the state of one that is alone. Solitude applies not only to a physical condition where there are no others of one's kind with whom one can associate <this man [the lighthouse keeper>

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words

Ana
in his wild solitude, forced to live only with himself, almost forgets the common language of men—Ellis— but often to the state, physical or mental, of one who by wish or by compulsion is cut off from normal contacts (as with colleagues, neighbors, friends, or family) {my spirits will not bear solitude, I must have employment and society—Austen} {these are the voices which we hear in solitude, but they grow faint and inaudible as we enter into the world—Emerson} Sometimes the term refers entirely to a mental state and comes very close in meaning to loneliness, implying a lack of intimate association with, rather than a separation from, others {had not been able to escape from the solitude imposed by existence in hotels}. Since her marriage she had never spoken to a woman in . . . intimacy—Bennett {aye, solitude, black solitude indeed, to meet a million souls and know not one—W. H. Davies} {isolation stresses detachment from others either because of causes beyond one's control or because of one's own wish. Since the term may refer to communities and to things as well as to individuals, it often suggests a cutting off physically rather than such a frame of mind as loneliness or depression {the solemn isolation of a man against the sea and sky—Stevenson} {axiomatic that the artist and man of letters ought not to work in cloistered isolation, removed from public affairs—Quiller-Couch} {we are exposed to isolation imposed on us from the outside by unfriendly powers—Ascoli} {many words and phrases have no significance in isolation but contribute to the significance only of whole sentences—Russell} {Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind {alienation . . . can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society}. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg} {or sometimes between the creator and his creation {his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup.} {Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition {as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship} that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact {the seclusion of their life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy} {the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford} {even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors—Ruth Park} {it had a deep New England tendency to seclusion and secrecy—Time} Ana retreat, refuge, asylum (see SHELTER n): retirement, withdrawal (see corresponding verbs at GO) solve, resolve, unfold, unravel, decipher can all mean to make clear or apparent or intelligible what is obscure or mysterious or incomprehensible. Solve is the most general in meaning and suggestion in this group: it implies the finding of a satisfactory answer or solution, usually to something of at least moderate difficulty {the mystery and disquieting meaningless of existence . . . were solved for me now—L. P. Smith} {create a difficulty rather than solve one—A. M. Young} Resolve (see also ANALYZE), as contrasted with solve, is likely to indicate analytic arrangement and consideration of the various phases or items of a problem or situation rather than finding a final solution or answer and is likely to suggest dispensing of confusion or perplexity by a clear formulation of questions or issues {you may find it of some interest to be told that the law has had to struggle with these problems and to know how it has resolved them—Cardozo} In some situations this process may achieve an answer, especially a ready or summary one {the was at the same time resolving successive tangles of intrigue against himself and his policy—Bello} {it was realized that the method of resolving apparent contradictions by liquidating one of the contradictions is not the way to arrive at true solutions—Times Lit. Sup.} Unfold implies continuous opening up, clarifying, and making more and more clear and patent until a full solution or resolution is apparent {went around and through and behind a situation, unfolding it . . . to include possibilities he hadn't known were upon its horizon—Mary Austin} {saw the great truth of evolution unfolded—Kaempffert} {the method of unfolding the course of a plot must in some ways be different in a play meant for acting and in a book meant for reading—Montague} Unravel stresses the notion of making a complex and orderly rearrangement of something entangled or a simple ordering of something complicated, especially by patient endeavor (the details are difficult to unravel at this distance of time—H. O. Taylor) {a whole elaborate plot may be unraveled by discovering the one relevant detail—Aydelotte} Decipher stresses the notion of finding the meaning or significance of something very obscure, clouded, cryptic, or enigmatic {placing of a writer or other artist in his proper rank or in deciphering the less obvious intentions of his work—Montague} {the results, so far as they could be deciphered from the puzzling procedure and twisted combinations, confirmed what had gone before—Atlantic} Ana *decide, determine, settle: illuminate, enlighten: interpret, elucidate, *explain somatic *bodily, physical, corporeal, corporal somber *serious, grave, solemn, sedate, staid, sober, earnest Ana gloomy, *dark, murky: *dismal, bleak, cheerless: melancholy (see MELANCHOLIC) Ant garish somnolent *sleepy, drowsy, slumberous Ana sluggish, comatose, *lethargic: inert, *inactive, passive, supine sonorous *resonant, ringing, resounding, vibrant, orotund Ant quiet, *dull, *flat, *lifeless, *dead soon adv 1 *presently, shortly, directly 2 *early, beforehand, betimes soothe *calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, lull, settle, tranquilize Ana mollify, appease, placate, *pacify, propitiate, conspire— allay, alleviate, assuage, mitigate, *relieve Ant annoy: excite sop *soak, saturate, drench, steep, impregnate, waterlog sophism sophistry, casuistry, *fallacy sophistical fallacious, casuistical (see under FALACY) Ant valid —Con cogent, sound, convincing, compelling, telling (see VALID) sophisticate * adulterate, load, weight, doctor sophisticated, worldly-wise, worldly, blase, disillusioned are synonymous when they apply to persons, to their attitudes and actions, or to products of human skill and effort and mean experienced or revealing experience in the ways of the world. Sophisticated may be a term of reproach or of commendation according to the point of view of the speaker or writer, but it regularly implies a loss of naturalness, simplicity, or spontaneity through experience. From one point of view the term connotes
artificiality of manner, overrefinement, and absence of enthusiasm as the price paid for experience that brings knowledge of men and their ways (the Negro . . . could rarely afford the sophisticated inhibitions of civilization, and so he kept for his survival the art of the primitive, he lived in the enormous present—Mailer) From another point of view it implies a type of mentality marked by distinction, urbanity, cleverness, together with an indifference to all that is simple or banal in life (she didn't want to ride on the roller coaster and he guessed that her ideas of pleasure were more sophisticated—Cheever) From still another it may imply a cultivation that enables a man to rise above the ordinary or usual (the lack of a body of sophisticated and civilized public opinion, independent of plutocratic control and superior to the infan- tant philosophies of the mob—Mencken) Photographs realistic enough to catch the quality of the milieu which produced Pope John, surely the world's simplest and most sophisticated of men—Casey) Worldly-wise and worldly imply a wisdom gained by attention to the things and ways of the world. Often they stress alienation from true spiritual interests and, as a result, devotion to aims that will make one happy in this world, typically suggesting a concentration upon material ends or aims or upon a wealth of worldly experience (we apply the term "worldly-wise" to a man who skillfully chooses the best means to the end of ambition; but we should not call such a man "wise" without qualification—Sidgwick) (religion has been leading man toward a nobler vision, a better day, a higher hope, and a fuller life. The church, on the other hand, has been worldly, obscurantist, arrogant and predatory—Pfeffer) Blase implies a lack of responsiveness to things which have once been a joy or delight. It usually suggests sattety, but also it tends to suggest such real or affected overexperience and overcultivation as leads to disdain for all that arouses the average person's interest (the blase indifference of both the authorities and the people to the war was like cold water . . . on my spirits—Belden) (I was going through a period of adolescent awfulness in which I was trying to appear pale, interesting, and world-weary (the popular term . . . was "blase"), and incapable of any real experience of sentiment—Skinner) Disillusioned implies having had experiences that have completely destroyed a person's illusions, with resulting hopelessness; it applies to a person who from experience is no longer capable of enthusiasm or of idealistic motives and who has grown not only realistic but scornful of the sentimental, the visionary, the emotional (in a few years the young [newspaper] man will become a cynic, appraising the world and his fellows with disillusioned eyes, even with bitterness—Walker) the world, grown disillusioned and afraid, has neglected the one source that answers every problem, fills every need—Oursler) Ana cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at culture): intellectualized (see corresponding adjective at mental): knowing, brilliant, *intelligent, clever, alert Ant unsophisticated —Con natural, simple, ingenuous, naive, artless: crude, uncouth, callow, raw (see rude)
sophistry *fallacy, sophism, casuistry Ana plausibility, speciousness (see corresponding adjectives at plausible): equivocation, *ambiguity, tergiversation: evading or evasion, avoiding or avoidance (see corresponding verbs at escape) soppy *sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, mushy, slushy sorcery *magic, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy, thaumaturgy sordid *mean, ignoble, abject Ana *mercenary, venal: squalid, foul, filthy, nasty, *dirty: *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurrv, cheap, beggarly, shabby sorrow n Sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak, anguish, woe, regret, though not close synonyms, share the idea of distress of mind. Sorrow is the most general term, implying a sense of loss or of guilt (when you depart from me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave—Shak.) (virginity she thought she had parted with without sorrow, yet was surprised by torments of conscience—Malamud) Grief denotes intense emotional suffering or poignant sorrow especially for some real and definite cause (compare grieve) (a stilled, drowsy, unimpassioned grief, which finds no natural outlet—Coleridge) (I have lain in prison . . . Out of my nature has come wild despair: an abandonment to grief that was piteous even to look at; terrible and impotent rage; bitterness and scorn—Wilde) but grief may also denote a more mundane distress of mind that is representative of the distress and trials of day-to-day life or often of a particular situation in life (he had a thankless job which gave him all of the grief of running a war and none of the glory—Time) Heartache is used especially of persistent and deep sorrow that is slow to heal but that often gives little or no outward indication (the heartaches of a would-be author) (the heartache of a hunted race—Zangwill) (the dumb heartaches of those days—Churchill) Heartbreak can imply a yet deeper and more crushing grief (the sorrow and the heartbreak which . . . abide in the homes of so many of our neighbors—Truman) Anguish implies a distress of mind that is ex cruciating or torturing almost beyond bearing (anguish so great that human nature is driven by it from cover to cover, seeking refuge and finding none—Rose Macaulay) (a mild perturbation . . . as if to say that anguish as three little eruptions on your arm are like confluent smallpox—Montague) (then came another sob, more violent than the first—a strangled gasp of anguish—Rolvaag) Woe implies a deep or incom- solable misery or distress usually induced by grief (the suffering people whose woes he has not alleviated—W. P. Webb) (outcast from God . . . condemned to waste eternal days in woe—Milton) Regret seldom implies a sorrow that shows itself in tears or sobs or moans; usually it connotes such pain of mind as deep disappointment, fruitless longing, heartache, or spiritual anguish; consequently the term is applicable within a wide range that begins with the disappointment one feels, sometimes sincerely but sometimes merely as suggested by the language required by convention, in declining an invitation and ends with the pangs of remorse for something done or left undone or of hopeless repining for what can never be restored (with a sigh that might have been either of regret or relief—Wharton) (in moments of regret we recognize that some of our judgments have been mistaken—Cohen) (that expression of mildly cynical regret and acceptance that one often notices in people who have seen much of life, and experienced its hard and seamy side—Wolfe) Ana mourning, grieving (see grieve): *distress, suffering, misery, agony: melancholy, dejection, *sadness, depression Ant joy sorrow vb mourn, *grieve Ana *cry, weep, wail, keen: sob, moan, groan (see sigh vb) sorry pitiable, *contemptible, despicable, scurvv, cheap, beggarly, shabby Ana *mean, ignoble, sordid, abject: *miserable, wretched: paltry, *petty, trifling, trivial

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sort

sort n  type, kind, stripe, kidney, ilk, description, nature, character

sort vb  assort, classify, pigeonhole

Ana arrange, methodize, systematize, *order: call, pick, *choose, select

sot  *drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler

soul

1 mind, intellect, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit

Ana powers, faculties, functions (see singular nouns at POWER)

2 Soul, spirit can both denote an immaterial entity that is held to be distinguishable from and felt as superior to the body with which it is associated during the life of the individual and that in most religious beliefs is regarded as immortal, surviving the death of the body. Soul (see also MIND 2) may be preferred when the emphasis is upon the thing considered as an entity having specific functions, responsibilities, aspects, or destiny, while spirit (see also COURAGE, APPARITION) may be preferred when the stress is upon the quality, the constitution, the movement, or the activity of that entity (hoped to save his soul) <will to sell his soul> <pray for the souls of the dead> <do the right thing for your soul’s sake> <come close to God in spirit> <a man fervent in spirit> <the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak—Mt 26:41> Soul, both in its sense here meant here, and in the extended meanings derived from that sense, usually suggests a relation to or a connection with a body or with a physical or material entity to which it gives life or power; spirit in both its restricted and extended senses suggests an opposition or even an antithesis to what is physical, corporeal, or material and often a repugnance to the latter (it often takes a war to lay bare the soul of a people) <obey the spirit rather than the letter of a law> <Gibbon’s magnificent saying, that the Greek language gave a soul to the objects of sense and to a body to the abstractions of metaphysics—Quiller-Couch> <those who believe in the reality of a world of the spirit—the poet, the artist, the mystic—are at one in believing that there are other domains than that of physics—Jeans> Spirit only, and not soul, is used of incorporeal beings (as angels or devils) <I can call spirits from the vastly deep—Shak.>

Ant body

sound

adj 1 healthy, wholesome, robust, hale, well

Ana  *vigoros, lusty, nervous, energetic, strenuous: *strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout: intact, whole, entire, *perfect

2  *valid, cogent, convincing, compelling, telling

Ana  *impeccable, flawless, faultless, errorless: *correct, exact, precise, accurate: *rational, reasonable

Ant fallacious

sound n  Sound, noise both mean a sensation or effect produced by the stimulation of the auditory receptors of the ear and the auditory centers of the brain. Sound is the general term applicable to anything that is heard regardless of its loudness or softness, its pleasantness or unpleasantness, or its meaningfulness or meaningless- ness (he waited a good half hour after the last sounds of the departing enemy came down the wind—Mason) <it is impossible, words being what they are, to read the sound without reading the sense at the same time—MacLeish> <heard a sound, rather shrill and tentative, swell into hoarse, high clamor, and suddenly die out—Galsworthy> <approximates a laugh formed by . . . squeezing guttural sound out of the throat—Pynchon> Noise basically applies to confused sounds emanating from many persons and usually suggests a clamor made by mingled outcries or shouts; in more general use, it may apply to a disagreeably loud or harsh sound, whatever its source <the terrific noise of an explosion> <a noise like that from just one stringy throat must be an impossibility, and yet, there it was—Theodore Sturgeon> <dense jungle, restless with the shrill noise of wild life—Shipton> <he could not endure the noise of the machine shop> <the hell of distracting noises made by the carts, the cabs, the carriages—Mallock> Although the connotations of unpleasantness and discordance typically distinguish noise from sound, noise may sometimes be applied to a sound that merely engages the attention <still the sails made on a pleasant noise till noon, a noise like of a hidden brook—Coleridge> <the wetted earth gave out a cool delicious fragrance; there was a noise of birds—Huxley>

Ant silence

source

n  *strait, channel, passage, narrows

vb  *fathom, plumb

souffron  suspicion, suggestion, *touch, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

sour, acid, acridulous, tart, dry mean having a taste devoid of sweetness. All but dry suggest the taste of lemons, vinegar, or of most unripe fruits. Sour and acid are often interchangeable, but sour is more likely to be chosen to describe something that through fermentation has lost its natural sweet or neutral taste or, sometimes, smell <sour milk> <sour wine> and the term may additionally suggest a spoiled or rancid state <sour garbage> Acid, on the other hand, is appropriately used to describe something having a sharp sweetless taste in its natural state usually due to the presence of chemical acids <acid fruits> <acid drinks> Acidulous and tart are applied, as a rule, to things which may be described as acid, acridulous implying a modest degree of acidity and tart, a sharp but often agreeable acidulousness or, sometimes, acidity <some mineral waters are pleasantly acidulous> <most cooks prefer tart apples for pies and puddings> Dry is usually applied to wines which, although without any sweetness, are bland and therefore neither definitely acid nor definitely sour.

In their extended senses sour applies especially to what is crabbed or morose <a man with a prim sour mouth and an expression of eternal disapproval—Dahl> and acridulous and tart to what is characterized by asperity, punc- tuality, or sharpness <tart temper never mellowes with age—Irving> <what has been dull and dead in your years is now tart to the taste—Mailer> <said in acidulous jest that in Congress the South takes a recurrent and unending revenge in behalf of the long-dead Lee—W. S. White> Acid, partly by allusion to the corrosive powers of some acids, is likely to describe what is biting or caustic <his wit became acid; his letters are filled with caustic comment to sharpen the temper of those on the fighting line—Parrington> while dry may suggest matter-of-fact impersonal presentation of what is humorous, ironic, or sarcastic <there seemed to be a faint tinge of appeal in his eyes, curiously contrasted with the dry tone and the mocking words—Wouk> <a story . . . dry and ironical in its beginning—Prichett>

Ana  *bitter, acrid: *sharp, keen: morose, *sullen, glum, crabbed, saturnine, dour

source origin, root, inception, provenance, provenience, prime mover

source  *beginning, commencement, starting or start (see corresponding verbs at BEGAN): *cause, determinant, antecedent

Ant termination: outcome

souvenir  *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake
sovereign 759

2 remembrance, recollection, *memory, reminiscence, mind

**sovereign** adj 1 *dominant, predominant, paramount, preponderant, preponderating*

*Ana* *supreme, transcendent, surpassing: absolute, ultimate*

2 independent, *free, autonomous, autarchic, autarkic*

*Ana* highest, loftiest (see positive adjectives at HIGH): *chief, principal, foremost: governing, ruling (see GOVERN): commanding, directing (see COMMAND vb)

**sovereignty** independence, freedom, autonomy, autarky, autarchy (see under FREE adj)

*Ana* *supremacy, ascendancy: command, sway, control, domination, *power, authority*

**sow** vb *sow, straw, scatter, broadcast*

spacious, commodious, capacious, ample are comparable when they mean larger in extent than the average. Spacious implies great length and breadth and, sometimes, height; primarily, it is applied to things that have bounds or walls (spacious rooms) (spacious gardens) (the whole interior . . . a dim, spacious, fragrant place, aloft with golden lights—Pater) (none of them were mansions but they were spacious and faced on neat lawns—Styron) In its extended use, though it usually implies limits, it suggests largeness, sweep, and freedom within those limits (the spacious times of great Elizabeth—Tennyson) (one great spacious golden morning followed another—Powsys)

**Spacious** stresses roominess and freedom from hampering constriction along with convenience and comfortableness (my mother's room is very commodious, is it not? Large and cheerful looking—Austen) (the commodious first-class grandstand . . . is built not only for comfort but for pleasant living—Dobie) Capacious stresses the ability to hold, contain, and, sometimes, receive or retain, more than the ordinary thing of its kind (the dull girls, with their slow but capacious memories—Gallant) (provides a capacious rack in its clubrooms which is daily filled with press releases—Mott) (lumbled in a capacious pocket of the old-fashioned sort—Sayers) (the capacious soul of Shakespeare—Hazlitt)

**Ample** basically means more than adequate or sufficient (as in size, expanse, or amount) (ample funds) (an ample garden) It may suggest fullness and bulk (she held the child beneath the folds of her ample cloak) (an imposing creature, tall and stout, with an ample bust and an obesity girded in alarmingly—Maugham) and in extended use it often suggests freedom to expand or absence of trammels or limitations (a government, entrusted with such ample powers—John Marshall) (religious experience which opens to him an even ample world, even greater issues—R. W. Livingstone)

*Ana* vast, immense, enormous (see HUGE): *broad, wide, deep: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb at EXTEND)

**spade** vb *dig, delve, grub, excavate*

spangled spotted, scattered, sprinkled, motled, flecked, stippled, stippled, marbled, speckled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb)

**spare** adj 1 extra, *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary*

*Ana* *excessive, immoderate, exorbitant, inordinate*

2 *lean, lank, lanky, skinny, scrawny, gaunt, rawboned, angular*

*Ana* *thin, slender, slight: sinewy, athletic (see MUSCULAR)*

**Ant** corpulent —Con *fat, *fleshy, obese, portly, plump

3 *meager, exiguous, sparse, scanty, scant, skimpy, scrimp

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**spatter**

*flow, stream, current, tide; *succession, progression, series

**sparer**

*spot, sprinkle, motle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

**spattered**

spattered, spotted, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb)

**spay**

castrate, *sterilize, emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, cauponize

**speak, talk, converse** can all mean to articulate words so as to express one's thoughts. **Speak** is, in general, the broad term and may refer to utterances of any kind, however coherent or however broken or disconnected, and with or without reference to a hearer or hearers (not able to **speak above a whisper**) 

"I shall **speak to him about it** (let him **speak for the organization**) (most of the material in this book was **spoken** before it was printed, as may perhaps be inferred from the style—Davis) (she repeated them, angered . . . but once the words were spoken she was sorry—McCullers) (the Bellman looked scared, and was almost too frightened to **speak—Lewis Carroll**) **Talk**, on the other hand, usually implies an auditor or auditors and connected colloquy or discourse (he left the room because he did not care to **talk**) (we **talk in the bosom of our family** in a way different from that in which we discourse on state occasions—Lowes) (she talked and talked and talked, yet it seemed to Marjorie that she could never hear enough of this girl's worldly wisdom—Wouk) But **speak** is also used of relatively weighty or formal speech (often public speech), and **talk**, of what is more or less empty or frivolous (a fool may **talk**, but a wise man **speaks—Ben Jonson**) (a good old man, sir; he will be **talking—Shak.**) (yet there happened in my time one noble speaker who was full of gravity in his **speaking . . . . No man ever speake more neatly, more pressly, more weightily, or suffered less emptiness, less idleness, in what he uttered—Ben Jonson**) **Converse** implies an interchange in talk of thoughts and opinions (in the press conference the President can converse with the public rather than preach to it—Cater) (don't ever remember hearing my parents converse, and they never even chatted. My father would expound on law and ritual, my mother would listen—Behrman)

**Ana**

pronounce, *articulate, enunciate: *stammer, stutter: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant

**special**

adj Special, especial, specific, particular, individual are closely related terms because all carry the meaning relating to or belonging to one thing or one class especially as distinguished from all the others. Both **special** and **especial** imply differences which distinguish the thing so described from others of its kind, and the two can often be interchanged without significant loss. However special may be preferred when the differences give the thing concerned a quality, character, identity, or use of its own (the mistress of the boardinghouse refused to serve **special** food to any of her guests) (the baby requires a **special** soap because of his sensitive skin) (if the whole of nature is purposive, it is not likely that we can discern **special** purposes operating—Inge) (a **special** aspect of a more general malady—Babbitt)

Often, in addition, special implies being out of the ordinary or being conspicuously unusual and therefore comes close to uncommon or exceptional (it's not like ordinary photographs. There's something special about it—Bennett) (Mom was drunk most of the time and sometimes used to tear up the whole neighborhood, but all the same she had very special ideas about being respectable—Theodore Sturgeon) (preventing the perpetuation of an hereditary upper class with **special** privileges and better education—Edmund Wilson)

**Special** is also applicable to something added (as to a schedule, a series, or a sequence) for an exceptional or extra-ordinary purpose, reason, or occasion (**special** trains will be run to Washington for the inauguration) (a **special** dividend) **Especial** is more likely to be chosen when there is the intent to convey the idea of preeminence or of being such as is described over and above all the others (his **especial** friend) (a matter of **especial** importance) (this has no **special** reference to any one person)

(Egypt, as the granary of the ancient world, had **especial** need for Pussy's services—Repplier) (an elegantly written piece in the author's own **especial** version of the neoclassic manner—Virgil Thomson)

**Specific** (see also **EXPLICIT**) basically implies unique and peculiar relationship to a kind or category or individual (**specific** evidence of disease) (the **specific** virtue of a drug) (**specific** nutritive needs of the aged) In some (as philosophical, biological, or critical) uses it can suggest opposition to generic and imply a relation to a particular species as distinguished from a more comprehensive category to which that species belongs (**specific** characters by which members of the genus Rosa can be differentiated) (**groups** of **specific** rank) but in more general use it tends to stress unicity and to imply a relation to one thing or one individual as distinguished from all others that can be felt to fall into a category with that one (whether the **specific** freedoms we know and cherish . . . . can be maintained—Sidey Hook) (make it possible for the imaginative talent to develop along those lines that reward with **specific** fruition—Hudson Review) (the binding of some ions is **highly specific** with respect to the protein involved—Cannan & Levy) However, **specific** also may mean no more than explicitly mentioned, or called into or brought forward for consideration (if such injuries . . . . result in any of the following **specific** losses—insurance policy) (would be glad to hear of **specific** cases of scholars having difficulty with either passports or visas—ACLS Newsletter) (interested in any **specific** field only for its contribution to a view of the world as a totality—Cohen) In this last sense of **specific** **particular** is sometimes preferred on the ground that the term is clearly opposed to **general** and that it is a close synonym of **single** (for fuller treatment see **SINGLE**). The differences between the two words in this sense are not easily discoverable, but **specific** seems to be chosen more often when the ideas of specification or of illustration are involved, and **particular**, when the distinctness of the thing as an individual is to be suggested; thus, one gives a **specific** illustration to indicate a word's normal use but describes the **particular** uses of the word (in this connection, one of Don Quixote's adventures deserves **particular** mention—Muggeridge) (we get a sense for **particular** beauties of nature, rather than a sense for Nature herself—Binyon) **Particular** is often used also in the sense of **special** and **especial** (some half-dozen **particular** friends—Dickens) (the Debussy selection was the **particular** gem of the evening—Watt) In logic **particular** is opposed to universal and applies to matters (as propositions, judgments, and conceptions) which have reference to a single member or to some members of a class rather than to all; thus, "some men are highly intelligent" is a particular proposition, but "all men make mistakes" is a universal proposition. Often, in less technical use, **particular** implies an opposition to **general** as well as to universal (one is apt to amplify a **particular** judgment into a general opinion—Mackenzie) (we shall venture beyond the **particular** book in search of qualities that group books together—Woolf) **Individual** unequivocally im-
plies reference to one of the class or group as clearly distinguished from all the others (the aspect of every individual stone or brick—Conrad) (one could hardly maintain the courage to be individual, to speak with one's own voice—Maier) (it was not the magnitude or multiplicity of burdens that created martyrs and saints; it was the individual capacity to bear suffering—Hervey).

**Ana** distinctive, peculiar, individual, *characteristic:*

*exceptional: uncommon, occasional, rare (see infrequent)

**Con** *common, ordinary, familiar:* usual, customary, habitual

**species** cash, currency, *money, legal tender, coin, coinage

**species** class, category, genus, denomination, genre

**Ana** type, sort, description, character, nature

**specific adj** 1 *special, especial, particular, individual

**Ant** generic

2 definite, *explicit, express, categorical

**Ana** designating, naming (see designate): *clear, lucid, perspicuous: precise, exact (see correct adj)

**Ant** vague

**specific n** remedy, cure, medicine, medicament, medication, physic

**specify** *mention, name, instance

**Ana** cite, *quote: stipulate (see corresponding noun under condition)

**specimen** example, sample, illustration, *instance, case

**specious** *plausible, believable, colorable, credible

**Ana** vain, nugatory, empty, hollow, idle: delusory, delusive, misleading: deceitful, dishonest, untruthful, mendacious, lying

**speckle** vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, spangle, bespangle

**speckled** dotted, spotted, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

**spectator, observer, beholder, looker-on, onlooker, witness, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer** are comparable when they mean one who sees or looks upon something. Spectator can be used precisely in place of bare witness—Conrad) (I had once been a cool observer because some part of me knew that I had more emotion than most and so must protect myself with a cold eye—Maier). Beholder sometimes carries a stronger implication of watching or regarding intently than either of the preceding terms, but it may mean little more than one who sees all the beholders take his part with weeping—Shak. The term is often applicable to one who has been privileged to look intently upon or, sometimes, consider deeply a person or thing with the result that he obtains a clear and accurate impression of that person or thing and is moved by the qualities (as beauty, power, tenderness, or pathos) of what is seen (to what extent is beauty subjective, existing only in the mind of the beholder—Hunter Mead) (what the beholder must realize as he looks and ponders is that history is not something in books—Duffus). Looker-on and onlooker differ from beholder chiefly in their suggestions of casualness or detachment and in their definite implication of lack of participation (there was a great crowd of lookers-on at the fire) (the surgeon refused to operate in the presence of onlookers). Either term is sometimes used in place of spectator when the distinction between the one who sees and what he sees is stressed (the onlookers, not the participants, see most of the game) (lookers-on often see what familiarity obscures for the participants—Moberly) (they dropped, panting, while the onlookers repeated that it was a shame and somebody ought to stop them—Davis). Witness specifically denotes one who has firsthand knowledge and therefore is competent to give testimony (no person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act—U. S. Constitution) The term sometimes applies to a person who knows because he has seen (standing there, I was witness of a little incident that seemed to escape the rest—Quiller-Couch) but since witness does not necessarily imply seeing, eyewitness is often preferred as more explicitly implying actual sight (there were no eyewitnesses of the collision) (incontrovertible evidence, with occasional corroboration from the eyewitness accounts of the few survivors—Shirer). Bystander primarily denotes one who stands by when something is happening; sometimes it carries the implication of onlooker (the policeman took the names of all the bystanders) (men have been haunted recurrently by the question “Am I my brother’s keeper?”... It is what makes being a bystander more and more impossible—Rothman) but at other times it suggests little more than presence at a place (difficult for each member of the society really to participate...) He begins to be an onlooker at most of it, then a bystander, and may end up with indifference to the welfare of his society—Kroebel) (a bystander was injured by the explosion) Kibitzer specifically applies to one who watches a card game by looking over the shoulders of the players and who may annoy them by offering advice; in extended use the word denotes an onlooker who meddles or makes unwelcome suggestions.

**specter** spirit, ghost, *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, shade, revenant

**speculate** reason, reflect, *think, cogitate, deliberate

**Ana** ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate: *consider, weigh, study, contemplate, excogitate

**speculative** 1 contemplative, meditative, *thoughtful, reflective, pensive

**Ana** conjecturing or conjectural, surmising, guessing (see corresponding verbs at conjecture): pondering, musing, ruminating (see ponder)

2 *theoretical, academic

**speech** 1 language, tongue, dialect, idiom

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**Ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Speech can apply to a public discourse irrespective of its quality or its degree of preparation, of its aim (as to influence, instruct, or entertain), or of the caliber of its speaker or audience (the senator was called upon to make a speech) (after-dinner speeches) ("The rest of my speech" (he exclaimed to his men) "you shall hear when I’ve leisure to speak it")—Lewis Carroll

Address implies formality and usually careful preparation; it often connotes distinctiveness in the speaker or gives emphasis to the importance of the speech (commencement address) (the president is scheduled to deliver three addresses on his trip) (an article developed from his address to friends and admirers at a recent testimonial dinner—Sat. Review) Oration suggests eloquence, rhetorical style, and usually a dignified but sometimes a high-flown or long-winded appeal to the emotions of a large audience or assembly (a Fourth of July oration) (the oration of Mr. Webster was worthy of his fame, and what is much more, was worthy of the occasion—Emerson) Harangue, once nearly equivalent to oration except for its added implications of vehemence and passion, commonly retains only these distinctive implications and connotes either length and tediousness of speech or an impassioned appeal to the audience (if you do not believe that emotion ... is the basic social force, listen to the harangue of any successful politician—Furnas) Lecture often implies reading; it commonly designates a carefully prepared speech on a special topic intended to give information and instruction to a group of students or studious persons (they are still using lectures to pass out information which could be got by the student more rapidly and accurately from ... books—Lynn White) Talk stresses informality; it may be used to designate either a lecture or an address when the speaker wishes to emphasize his desire to speak directly and simply to his auditors as individuals (this is a talk rather than an oration ... It is surely unnecessary to say how well, and with what an individual attitude and selectiveness Mr. Forster talks—Times Lit. Sup.) Sermon and homily both commonly imply religious instruction by an ordained preacher and a church congregation as the listeners; in such use sermon usually connotes a theme drawn from a scriptural text, while homily suggests practical moral counsel rather than doctrinal discussion. But both terms have extended use in which they denote a usual speech or talk on a moral theme (copious drafts of exhortation and homily administered ... by reformers—Cardozo) (going around the country, preaching sermons on the need of defending the freedom of the mind—Davis)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
spell 

n Dilatory implies a beginning or end that marks it off from what

in time; specifically it may refer to a fight, an attack of

condition that is marked by a definite beginning and end

Stints} Bout, days but by

easily established <the author assigned himself a daily

and did our

turn at bat) <if we each took our

for his

plies assignment for a definite term (as of weeks, months,

pecially in reference to an industrial plant which is in

therefore a change in the workers employed; it is used es-

precipitating

details—

Precipitate implies impetuousness, sudden-

ness, or abruptness <men will not bide their time, but will

insist on precipitating the march of affairs—Buckle

its ruin was precipitated by religious persecution—J. R.

Green

Ana

*advance, forward, further, promote: *adjust, regulate, fix

speedy expeditious, quick, swift, fleet, rapid, *fast, hasty

Ana brisk, nimble, *agile: prompt, *quick, ready

Ant dilatory

spell n Spell, shift, tour, trick, turn, stint, bout, go can mean a limited period or amount of some activity that often follows a schedule. Spell is ordinarily used in reference to very heavy or trying work which must be interrupted by a period of rest; the period may vary according to the laboriousness of the activity and the need of relief from it <each spell of work was followed by a brief rest>

Shift suggests a change in time or hours of duty and therefore a change in the workers employed; it is used es-

in special reference to an industrial plant which is in contin-

uous operation, and is applied variously to the period of work or to the body of workers engaged to work during that period <the third shift begins work at midnight>

The factory works on a schedule of three shifts each day

Tour occurs chiefly in the phrase tour of duty; it usually suggests a change in the character of the work and in its typical use (as of military or naval personnel) im-

plies assignment for a definite term (as of weeks, months,

or years) to a particular type of duty or to duty in a par-

cular place <his next tour of duty will be in Ceylon>

after a year at sea the commander was given a tour of

shore duty>

Trick, like spell, usually implies the time allotted to one for working at or as if at the helm of a ship, and it may differ little from shift as applied to a period of work <to take his trick at the wheel—Marryat> (the night trick in a newspaper office) Turn in general use

suggests an opportunity of a specified kind (as for work or play) or for a particular period that comes in alternation, rotation, or at more or less regular intervals <I'll take a turn at that job now> <the boys lined up, each waiting for his turn at bat> <if we each took our turn and did our bit in peace as we had to do during the war—Shaw>

Stint (see also TASK) implies either an assigned amount of work or an assigned amount of time in which to accom-

plish it. The term is used widely in reference to one's own occupation, to the work of running a home, a farm, or a business, or to work in an industrial field especially where regular hours for a day's work are not or cannot be easily established (the author assigned himself a daily stint

of three pages) <Spinoza was forced to grind his stint

of lenses before he could gratify his love for philosophy>

in some countries miners' wages are regulated not by days but by stints> Bout, which has many specific applica-

tions and is perhaps more widely employed than any of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or con-

dition that is marked by a definite beginning and end in time; specifically it may refer to a fight, an attack of

illness and especially of a recurrent illness, or a spell (as of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it

implies a beginning or end that marks it off from what precedes and follows <a wrestling bout> <a bout of malaria>

he had been given to bouts only, and was not a habitual drunkard—Hardy> <copious eating and still more copious drinking, interrupted by bouts of . . . domes-
tic horseplay—Huxley> <showing the effect of his past in . . . bouts of neurotic excitement—Buchan>

Go is often not clearly defined in meaning, but it comes close to bout, spell, and turn, in suggesting a restricted period <a go with the gloves> <have a go at farming>

Ana

*period: allotment, assignment, apportionment (see corresponding verbs at ALLOT)

spend, expend, disburse can mean to pay out money or an equivalent of money for something or in expectation of some return. Spend is the ordinary term; it may be used regardless of the amount dealt out in the purchase of some-

thing <spend a nickel for candy> <spend fifty dollars for a dress> <the government durante the first year of the war spent billions of dollars>

In intransitive use it requires usually an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the ex-

tent to which money or, by extension, its equivalent, is paid out <he has never known how it feels to spend freely> <the Pentagon spends so wastefully that we could cut our military budget at least 25 percent—Caiton>

this world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spend-

ing the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scient-

ists, the hopes of its children—Eisenhower> However the word is often used with so little implication of an immedi-

ate or direct or commensurate return and with objects so remotely equivalent to money that it comes to imply a using in such a manner as to exhaust, drain, or deplete <spend six months searching for the home they wished to buy> <spend her small store of energy with caution>

*man after man spends himself in this cause—Carlyle>

decided on a whim to spend the day like a yo-yo shuttling on the subway back and forth underneath 42nd Street—

Pynchon> <spend his life and his blood in the service of the king> Expend comes very close to spend in meaning, but it tends to be used more in reference to business, industry, finance, or governmental than in reference to private persons and therefore to imply larger sums or more determinate ends <the social services upon which public revenue is expended—Hobson>

In its extended use, too, expend tends to imply largeness of outgo and often, like spend, suggests a depleting or exhausting of what is being used <we have expended our resources—both human and natural—without stint—Truman> <youth is always giving itself, expending itself—Yeats> but it not infrequently carries an added suggestion of futility that is not ap-

parent in spend <much thought had been expended, but little accomplished—Dawson & Wilson> <the tons of

printer's ink and newsprint expended during the course of the hearings—Wall Street Jour.> <all the social feeling and intellectual effort . . . seemed to have expended themselves—John Morley>

Disburse basically implies the paying out of money (as from public revenues, a huge fortune, an institutional income, or a society's funds), but it also may imply distribution (as to pensioners or among heirs) and often stresses an acting under authority in such paying or distributing <the treasurer has disbursed nearly five thousand dollars of emergency funds for re-

pair of the clubhouse> <our time and our money, even though disbursed by governmental authority—Hambly>

waiting for the teller to disburse those complex payroll accounts—Morley> When extended to nonmonetary mat-

ters, disburse is likely to stress distribution <the hundred kilograms of uranium . . . was designated for research only, and was to be disbursted under strictly bilateral agreements—Lear>

Ana

*distribute, dispense, divide, deal, dole: *allot, assign, allocate, apportion: *scatter, disperse, dissipate: *pay, compensate, remunerate

Ant save

spendthrift, prodigal, profligate, waster, wastrel are
comparable when they denote a person who dissipates his resources foolishly and wastefully. All are more or less pejorative terms but they may differ significantly in emphasis and application. Spendthrift and prodigal are the most nearly neutral terms and in themselves, as apart from context, carry little suggestion of moral obliquity; they are, however, the members of the group with specific legal applications and are generally applicable when the basic notion is one of unwise and wasteful expenditure usually of material resources (as wages, wealth, or property). Spendthrift stresses lack of prudence in spending and usually implies imbalance between income and outgo rather than lavishness (<to spendthrifts . . . there is only one limit to their fortune,—that of time; and a spendthrift with only a few crowns is the Emperor of Rome until they are spent—Stevenson> <a spendthrift is a man . . . who saves nothing, spends fifty-eight cents of every dollar on living expenses, forty cents on recreation and one cent each on education and alms—Brooklyn Daily Eagle> In legal and quasi-legal use the term implies such expenditure in relation to income and resources as are likely to leave the spendthrift and his dependents public charges. Prodigal (compare prodigal adj used in prose) is more likely to suggest such lavish expenditure as can deplete the most abundant resources (<this royal prodigal, lavishing the nation's wealth on palaces and parks while the people starved—<the Irish produce great writers because they're temperamentally prodigals—they're willing to squander their lives on the gratuitous work that great art demands—Edmund Wilson> In legal and quasi-legal use the term applies specifically to one held legally incompetent to manage his property or to incur debts because of demonstrated incapacity to avoid foolish dissipation of property. While profligate may imply the habits of a spendthrift, it is more likely to stress such extravagant, even vicious expenditure of one's personal powers (as of mind and body) that mere economic waste becomes a secondary matter; characteristically it suggests the utmost of debauchery and dissoluteness (<the were not cautious stewards, husbanding their resources. Julius Caesar was a notorious profligate, who piled up enormous debts—<Inge> <the wretched profligate found himself again plunged into excesses—J. R. Green> Waster often comes very close to spendthrift in meaning, but it carries a stronger implication of worthlessness than does the former word. It often suggests the habits of a loafer or ne'er-do-well but it is sometimes applied to men of inherited wealth who spend their lives in idleness or in frivolities (<he who will not work, must . . . leave the town, as they will not sweat themselves for an healthy, idle waster—Adair> <the palaces and pleasure seats of the plutocrats are used for the recreation of workers instead of for the enervation of wastrels—Skaw> <they're a bunch of wasters. All they do . . . is just dance and chatter and show off their clothes—Sinclair Lewis> Wastrel, though it often implies the wasting of money and other resources, more often is applied to a good-for-nothing, whether young or old, especially to one who is a drain upon the community; the prevailing implication is that of disreputableness (<if we are to avoid the danger of so shaping them that they shall be mere mechanisms in working hours and mere wastrels in the rest—Grantgent> <even allowing for a large element of intentional exaggeration . . . there remains the basic fact that . . . we have the expression of the twisted psyche of an embittered, penniless wastrel—R. A. Hall>)}

**spew** vb *belch, burp, vomit, disgorge, regurgitate, throw up**

**sphere** *field, domain, province, territory, bailiwick*

---

**Ana** dominion, sway, jurisdiction, control, *power:* *range, reach, scope, compass:* *function, office, duty, province*

**spice** *touche, suspicion, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, dash, vein, strain, streak***

**spick-and-span** *neat, tidy, trim, trig, snug, shipshape**

**spine, backbone, back, vertebrae, chine** designate the articulated column of bones which is the central and axial feature of the skeleton of human beings and other vertebrate animals. *Spine, backbone, back, and vertebrae* can be used without distinction, but one of the first three is more likely to be chosen when the structure is considered as a unit, and the last when its composite structure is pertinent. *Spine and backbone* are more often used in reference to human beings than to lower vertebrates; *spine* is often felt as more technical than *backbone* and is likely to be preferred when the intent is to appear informed or knowledgeable (<the doctor recommended an operation on my brother's spine> <don't sit like that, you'll kink your backbone> but *spine* is also appropriate when *vertebrae* could be misleading (<fractured his spine and injured three vertebrae> *Back,* more often than *spine or backbone,* applies to the bony column together with ligaments and muscles that support it and collectively make up a distinguishable part of the vertebrate body (<broke his back in a fall> <a badly wrenched back> *Vertebrae* is likely to occur in technical anatomical use and in general use is often preferred when the reference is to other than human beings. *Chine* has lost this basic meaning except indirectly in application to meat animals, in which it is applied to a cut of meat including part of the backbone (<a chine of beef>*)

**spirit** n 1 *soul***

**Ana** *mind, intellect, soul, psyche***

2 ghost, *apparition, phantom, phantasm, wraith, specter, shade, revenant***

3 *courage, mettle, resolution, tenacity***

**spirit** n 1 *soul***

2 ghost, *apparition, phantom, phantasm, wraith, specter, shade, revenant***

3 *courage, mettle, resolution, tenacity***

**spirited, high-spirited, merrymaker, spunky, fiery, peppy, gingerly** mean having or manifesting a high degree of vitality, spirit, and daring. _Spirited_ implies not only fullness of life but such signs of excellent physical, or sometimes mental, health as ardor, animation, energy, and enthusiasm; the term's implications vary widely, but it usually carries a suggestion of vigorous vitality, exaltation, or stimulation <his words, spirited as they were in meaning, contrasted sadly with the weakness of the voice—Stevenson> <a spirited turn to a jaded commonplace has achieved an opening that is flawlessly organic—Lowes> <the defense is spirited and extreme and nothing is given to the enemy—Sykes> <shaking his head backward, somewhat after the manner of a spirited horse—George Eliot> _High-spirited_ can add to _spirited_ a strong suggestion of dash and confidence and even of a temperamental unwillingness to accept guidance and control <a sensibly unheroic man who is...
spiteful, malignant, malevolent, malign

spirited

spiritless

spurious adj 1 *immaterial, incorporeal

spiritual physical —Con *material, corporeal, phenomenal, sensible, objective: *bodily, corporal, somatic

*brave: impetuous, *precipitate: *eager, avid, keen: *passionate, enthusiastic, zealous, fervent, ardent (see corresponding nouns at PASSION)

spite n despite, malignity, malignancy, spleen, grudge, *malevolence, ill will

spiritless "languid, languishing, languorous, listless, enervated, lackadaisical

spiteful malignant, *malicious, malevolent, malign

spleen malignity, malignancy, grudge, spite, desire, *malice, malevolence, ill will

splendid resplendent, gorgeous, glorious, sublime, superb

can mean having or displaying outstanding or transcendingly impressive qualities. Although, like most adjectives implying transcendence, they are often used interchangeably in hyperbole or in general expressions of great admiration or satisfaction, they are capable of being used more precisely in ways that convey quite distinctive images and impressions. Splendid implies an outshining of the usual or customary (as in brilliance, luster, grandeur, or magnificence) or an impressing of the observer (as by surpassing brilliance, luster, or grandeur) "a fine—yes even a splendid room—of great height, and covered grandeur—Galworthy") "the splendid efflorescence of genius in Russia during...the last century—Ellis") (blocks set there like markers of a splendid city yet unbuilt which would rise grandly from the hills—Wolf") (there was a majestic quality about this woman, something splendid, almost stately—Dahl") Resplendent implies a glowing or blazing splendor "girls, resplendent in fine red or green cloth coats with big fur collars framing the flashing vivacity of their faces—Ferber") "Juliet died, but not before she had shown how great and resplendent a thing love could be—Krutch") Gorgeous is likely to apply to the sumptuously splendid in color or display of colors "the July sun shone over Egdon and fired its crimson heather to scarlet. It was the one season of the year, and the one weather of the season, in which the heath was gorgeous—Hardy") The term sometimes stresses showiness or elaborateness rather than splendor of coloring "a gorgeous feast") "quite gorgeous archway with gates at the head of the staircase, covered and festooned with pink roses—Wouk") Glorious implies a being radiant with light or beauty or a standing out as eminently worthy of admiration, renown, or distinction "now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York—Shak.") "he soon saw within ken a glorious Angel stood...his back was turned, but not his brightness hid—Milton") "as often happens after a gray daybreak the sun had risen in a warm and glorious splendor—Conrad") (this glorious vision of manly strength and beauty—Shaw") Sublime applies distinctively to what is so elevated or exalted that the mind in contemplating or picturing it cannot reach full comprehension of it and must, in part at least, feel or imagine the vastness of its extent, power, beauty, or nobility "the main force of Buddhist art was spent in the creation of sublime figures, the images of those enlightened ones who in the clear beam of their purified vision beheld and understood the sorrows, the struggles, the vain angers and hatreds of imperfect mortality—Binyon") "the thunderstorm when it is felt to be sublime has lost in part at least the terrors it possesses as a natural event—Alexander") (he ran the gamut of denunciation, rising to heights of wrath that were sublime and almost Godlike—London"

superb describes what exceeds the merely grand, magnificent, sumptuous, or splendid and reaches the highest conceivable point of competence, brilliance, grandeur, magnificence, or splendor "a superb wine") "a superb performance") "the author's style is brilliant, his command of words and images superb—Harrison Smith") "as a boat builder he was superb...The boat was sculptured rather than built—Steinbeck") "superb figures, breathing health and strength—Binyon") (he had the superb vitality of early youth—Cather") Ana radiant, effulgent, luminous, brilliant, *bright: illustrious, eminent (see FAMOUS): excelling or excellent,
spleenetic 766 sponsor

spleenetic *irascible, choleric, testy, touchy, cranky, cross
Ana morose, *sullen, glum, gloomy; *irritable, querulous, peevish, snappish: captious, carping, caviling (see CRIT-
ical)

split vb rend, cleave, rive, rip, *tear
Ana *separate, part, divide, sever: *cut, chop, hew

split n *breach, break, schism, rent, rupture, rift
Ana *crack, cleft, fissure: estrangement, alienation (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE): schism, heresy (see corresponding nouns at HERETIC)

split second *instant, moment, second, minute, flash, jiffy, twinkling

spoil vb 1 *injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar
Ana *ruin, wreck: *destroy, demolish

Con preserve, conserve, *save: amend, redress, remedy (see CORRECT vb)
2 *indulge, pamper, humor, baby, mollycoddle
Ana *injure, harm, hurt: damage: favor, accommodate,
*oblige: *debate, deprive, vitiate, debauch
3 *decay, decompose, rot, putrefy, disintegrate, crumble
Ana corrupt, vitiate (see DEBASE): *ruin, wreck: impair, harm, *injure

spoilate despoil, *ravage, devastate, waste, sack, pilage
Ana *rob, plunder, rifle, loot: defraud, swindle, *cheat

spunge, sponger *parasite, sycophant, favorite, toady, licksnipe, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech

sponsor n Sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor, backer, angel are comparable when they denote a person who in a greater or less degree accepts responsibility for another person or for a particular venture or undertaking. Sponsor usually implies public acceptance of a responsibility and a definite engagement to perform what is promised: the word implies making a pledge in behalf of another and thereby accepting responsibility for its fulfillment; thus, the sponsor of an infant in baptism makes the promises in the child's name and pledges himself to be responsible for the child's religious training if the latter is deprived of his natural guardians. In a wider sense sponsor suggests assumption of the role of promoter or supporter and may imply acceptance of any degree of responsibility from one that is complete (it is my way, when I have finished a book, to let it drop with a resigned shrug . . .). The charm it once possessed for me, its sponsor, has long since vanished—Thomas Mann] to one that is indirect or remote and often purely economic (the major sponsors of scientific research, governments and business corporations—Flew] for every person whose passage was paid to Virginia, the sponsor received fifty acres of land—Smelser & Kirwin] Patron stresses the acceptance of the relation as a protector or benefactor especially in return for service, honors, or devotion; it often implies the obligation to assist, support, or defend; thus, a patron of an artist or of a poet is a wealthy or influential person who makes him a protégé presumably in return for honors paid him; the patron of an institution, a cause, or a charity is one whose generous and regular contributions to its support are publicly recognized. Surety and guarantor imply answerability for another's debt or performance of duty in case of default because of prior acceptance of responsibility. Backer, less specific in denotation than the other terms, is used chiefly in relation to enterprises (as of sports, politics, and the theater); it often implies the giving of financial support, sometimes merely moral support or encouragement, but it carries no implication that responsibility for debts is assumed (the success of a publication is the success of its editors, and not of its business managers and its backers—Hendrick] Angel is a somewhat derogatory or contemptuous term for a financial backer, especially of a theatrical enterprise. Ana supporter or support, upholder, champion, advoca-

in search of loot> In more general use the term is applicable to gains felt as ill-gotten (corrupt officials enriched by the loot of years) Swag is also often used in place of loot or plunder especially to imply a collection or sackful of valuables gathered by or as if by thieves (asserted that the swag from . . . graft was kept hidden . . . in a metal box buried in the backyard—F. L. Allen> (certain the great swag of doublons was there—if he could only find it—Dobie> 

Ana *theft, robbery, larceny, burglary: acquisitions, acquirements (see singular nouns at ACQUISITION)

spoil n Spoil, plunder, booty, prize, loot, swag can mean something of value that is taken from another by force or craft. Spoil applies to the movable property of a defeated enemy, which by the custom of old-time warfare belongs to the victor and of which he strips a captured city or place (fire the palace, the fort, and the keep—leave to the foe man no spoil at all—Kipling> With changes in methods and customs of warfare spoil, and especially its plural spoils, tends to be applied not only to property or land taken over by conquering forces in actual warfare or demanded by them from the conquered as a condition of making peace but also to whatever by custom and often unethical custom belongs to a victor whether in warlike endeavor or more peaceful pursuits; thus, in political use spoils applies chiefly to appointive public offices and their emoluments which the successful party in an election regards as its peculiar property to be bestowed as its leaders wish. But spoil may also apply to something gained by skill or effort (the spoils of a conservative industrial life—Brooks> or sometimes acquired as casually as if by looting (the car filled with country spoils) brought back all sorts of frivolous spoils from her trip> Plunder implies open violence (as of marauders) and is a more inclusive term than spoil because not restricted to warfare; it consistently implies robbery, whether as incidental to war or as dissociated from it and is applicable to what has been seized not only by spoilers, pillagers, and sackers but by such riffraff as bandits, brigands, and highwaymen (often the pirates were glad to accept money instead of plunder, and ransom for the slaves—Forester> (a useless compiler, who fills letters and sermons with the plunder of the ancients and Holy Writ—H. O. Taylor> Booty, like plunder, is applicable to spoilable goods as well as to what is seized by or as if by robbery or theft (birds like the berries. They gather them, fly to top branches where they can be on the lookout for danger, and eat their booty—Dorrance> (a cat springing on an oriole and marching proudly off with her golden booty projecting . . . from her mouth—Brooks> In international law booty is technically used in distinction from prize, booty referring to spoils taken on land, and prize, to spoils captured on the high seas or in the territorial waters of the enemy (finished, but never published, a Latin treatise on the right of seizing prizes at sea—Barr> Loot may be used in place of plunder, booty, or spoils when a highly derogatory or condemnatory term is desired (drawn into the conflict by a hope of sharing in the loot of the Church—Bellor> (they believed that the revolution which they had fought by brawling in the streets would bring them loot and good jobs—Shirer> The term is also applied specifically to the plunder of those who rob the dead or helpless victims of a catastrophe or who steal anything left of value in the ruins of buildings wholly or partly destroyed (as by fire, flood, earthquake, or violent storm) (prowlers among the ruins of years) Swag is also often used in place of loot or plunder especially to imply a collection or sackful of valuables gathered by or as if by thieves (asserted that the swag from . . . graft was kept hidden . . . in a metal box buried in the backyard—F. L. Allen> (certain the great swag of doublons was there—if he could only find it—Dobie> 

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spoil vb 1 *injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar
Ana *ruin, wreck: *destroy, demolish

Con preserve, conserve, *save: amend, redress, remedy (see CORRECT vb)
2 *indulge, pamper, humor, baby, mollycoddle
Ana *injure, harm, hurt: damage: favor, accommodate,
*oblige: *debate, deprive, vitiate, debauch
3 *decay, decompose, rot, putrefy, disintegrate, crumble
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spontaneity

**tor or advocate** (see corresponding verbs at SUPPORT): promoter, furtherer (see corresponding verbs at ADVANCE)

**spontaneity** abandon, *unconstraint

*Spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive, automatic, mechanical in application to persons or their movements, acts, and utterances mean acting or activated without apparent thought or deliberation. Spontaneous can describe whatever is not affected or effected by an external or internal compulsion of the will and comes about so naturally that it seems unpremeditated as well as unprompted (<a spontaneous burst of applause> <a spontaneous expression of feeling> <the spontaneous wish to learn, which every normal child possesses> should be the driving-force in education—Russell) <the witticisms are never planted: they are spontaneous and over in a flash, like the quick striking of a match—Edmund Wilson> Impulsive applies to someone or something actuated suddenly and impetuously under the stress of the feeling or spirit of the moment and seeming to be involuntary and forced by emotion rather than voluntary and natural (<an impulsive act of generosity> <my heart, impulsive and wayward—Longfellow> <he made an impulsive gesture, and opened his lips; but he dared not speak—Deland> <to promote the carefree, impulsive purchasing of new items—Packard> Instinctive implies the guiding influence of instinct and a native and unreasoned prompting to actions characteristic of the species and presumably contributing to its life and well-being: when referred to human beings, the term is applied to actions, movements, or feelings which are instantaneous, unwilled, and often unconscious (as reflex movements, habitual actions, or specific responses to stimuli) <the most prolonged and difficult operations of our minds may yet become instantaneous, or, as we call it, instinctive—Shaw> <her attitude was not a matter of reason. It was as instinctive as the humping-up of a cat at a dog—Wouk> Automatic and mechanical apply to what at least to outward appearances seems to engage neither the mind nor the emotions and to suggest the operation of a machine. But automatic, like instinctive, stresses promptness in the response. It differs from instinctive, however, in implying adaptability to changing circumstances and readiness to react or to respond immediately and unvaryingly each time a given situation or stimulus recurs (<the responses of a well-trained soldier to commands are automatic> <he pulled the hall door open, and he held it, in automatic and habitual caution, scarcely ajar—Boyle> <in fact, voting is so nearly automatic that a cynic might ask why we have election campaigns at all—Bliven b.1889> Mechanical, on the other hand, stresses the lifeless and, often, the perfunctory character of the response. It does not, as automatic often does, suggest perfect discipline; rather, it suggests a mind dulled by repetition of the act, motion, or operation and capable only of routine performance (<he would deal you out facts in a dry automatic way> <in fact, voting is so nearly automatic that a cynic might ask why we have election campaigns at all—Bliven b.1889> Mechanical, on the other hand, stresses the lifeless and, often, the perfunctory character of the response. It does not, as automatic often does, suggest perfect discipline; rather, it suggests a mind dulled by repetition of the act, motion, or operation and capable only of routine performance (<he would deal you out facts in a dry mechanical way> <as if reading them in a book—Hudson> <engaged in futile and mechanical lovemaking, compulsive drinking, and considerations of suicide—Aldridge>)

**Ana** *extemporaneous, extempore, impromptu, improvised, offhand, unpremeditated: *natural, simple, ingenious, unsophisticated 2 *automatic

**spoon vb** ladle, dish, *dip, bail, scoop

SPRINKLE: *playful, frolicsome, roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous

*Ablithe, *merry, jovial, jovial, jolly: mitful, gleeful, hilarious (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH)

spot n 1 play, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under play vb) 2 *fun, jest, game, play

**sport** vb *play, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under play vb) 2 *fun, jest, game, play

**ana** *mirth, gle, hilarity, jollity

3 in plural form sports *athletics, games

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*ana* scattered, dispersed (see scatter): sparse, exiguous, *meager

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**spot** vb *Spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle can mean to cover or to mark or to become covered or marked with spots or streaks. The same distinctions in implications or connotations are found in their participial adjectives (often used as simple adjectives) spotted, spattered, sprinkled, motbled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled. Spot usually suggests either accident or a result of nature. When accident or carelessness is suggested, a staining or smirching is often connoted (<spot a dress with mud> <spot a cloth with iodine> <the book was spotted with grease> <spotted her stockings in the rain>) but, when the agency of art or nature is suggested, some design is usually implied that decorates, covers, or distinguishes; this use occurs mainly in the participial adjective (<spotted muslin> <no spotted pony is ever pure Shetland—Riker> <a spotted leopard> <a spotted orchid> Spatter (see also sprinkle) essentially implies a dispersing or scattering in fragments; in general it presupposes an action (as of boiling grease, of dashing rain, or of a person washing) that causes something to fly out in drops or bits upon something or someone (<do not get the lard too hot, for it will spatter all over you> <spray from one of the hoses spattered over the longshoremen—Pizer> <his very good fortune spattered others with misfortune—Malamud> <do ye wait for the spattered shrimpnel ere ye learn how a gun is laid?—Kipling> Sprinkle (see also sprinkle) implies an effect of or as if of scattering a liquid in small drops; the term may emphasize the numbers or frequency of tiny spots or the thin strewwing of larger ones (<his ill-fitting clothes were usually sprinkled with cigarette ashes—Lubel> <the masses covered with slacksknaps and white prayer shawls, sprinkled here and there with the frilly hats . . . of women—Wouk> <a heavily wooded section, sprinkled with small lakes—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) Mottle stresses an irregular spotting (as in streaks or blobs or patches) usually with another color; therefore what is mottled tends to present a clouded or a broken appearance or a surface covered with unevenly placed spots (<drifting clouds mottled the sea—Michener> <books bound in mottled calf> <his eyes were opaque as paviug stones, and his cheeks a mottled gray—Kenneth Roberts> Fleck may imply a spot or blemish (as of the skin); usually, however, it suggests a light spotting by specks (as of snow, of color, of light, or of clouds) <overhead the still snow is scarcely flecked by a cloud—Black> <one hillside is flecked by a herd of black goats—Edmund Wilson> <immature birds . . . recognizable by their dark, flecked

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**ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
plumage—E. A. Armstrong> Stipple basically refers to a technique in engraving, painting, or drawing in which dots or short touches rather than lines are used, especially to depict masses or to indicate shadows. The term is often extended to other things that suggest this technique or its effect (<accidentally jiggled his arm in such wise as to make the stipple ink over the coat—Perelman> <sunlight that fell through the trees and stippled the sidewalks—Basso> <the quail that spins out of the stippled corn to windy air—Southerly> <a play stippled alternately with tenderness and dynamite—Nathan> Marble comes close to motile, but it is specifically used when by intent or by nature the irregularly streaked effect of variegated marble is reproduced (<for the endpapers we use handmade paper marbled by hand—Notes on The Art of Book-binding> <well-marbled beef> <his uneven eyes, one blind, marbled and sunken in his skull—Malcolm Cowley> Speckle suggests a covering with small and often crowded spots (as of color); the term is sometimes used with a suggestion of the cause or nature of the marks (<a few drops of unenthusiastic rain . . . speckled the shoulders of his coat—Charteris> <his arms were speckled from wrists to biceps with the punctures of a hypodermic needle—Koble> <bright stars speckled the sky—Mansfield> Spangle and spangle suggest a thick swirling with tiny sparkling bits (as of shiny metal) or with something giving a similar effect (<an evening sheath . . . spangled with black sequins—Lois Long> <the spangled palaces of sin and fancy dancing in the false West of the movies—Steinbeck> <grass . . . all bespangled with dewdrops—Cowper> <a cold perspiration bespangled his brow—Gilbert> Ana splash, bespatter, besprinkle, aspirce (see sprinkler): <soil, sully, dirty, smirch, besmirch: variegate, checker, dapple, freak (see corresponding adjectives at VARIO-GATED> spotted spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb) sprain n *strain sprain vb strain (see under STRAIN n) spread vb Spread, circulate, disseminate, diffuse, propagate, radiate can all mean to extend or cause to extend over an area or space. Spread basically implies a drawing or stretching out to the limit (<spread a net> <spread a cloth on the ground> <the bird spreads its wings> <spread a sail>) and in the sense here considered emphasizes distribution or dispersion (as by stirring or scattering or being strewed or scattered) over an extent of space that may be large or small or incalculable or calculable (<spread fertilizer over a field> <this troublesome weed has spread over a large section of the country> Often it suggests an applying in or a taking the form of a thin layer (<spread butter on bread> <the paint spreads thinly and evenly> <the clouds shifted, spread against the sky . . . and enveloped everything below—Styron>) or a making or becoming more prevalent or more widely known or felt (<don’t go on spreading that nonsense—Rose Macaulay> <the heretic should be crushed before his heresy can spread—Fitzroy Maclean> <news of us might spread far beyond that town—Shipton> Circulate may imply in its primary and largely technical use a continuous or repeated movement over the same course from starting point to starting point (<the blood circulates from the heart through the arteries and veins back to the heart again> <steam circulating through a heating system>) In its more general applications the term tends to stress a moving about or a causing to move about freely and continuously, often to the more or less complete loss of the notion of going over the same course again and again (<the seats were being filled up rapidly and a pleasant noise circulated in the auditorium—Joyce> <the satire, circulating in manuscript copies, had a great local vogue—Lucas> <all of us circulating ominously, and incognito, throughout the city, sizing up elevator operators—Salinger> Disseminate implies much the same as spread when that word suggests distribution here and there (<disseminate information> <the London ladies were indignant, and naturally they started disseminating a vast amount of fruity gossip about the new Lady Turton—Dahl> In those days the Boy Scout movement was already in existence, but it had still to disseminate sound views about knot-tying among the rising generation—H. G. Wells> Diffuse suggests a spreading throughout a space; it is applied primarily to things (as sound, light, odor, or vapor) that in moving permeate the medium through which they move and in its extended sense to things (as education, knowledge, fame, and spirit) that have or are felt to have a similar pervasive quality in their dissemination (<the colors of the sky are due to minute particles diffused through the atmosphere—Tyndall> It would surely be hard to find any country . . . where instruction is more widely diffused—Ellis> <a State in which power is concentrated will . . . be more bellicose than one in which power is diffused—Russell> <the so-called "correct speech" is being diffused to the mass of the populace through migration, mass education, and mass communication media—Amer. Sociological Review> Propagate (see also GENERATE; compare propaganda under PUBLICITY) implies extension for the sake of increase (as of believers or members or of activity or operation) (<propagate the faith> <propagate a false rumor>) <I am bound by my own definition of criticism: a disinterested endeavor to learn and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world—Arnold> extraordinary plebeians who rise sharply . . . and so propagate the delusion that all other plebeians would do the same thing if they had the chance—Mencken> Radiate implies a spreading from a center outward in or as if in rays; in general use it is often applied to the spreading of something material or immaterial from a fixed center (<soul-searching Freedom! here assume thy stand, and radiate hence to every distant land—Barlow> <her face . . . was still pretty, even with the web of little wrinkles that radiated from the corners of her eyes—Basso>) A superb self-confidence radiated from him, as it does from any healthy animal—Gibbons> but in its common technical use the term is largely restricted in reference to diffusion in the form of rays (as of heat or light) (<the sun radiates both light and heat> Ana *distribute, dispense, deal: *scatter, dissipate spread n *expansion, amplitude, stretch Ana extent, area, magnitude, *size: *range, reach, scope, compass sprightly *lively, animated, vivacious, gay Ana *active, live, dynamic: *agile, nimble, brisk, sry: *merry, blithe, jocund spring vb 1 Spring, arise, rise, originate, derive, flow, issue, emanate, proceed, stem can mean to come up out of or into something into existence. Spring stresses sudden or surprising emergence especially after a period of concealment or hidden existence or preparation (<plants spring from seed> <thoughts that sprang up in his mind> he had not chosen his course. It had sprung from a necessity of his nature—Brooks> <freedom of the mind, the basic freedom from which all other freedoms spring—Davis> Arise emphasizes the fact of coming into existence or into notice more than the conditions attending the event; often it conveys no clear suggestion of a prior state (<a rumor arose and was widely circulated> <after Alfed no rival native

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house arose to dispute the throne with Alfred's heirs—Malone> When used with from, however, it usually implies a causal connection between what is the object of the preposition and what is the subject of the verb; in such cases it is synonymous with result, though it neither loses nor obscures its primary implication of coming into existence $\langle$mistakes often arise from ignorance$\rangle$ $\langle$the mischief arose from careless gossip$\rangle$ $\langle$the depression, the shock arising from what had happened abovestairs, left him almost at once—Bromfield$\rangle$ Sometimes, when the context suggests a cause, the from phrase is omitted $\langle$where there is continued discontent, trouble is certain to arise$\rangle$ $\langle$the right never existed, and the question whether it has been surrendered cannot arise—John Marshall$\rangle$ Rise and arise (see also under rise 2) are often used interchangeably, but usage usually favors arise except where, in addition to the implication of beginning, there is either in the word or the context a strong suggestion of ascent $\langle$new nations rise only to fall$\rangle$ $\langle$mighty forces rise from small beginnings$\rangle$ $\langle$the Gothic cathedrals rose in England in the first half of the thirteenth century—Saunders$\rangle$ $\langle$great regimes rose, based upon the irrational and negative in man's nature—Straight$\rangle$ Originate suggests a definite source or starting point which may be specified or located $\langle$the theory of evolution did not originate with Darwin$\rangle$ $\langle$the fire originated in the basement$\rangle$ $\langle$the newsreel, originated . . . in France, was introduced in the United States in 1910—Mott$\rangle$ $\langle$its founding originated in the Puritans' conviction that learning was essential for godliness—Murdock$\rangle$ Derive also suggests a source; usually it does not imply, as originate implies, actual inception but presupposes a prior existence in another form or in another person or thing and connotes descent (as by inheritance, endowment, transference, or deduction) $\langle$the power of the executive derives from the people$\rangle$ $\langle$our thoughts often derive from our wishes$\rangle$ $\langle$the principle of symmetry derives, I suppose, from contemplation of the human form—Binyon$\rangle$ $\langle$much of our thinking about the rights and duties of the citizen derives directly from Greco-Roman thought—Highet$\rangle$ Flow, issue, emanate in common imply a passing from one thing to another, the former being the source from which the latter is derived. All of these words are colored by their basic meanings. Flow suggests passage like water, easily as if from a spring or abundantly as if from a reservoir $\langle$praise God, from whom all blessings flow—Ken$\rangle$ $\langle$the oleaginous sentences flowed easily from her pen—Gibbon$\rangle$ Issue most frequently suggests emergence into existence, as if from a womb $\langle$how far Arnold is responsible for the birth of Humanism would be difficult to say; we can at least say that it issues very naturally from his doctrine—T. S. Eliot$\rangle$ $\langle$if the naturalist's logic rests on wind, and issues in echoing phrases devoid of substance—Sullivan$\rangle$ Emanate is used largely in reference to immaterial constructions (as a law, a principle, a power, or a system of thought); it connotes the passage of something impalpable or invisible and suggests a less obvious causal connection between the source and the thing derived than flow or issue $\langle$but the house . . . was Carrie's and it was from her that emanated the atmosphere of a home—Purdy$\rangle$ $\langle$the government of the Union . . . is, emphatically, and truly, a government of the people. In form and in substance it emanates from them—John Marshall$\rangle$ Proceed stresses a place of origin or, sometimes, parentage, derivation, or cause $\langle$no public benefit which you receive but it proceeds or comes from them to you and no way from yourselves—Shak.$\rangle$ $\langle$assuring her that his seeming inattention had only proceeded from his being involved in a profound meditation—Peacock$\rangle$ Stem suggests a growing out (as of a stem from a root or of a branch from a trunk) and is used chiefly in reference to things that come into existence through the influence of a predecessor either as a natural outgrowth or as a subordinate development $\langle$the good portrait painters . . . stem from Rubens—Mather$\rangle$ $\langle$it spread to the lower officers and the troops in the field—or perhaps it stemmed from them—Shirer$\rangle$ Ana emerge, loom, *appear: *come, arrive: *begin, commence, start 2 *jump, leap, bound, vault Ana frolic, rollick, gambol, disport (see PLAY) spring n 1 *motive, impulse, incentive, inducement, spur, goad Ana *origin, source, root, inception: *cause, determinant, antecedent: *stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus 2 jump, leap, bound, vault (see under JUMP vb) springy *elastic, resilient, flexible, supple Ana *yielding, submitting (see YIELD): recoiling, rebounding (see REBOUND) sprinkle vb *spot, spatter, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle sprinkled spotted, spotted, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb) sprint vb *scuttle, scurry, scamper, skedaddle Ana *rush, dash, charge, shoot, tear: *speed, hurry, hasten: dart, *fly, scud spry *agile, brisk, nimble Ana *quick, ready, prompt: *vigor, energetic, strenuous: hale, *healthy, sound, robust Ant doddering spume *foam, froth, scum, lather, suds, yeast spunky *spirited, high-spirited, mettle, fiery, peppy, gengery Ana dauntless, undaunted, bold (see BRAVE): daring, venturesome (see ADVENTUROUS): restive, restless, *impatient spur n goad, spring, *motive, impulse, incentive, induce ment Ana *stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus: activation, actuation, motivation (see corresponding verbs at ACTIVATE): *cause, determinant: provoking or provocation, exciting or excitement (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE) spur vb *urge, egg, exhort, goad, prod, prick, sic Ana rouse, arouse, *stir, awaken, rally: *incite, instigate: excite, *provoke, stimulate: encourage, countenance, *favor Ant curb —Con *restrain, inhibit, check spurious *counterfeit, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony Ana *false: simulated, feigned, shammed (see ASSUME): supposititious, reputed, putative (see SUPPOSED) Ant genuine —Con *authentic, veritable, bona fide: true, *real, actual spur reject, repudiate, refuse, *decline Ana disdain, scorn, scold, *despise, contempt: flout, *scoff, sneer Ant crave: embrace squabbler n *quarrel, wrangle, altercation, bickering, spat, tiff Ana dispute, controversy, *argument: row, rumpus, scrap, *brawl, broil squabbler vb quarrel, wrangle, altercation, bicker, spat, tiff (see under QUARREL n) Ana *contend, fight, battle, war: struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT vb): dispute, agitate, argue (see DISCUSS) squallid *dirty, nasty, filthy, foul
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fused articulation or an involuntary repetition of sounds or words (the eloquent tongue forgot its office. Cicero stammered, blundered, and sat down—Froude) ("Why—why—") stammered the youth struggling with his balking tongue—Crane> Stutter usually stresses the involuntary repetition of sounds, especially of consonantal or syllabic sounds. It is less likely than stammer to imply a proximate cause and typically, especially in medical use, implies a constitutional defect (as a nervous affliction or a speech defect) which results in a habitual and persistent speech problem (no two persons stutter alike ... a stutterer who stumbles over the initial of "Peter" may have no trouble with any other p in ... “Peter Piper’s peppers”—Scripture) (this gentleman has ... a small natural infirmity; he stutters a little—Foot) In nontechnical use the terms are often used interchangeably especially in their extended senses, in which both terms are freely employed either in reference to a fluctuating repetitive sound or to something that halts or progresses by fits and starts like the speech of a stammerer or stutterer (climbed into his Ford and stuttered down the hill—Steinbeck) (her pen sometimes stutters with the intensity of the emotion that she controlled—Woolf) (a brilliant idea stands still and stuttering—Pritchett)

stamp vb *mark, brand, label, tag, ticket

Ana impress, imprint, print (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION): authenticate, validate (see CONFIRM): avouch, warrant (see ASSERT)

stamp n 1 *impression, impress, imprint, print

2 mark, brand, label, tag, ticket (see under MARK vb)

stand vb tolerate, brook, *bear, suffer, endure, abide

stand n *position, attitude

Ana *point of view, standpoint, viewpoint, slant, angle

standard n 1 *flag, ensign, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, penon, jack

2 Standard, criterion, gauge, yardstick, touchstone can all mean a measure by which one judges a thing as authentic, good, or adequate or the degree to which it is authentic, good, or adequate. Standard applies to an authoritative rule, principle, or measure used to determine the quantity, weight, or extent or especially the value, quality, level, or degree of a thing (each generation ... has its own ideals and its own standards of judgment—Crothers) (the ideal of general cultivation has been one of the standards in education— Eliot) (the building ... by all the standards of St. Botolph's ... would be condemned as expensive, pretentious, noisy and unsafe—Cheever)

Criterion denotes the thing, whether formulated into a rule or principle or not, by appeal to which one arrives at or confirms a given judgment (as of value, quality, fitness, or correctness) (the sole criterion of the truth of illusion is its inner congruity—Lowes) (the size of sunspots is a meaningless criterion in predicting the havoc which may occur to radio transmission—Dawes) (no exact criterion for a just and fruitful apportionment of the surplus wealth—Hobson) (these laws ... did establish useful criteria of conduct—Handlin) Gauge, concretely a standard measure or scale or an instrument for measuring something that fluctuates (as in size or height), can in extension apply to a standard measure whether tangible or not (a piece of 1/8 inch thickness fiber or wood makes a convenient gauge in setting brush holders—Mill & Factory) (the inarticulate, whose ferocity was a gauge of the injustices they had suffered—Bruce Marshall) (the degree of public acceptance of the opinions of leaders is the ultimate gauge of the importance and validity of those opinions—Rafferty) Yardstick, basically a measuring stick a yard long and subdivided into inches and fractions of inches, is often extended to standards or criteria especially for something intangible or immaterial (no absolute or universal yardstick about what constitutes a frustration—Kardiner) (the consumption of petroleum products, an accurate yardstick of economic growth—The Lamp) Touchstone can apply to a simple device by which authenticity or value may be determined and especially to an authentic or superior instance of a class of things by comparison with which another thing may be judged authentic or superior (consistency is a touchstone by which the basic doctrine can often be distinguished from the propaganda line—L. C. Stevens) (a Marxist critic using economic determinants, social perspectives, and class consciousness as his touchstones—Glicksberg) (the chief touchstone to folklore is the manner in which it is transmitted: one man tells another, one man shows another—Emrich)

Ana norm, median, par, mean, *average: rule, *law: *principle, fundamental, axiom: *model, pattern, exemplar

3 ideal, beau ideal, *model, pattern, exemplar, example, mirror

standoff n *draw, tie, stalemate, deadlock

standpoint *point of view, viewpoint, angle, slant

Ana stand, *position, attitude

stanzas *verse

stare vb *gaze, glace, glare, peer, gloat

Ana look, watch, *see: glower, lower, scowl, *frown

stark *stiff, rigid, inflexible, tense, wooden

Ana settled, established, fixed, set (see set vb)

Con *elastic, resilient, springy, flexible, supple: fluid, *liquid

starry, stellar, astral, sidereal can mean of, referring to, or suggestive of a star or group of stars. Starry is the ordinary nontechnical term, capable of being used in reference to stars of various kinds (as the celestial bodies known as stars or the geometrical figure with five, six, or more points that is the conventionalized star) (a starry night) (a starry banner) (a starry eyes) (here are the skies, the planets seven, and all the stars—Housman) (the starry towers of Babylon Noah's freshest never reached—Yeats) Stellar has the same range of reference as starry, but, since the connotations of the words are not the same, they are rarely interchangeable; starry gathers its connotations (as of brilliancy, remoteness, and beauty) chiefly from the appearance of the celestial stars to the ordinary observer; stellar derives its suggestions chiefly from astronomical lore of the stars as influencing all things and as shaping human destinies or from astronomical knowledge of the constitution, arrangement, and classification of stars; thus, one tends to speak of a stellar, rather than a starry, influence or aspect; of a stellar, rather than starry, eclipse or nebula (these soft fires ... shed down their stellar virtue on all kinds that grow on Earth—Milton) (Kaptyn worked nearly alone in the field of stellar astronomy—G. W. Gray) Stellar is also used more often than starry of theatrical or cinematic stars (stellar roles in operas and musical festivals—Current Biog.) and it alone is freely used to imply outstanding quality or position in other relations (a dependable working staff, and a stellar panel of consultants—Hartwell) (he just wasn't a stellar naval officer in the eyes of his subordinates—Lois & Don Thorburn)

Astral is in much of its use a technical term in theosophy and similar cults, and in more general use it is likely to bear connotations of spirituality, mysticism, and remoteness from the fleshly that derive largely from mythological
and other conceptions of the stars as the abode of celestial spirits or of supersensible beings whose nature and constitution are rarer and finer than that of earthy human beings. <enchantments that unlock a crystal cage; an alphabet with astral fire seasoned—Wylie> (an astral thinker with disturbing, visionary thoughts of helping the whole world—Newsweek) (an astral myth) (a state of mind which may resemble that of a soul in its astral body looking back upon its corporeal one—Beebe) Sidereal is sometimes interchangeable with the other terms <walls of interlocked magnolias, sidereal with white, fragrant blossoms—Nat'l Geog. Mag.> I felt that he was an Intelligences which had borrowed form and substance in deference to the requirements of sidereal politeness—Henry Miller but distinctively it is used in opposition to solar, especially as applied to periods of time measured by the rotation of the earth with reference to a given star; thus, the sidereal day, determined by reference to Aries, is 3 minutes and 55.91 seconds shorter, as measured in solar time, than the mean solar day.

**start** vb *begin, commence, initiate, inaugurate*

*Ana* institute, *found, establish, organize:* *enter, penetrate: originate, proceed, *spring

**startle** scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, *frighten, fright, affray, affright*

*Ana* *surprise, astonish, astound: rouse, arouse, *stir: electrify, *thrill

**state** n *State, condition, mode, situation, posture, status* can all mean the way in which a person or thing manifests his or its existence or the circumstances under which he or it exists or by which he or it is given a definite character. *State* may be used so generally that it denotes merely a form of existence which has little or no relation to material being (as in space or time or as substance) but is purely immaterial and typically mental or spiritual. (Dante's Inferno) reminds us that Hell is not a place but a state—T. S. Eliot The term may also be used specifically to name the combination of circumstances affecting a person or thing at a given time or the sum of the relations, qualities, or characteristics involved in his or its existence at the time under consideration. (Dante's Inferno) fifteen years happily in the state of matrimony—Farrington (the present state of industry) (the historian . . . visited Alexandria during the reign of this king. He was disgusted with its state—Farrington) (parents have probably gone too far in one direction and nature's reacting, trying to get back to the state of equilibrium—Huxley) *Condition* is interchangeable with state only when the effect or influence of present circumstances on actual or concrete existence is implied (the present condition of the country) (it is a condition which confronts us, not a theory—Cleveland) It regularly carries a stronger implication than state of a relation to the causes or circumstances which produced or are producing the effect and a weaker suggestion of the duration of that effect; also, condition may be used in the plural in the sense of combination of circumstances and of qualities or characteristics, as state may not (his physical condition improved with rest and sufficient exercise) (under the best conditions, a voyage is one of the severest tests to try a man—Emerson) (I probably had been hoping . . . the book would not change my life too much. I wished at that time to protect a modest condition—Mailer) (there is no possible method of compelling a child to feel sympathy or affection; the only possible method is to observe the conditions under which these feelings arise spontaneously, and then endeavor to produce the conditions—Russell) This suggestion of a relation to an external cause or causes is often so strong that the word frequently denotes a circumstance that serves as a causative influence or prerequisite rather than a combination of circumstances that form a state of being (see under condition 1) *Mode* (see also method; fashion 2) is basically a philosophical term; typically it implies an opposition to the underlying reality which can be known only from its external manifestations (as color, form, and texture), and it usually applies to the combination of characters by which substance is manifested in a particular individual or instance (no mode . . . can exist except as the mode or modification of a substance; the substance is the abiding principle, the mode is transitory. The particular mode . . . is but a temporal expression of the substance—Thilly) (nearly all [painters] use color as a mode of form. They design in color, that is in colored shapes—Clive Bell) In somewhat less restricted use the term can apply to something that expresses or exemplifies a typical form or value of a larger class; thus, the mathematical mode is the most frequent value in a statistical array; the mode of a rock is its specific mineral composition as distinguished from the norm of its kind (Rouse's mode unit is the smallest isolated item pertaining to a prehistoric manufacture . . . This mode, or attribute, is a concept many archaeologists work with in pottery classification—Willey) *Situation* applies to a state or condition that represents a combination of definite concrete circumstances, often such a conjunction of particular circumstances that the whole has a peculiarly interesting character; more than state or condition, situation implies an arrangement of these circumstances not only with reference to each other but also with respect to the character or circumstances of the persons involved so as to make for a particular resulting condition (as of difficulty or advantage, embarrassment or elation, or uncertainty or security) (such views of life were to some extent the natural begettings of her situation upon her nature—Hardy) (there was a dizzy succession of events and of constantly changing situations for a politician to watch—Shirer) (that slender, unrigid erectness, and the fine carriage of head, which always made him seem master of the situation—Cather) The term is also applied to a comparatively striking and interesting combination of events in a narrative, especially one whose outcome involves uncertainty or suspense (one knows the situation in fiction—the desperate girl appealing out of her misery to the Christian priest for help. So many women have this touch of melodrama, this sense of a situation—Rose Macaulay) (a master of plot and situation, of those elements of drama which are most essential to melodrama—T. S. Eliot) *Posture* (see also posture 1) may be used in the sense of condition when that represents a state into which one is forced by need of preparation for something to come (put a warship in a posture of defense) (Christ) insisted upon a certain . . . posture of the soul as proper to man's reception of this revelation—Liddon) (Spanish chasts have no solemnity: . . . which doesn't preclude a general devout posture of mind—Santayana) The term is often a closer synonym of situation than of condition (a virgin of thirty-two, already lapsing, though naturally attractive and sprightly, into the mental posture of old maidhood—Follett) (production which will permit us to maintain both a strong economy and a strong military posture—Truman) *Status* may indicate an individual's state or condition as determined with some definiteness for legal administrative purposes or by social or economic considerations (the change in the status of the Negro, under the Thirteenth Amendment, from three fifths of a person to a whole person in computing state apportionment—C. L. Thompson) (married woman's status was determined entirely by that of her husband—Ogg & Ray)

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state

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stay

State is often used interchangeably with stay but distinctively means to stay behind or to be left after others have gone {few remained in the building after the alarm was given} {a little verse my all that shall remain—Gray} {she remembered her decision to send the young people of the village into the woods. There would have been many more casualties had they remained—Linklater} Wait implies a staying in expectation or in readiness {at his request no one waited for him at the pier} {the taxi waited while they were shopping} {the lights in the window had a leering, waiting look, like that on the faces of old pimps who sit in the cafés—Gibbons} Abide implies prolonged staying or remaining after at length and usually connotes either stable residence or patient waiting for an outcome {she hated the change; she felt like one banished; but here she was forced to abide—Hardy} Tarry implies staying when it is time to depart or to proceed {do not tarry if you wish to catch the noon train} {some children like to tarry on the way to school} {the celebrated trade winds...ceased to blow, and over the island a horrid stillness tarried—Stafford} Linger, like tarry, usually implies outstaying one’s appointed or allotted time; frequently, however, it also implies either deliberate delay or disinclination to depart {strange, that now she was released she should linger by him—Meredith} {she shouldn’t have come to the hotel suite. She shouldn’t have lingered—this was fatal—after the others had left—Wouk} {after the guests had tarried long over their tea and had done with their jokes, the woman still lingered—Buck} 

Ana *delay, procrastinate, lag, loiter: * arrest, check, interrupt: * continue, persist 2 sojourn, lodge, put up, stop, * reside, live, dwell 3 * defer, postpone, suspend, intermit 

state vb 1 * say, utter, tell 2 report, relate, rehearse, recite, recount, narrate, describe

state adj steadfast staunch, resolute, constant, true, * faithful, loyal

Steady adj Steady, uniform, even, equal, constant are comparable when they mean neither markedly varying nor variable but much the same throughout its course or extent. Steady is the most widely applicable of these terms; in general it suggests regularity and lack of deviation, especially in movement, but it may imply such fixity in position as to be immovable or unshakable {steady as a rock} {a steady pole} or such consistency in character or conduct as to be perfectly reliable {a steady workman} {maybe she’d marry the first nice and good steady fellow with a steady job who’d be a steady provider—Farrell} When movement, motion, or direction is implied, the term may connote lack of fluctuation {a steady market} {steady prices} {a steady flame} {you can’t make millions on books, but it’s a steady respectable business—Buck} or lack of nervousness {with hinged knees and steady hand to dress wounds—Whitman} {a steady voice} or a constant uninterrupted flow or pursuit {a steady stream} {a steady rain} {steady work} Uniform stresses the sameness or likeness of the elements, parts, units, or instances that comprise a whole (as an aggregate, a series, a combination of instances, a course, or a texture) {the cells of the human organism are not uniform in structure and function} {the progress of civilization is not wholly a uniform drift towards better things—Whitehead} {one of the most fundamental social interests is that law shall be uniform and impartial—Cardozo}
steady

various tackle blocks and planks of the wooden ships were cut to uniform measure—Mumford. Even stresses steadiness more than uniformity; it often connotes a dead level (as in quality or in character) which is unvaryingly maintained or which is incapable of alteration or disturbance (her monotonous even voice) (the even flow of his verse) (I mean to . . . support with an even temper, and without any violent transpots of mind, a sudden gust of prosperity—Fielding) Equable usually implies some inherent quality which makes for invariability, such as uniformity (an equable stride) (an equable pulse) or freedom from extremes or sudden marked changes (there is an equable climate in the most populated parts, warm and tempting to leisure—Pefferson) (an equable temper) or a temperamental calmness (low equable tones, curiously in contrast to the strident babble—Kipling) (she won and lost, with the same equable sang-froid—Rose Macaulay) Constant (see also FAITHFUL, CONTINUOUS) implies fixity in character, quality, or condition or persistence in kind or type under the same conditions (the sand is frequently yellow . . . but this color is by no means constant—Lyell) (science has to deal . . . with sources of chemical energies which it knows little about except that they always seem to be constant to the same conditions—Henry Adams)

Ana stable, durable, perdurable, perpetual, *lasting: stabilize, poise, balance, ballast, trim

Con *shake, rock, agitate, convulse

steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop are comparable when they mean to take another's possession without right and without his knowledge or permission. Steal, the commonest and most general of the group, can refer to any act of taking without right, although it suggests strongly a furtiveness or secrecy in the act (steal a pocketbook) (steal jewels) (steal a kiss) (steal a glance at someone) suggests stealing in small amounts or with cautious stealth and often bit by bit (the pantry mouse that pilfers our food—Gustafson et al) (the ladies of unexceptionable position who are caught pilfering furs in shops—L. P. Smith) (pilfer the secret files of the foreign office—Morgenthau) Filch is close to pilfer but may suggest more strongly the use of active though surreptitious means, especially quick snatching (in pursuit of a thief who had filched an overcoat—McKenzie Porter) (a lot of fellows were too hungry to wait, and so some of the rations were filched—Autry) (a bulky, dark youth in spectacles . . . filching biscuits from a large tin—Sayers) Purloin usually shifts the stress onto the idea of removal or making away with for one's own use, often becoming generalized to include such acts as plundering or plagiarism (had purloined $386,920 from the New York realty management firm for which he worked, then absconded—Time) (had added theft to her other sin, and having found your watch in your bedroom had purloined it—Butler d. 1902) (to quote him is not to purloin—Dryden) Lift, when it does not mean specifically to steal by surreptitiously taking from counters or displays in stores, is used frequently in spoken English in the sense of purloin (women shoplifters often work in gangs of three. Two act as shields while the third does the lifting—The Irish Digest) Lift money from the cash register (imitators who lifted everything except the shirt off his back—F. S. Fitzgerald) Pinch, swipe, snitch, and cop are virtually interchangeable with filch. Pinch and swipe are often used in place of steal to suggest an act morally less reprehensible (loot having been pinched by him from the British ship Mary Dyer—Sydney Bulletin) or sometimes more dashing (well-dressed crooks really did steal the Gold Cup at Ascot . . . drove up in a handsome car . . . and pinched the cup out of the Royal Enclosure—J. D. Carr) (the bloke who pinched my photographs—Richard Llewellyn) and occasionally to suggest a petty meanness (hovering outside the dying butcher's bedroom waiting to . . . pop in and swipe the old man's private notebooks—Time) Snitch possibly stresses more the removal by quick, furtive snatching (while he was bathing, somebody snitched his uniform—Wodehouse) (snitched people's ideas without telling them—Sayers)

Cop usually lays stress upon quick, often spur-of-the-moment filching or purloining (some woman put on a dinner gown, mingled with guests, copped fifty thousand bucks in jewelry—Gardner) (ran home and copped a piece of beefsteak from his old lady—Farrell)

Ana *rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burglarize

stealthy *secret, covert, furtive, clandestine, surreptitious, understated, handcarried

Ana *sly, cunning, crafty, artful, tricky, wily: sneaking, slinking, skulking (see LURK)

steel vb *encourage, inspire, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve

Ana fortify, reinforce, invigorate, *strengthen: determine, resolve (see DECIDE)

Con *unnerve, enervate,emasculate, unman: sap, undermine, *weaken, enfeebles: discourage, dishearten, dispirit, deject

steep adj Steep, abrupt, precipitous, sheer mean having an incline approaching the perpendicular. The words are here arranged in ascending order of degree of perpendicularity. Steep implies so sharp a slope or pitch that ascent or descent is difficult (a military road, which rises . . . by an acclivity not dangerously steep, but sufficiently laborious—Johnson) (the trail . . . then struck up the side of the mountain, growing steeper every foot of the way—Quillin) Abrupt adds to steep the suggestion of a sharper pitch or angle of ascent or descent and usually of a sudden break in a level (high abrupt banks in places become hanging cliffs with a drop of 100 feet or more—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) Precipitous suggests extreme steepness and an abruptness like that of a precipice (a precipitous height) (a deep gorge, with precipitous, volcanic walls which no man could scale—London) Sheer implies precipitously approaching the perpendicular and showing no break in its line (sheer cliffs that fell from the summit to the plain, more than a thousand feet—Cather)

Ana elevated, lifted, raised (see LIFT): lofty, *high

steep vb *soak, saturate, impregnate, drench, sop, waterlog

Ana *infuse, imbue, ingrain: penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER)

steer vb *guide, lead, pilot, engineer

Ana *conduct, direct, manage, control: *govern, rule

stellar *starry, sidereal, astral

stem vb proceed, issue, emanate, derive, flow, originate, *spring, arise, rise

stentorian *loud, ear-splitting, hoarse, raucous, strident, stentorious

Ana resounding, orotund, *resonant: *vociferous, clamorous, blatant: harsh; *rough

stereotyped *rite, hackneyed, threadbare, shopworn

Ana conventional, formal (see CEREMONIAL): obsolete, archaic, antiquated (see OLD): used, employed, utilized, applied (see USE)

Ant changeful

sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful, infertile mean not...
having or not manifesting the power to produce offspring or to bear literal or figurative fruit. Sterile, opposed to fertile, in its basic application to living things implies an inability to reproduce. Sterile hyphae that protect the fruiting body of a fungus is a sterility marriage. The workers among ants and bees are sterile. The attempt will be made to distinguish between those who are childless from choice and those who are sterile—Jour. of Heredity. But sterile is widely extendible to things that might reasonably be expected to be fruitful but that in fact are not so; thus, poor worthless land in which plants will not grow is described as sterile; minds deficient in ideas are sterile; funds left in a safe-deposit box and drawing no interest are sterile; whatever offers no return (as of pleasure, profit, value, or use) is sterile (beneath his fun lurked the sterile bitterness of the still young man who has tried and given up—Wharton) his unsatisfactory relations with women; and his impulses toward a sterile and infantile perversity—Edmund Wilson. Barren (see also Bare 1) applies especially to a female who has borne no offspring or who is or is believed to be incapable of bearing any. A barren heifer is a she has also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren—Lk 1:36. In extended use the term can imply a lack of return or profit. A barren conquest which brought him no special repute—Buchan. Impotent (see also POWERLESS) applies to the male and implies a lack of the ability to copulate and a corresponding inability to reproduce his kind (a pink Sultan with his pale harem maidens and a yellow slob of eunuch lolling impotent in the background—Murchie). Only rarely is the term in this sense used of other than the male animal, and in such use it approaches the aspect of impotent discriminated at powerless (whole groups of animals and plants are rendered impotent by the most unnatural conditions—Darwin). Unfruitful is sometimes used in place of barren not only as applied to the female but as applied to land, vegetation, or efforts which bear no fruit (an unfruitful tree) (an unfruitful soil) (this unsavory and unfruitful piece of research—Cater). Infertile is often interchanged with sterile (an infertility egg) (infertile matings) but it is as likely to imply deficiency as absence of fertility and is appropriately used when a relative rather than an absolute sterility is to be implied (the infertility grazings of those hills—Allan Fraser) (an infertility strain of beef cattle) (has our history shown that liberty is so infertility a principle that with it we are unable to compete in the world struggle . . . ?—Chenery). Animals and plants, when removed from their natural conditions, are often rendered in some degree infertile—Darwin. Ana *bare, barren, bald, naked; arid, *dry; *meager, exiguous: empty, hollow, nugatory, *vain. Ant fertile: exuberant—Con bearing, yielding, producing, turning out (see BEAR): fecund, fruitful, prolific (see FERTILE). sterilize 1 Sterilize, castrate, spay,emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, caponize mean to make incapable of producing offspring. Sterilize, the most general of these terms, is applicable to both human beings and animals and is used whether the end is attained accidentally (as by undue exposure to X rays which kill germ cells) or deliberately (as by a surgical operation which prevents the germ cells from reaching the site where fertilization can occur or by removal of the gonads). Sterilize often suggests a legalized procedure undertaken to prevent the reproduction of undesirables (as imbeciles and habitual criminals); the term does not imply physical disfigurement and does not in itself necessarily imply interference with the capacity for copulation. Castrate, a narrower term than sterilize, means to deprive of the testes, the male reproductive glands. It is used of both human beings and animals and usually implies a surgical procedure and a loss of libido as well as of procreative power. By extension castrate may also mean to deprive of the ovaries, the female reproductive glands, and therefore is often used in place of spay, the specific term for this operation. Emasculate is often preferred to castrate when the reference is to human males and especially when there is the intent to stress the loss of virile or masculine qualities. Alter may replace castrate especially in reference to domestic pets and when an ambiguous or euphemistic term is appropriate. Mutilate (see also MAIM) is sometimes substituted for castrate especially when the intent is to convey strongly the idea of physical disfigurement or violence or when a euphemism is desired. Geld, meaning to castrate, is used chiefly in reference to domestic animals, especially the horse, and eaponize, also meaning to castrate, most commonly has reference to the male domestic fowl, but both are sometimes used contemptuously of human beings. Ant fertilize 2 Sterilize, disinfect, sanitize, fumigate can mean to subject to a process or treatment for the destruction of living organisms, especially microorganisms. Sterilize suggests drastic methods (as the application of intense heat, boiling, or the use of strong chemicals) with the intent of destroying all microorganisms whether they are disease-producing or not. The term usually suggests means taken to avoid infection. Disinfect also suggests vigorous methods (as exposure to strong sunlight and fresh air, thorough washing, and the use of special chemicals) with the intent of destroying all infective agents; the term usually suggests an intent to free from germs something that is known or feared to be infected. Sanitize, which basically means to make sanitary, is often preferred by public health officials when the reference is to preventive measures affecting the health of a community (as the treatment of drinking water or the cleansing of food processing facilities) and when neither sterilize (because it suggests complete destruction of microorganisms and often implies the taking of measures too drastic for general use) nor disinfect (because it suggests the actual presence of disease germs) exactly fits their needs or makes clear their intention. Fumigate is associated with these terms only because fumigation was once the usual method of disinfection; it implies the use of fumes (as smoke or gas) that are destructive not only of microorganisms but of such pests as cockroaches, beetles, and bedbugs. stern adj *severe, austere, ascetic Ana strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent; *grim, implacable, unrelenting: *flexible, inexorable: disciplined, trained, schooled (see TEACH). Ant soft; lenient stertorous *loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, raucous. Ana strict: *rigid, rigidus, stringent; *grim, implacable, unrelenting: *flexible, inexorable: disciplined, trained, schooled (see TEACH). Ant soft; lenient stick 1 Stick, adhere, coherence, cling, cleave can mean to be or become closely, firmly, or indissolubly attached. Stick implies attachment by affixing; one thing or a person sticks to another, or things or persons stick together when they are literally or figuratively glued together and can be separated only by tearing or forcing apart (the stamp sticks to the envelope) by sticking together they gained their objective marriage . . . was nothing more than a token that a couple intended to stick to each other—F. M. Ford (whether . . . there will be anyone other—Ana) to each other—Con
stickle vb balk, shy, boggle, *demur, scruple, stick, adj stick out

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
stiff-necked

suggests not only the hardness and inflexibility of wood but its dryness and its lack of suppleness and plasticity; consequently the term suggests not only stiffness and lack of life and grace but often clumsiness or deadness or heaviness of spirit (Kim took a few paces in a stiff wooden style—Kipling) (the courtroom scene was . . . prosy, wooden, and lifeless—Elmer Rice) (he appears wooden, remote, often addicted to incredible posturings—Rothman)

Ant relaxed: supple

stiff-necked *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, dogged, pertinacious, pigheaded, bullheaded

stile *suffocate, asphyxiate, smother, choke, strangle, suffocate, asphyxiate, smother, choke, strangle

Ana 777 stimulus

stimulus

contributes stronger suggestions of lack of excitement, agitation, or turbulence, and of tranquillity, serenity, restfulness, or repose (through the green evening quiet in the sun—Keats) (the happy stillness of dawn . . . the quiet morning air—Meredith) (a quiet town filled with people who lived quiet lives and thought quiet thoughts—Anderson) (all the impetuous restlessness of her childhood had left her and she had bloomed into a quiet half-indolent calm—Buck) Silent and noiseless differ from the other words of this group in being frequently applied to motion, movement, or stir that is unaccompanied by sound. Silent usually carries more positive suggestions of stillness or quietness (the Earth . . . from West her silent course advance[s]—Milton) (three mountaintops, three silent pinnacles of aged snow—Tennyson) whereas noiseless usually connotes absence of commotion or of sounds of activity or movement (along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept the noiseless tenor of their way—Gray) (this quiet sail is as a noiseless wing to waft me from distraction—Byron) (I looked out on a thoroughly crowded with traffic, but yet a noiseless one—Fairchild)

Ana *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful: restful, *comfortable
Ant stirring: noisy
still vb *calm, compose, quiet, quieten, lull, soothe, settle, tranquilize

Ana allay, assuage, alleviate, *relieve: *pacify, placate, mollify, appease: silence (see corresponding adjective at STILL)
Ant agitate
stilly *still, quiet, silent, noiseless
Ana *soft, gentle, mild, bland: placid, peaceful, *calm, tranquil, serene
Con agitated, disturbed (see DISCOMPOSE)

stimulant *stimulus, excitant, incitement, impetus
Ana provocation, excitement, stimulation, quickening, galvanizing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): incentive, spur, goad, *motive
Ant anesthetic: anodyne

stimulate excite, *provoke, quicken, pique, galvanize
Ana *quicken, animate, enliven, vivify: activate, energize, *vitalize: rouse, arouse, *stir, rally, waken, awaken
Ant unnerve: deaden

stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus can all mean an agent that arouses a person or a lower organism or a particular organ or tissue to activity. Only the first three words have definite and common technical use. Stimulus, in this use chiefly a physiological or psychological term, applies basically to something (as a change in temperature, light, sound, or pressure) that occurs in the internal or external environment of an organism, is perceived by sense organs, and if sufficiently intense induces a neural or equivalent (as tropistic) response *any physical energy that acts upon a receptor of a living organism. A stimulus causes a reaction in an organism, but not necessarily a response (a reaction of a muscle or gland)—Charles Morris) (so long as a system recognizes stimuli, and reacts to them with fitting responses, it exercises control. And it may then remain intact and functioning, despite stresses which would otherwise upset its internal coordination—Weiss) Stimulant, typically a medical term, applies chiefly to a chemical substance —and especially to a medication that does or is intended to vitalize bodily activity, either generally or in respect to a particular system or organ or function (tea, coffee, and cocoa are true stimulants to the heart, nervous system, and kidneys; coffee is more stimulating to the brain, cocoa to the kidneys, while tea occupies a happy position between the two, being mildly stimulating to most of our

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
bodily functions—Ukers (drugs which speed up cell activity are called stimulants—Clemensen et al) (alcohol produces a false sense of well-being and efficiency, but actually it is a depressant rather than a stimulant—T. L. Engle) Exci tant can come very close to stimulant in some of its uses; thus, one may speak of a substance as a stimulant or an excitant of intestinal motility. But distinctively excitant can apply to either a sought or an unwanted reaction and it can imply, as stimulus often but stimulant rarely does, either the initiating or the vitalizing of a process or activity (these amines, being excitants of the central nervous system, increase intellectual and motor activity, produce insomnia, nervousness, and tremors and have the property of antagonizing mild drug depression—Thienes) (a great many allergists believed that pine pollen contained little or no excitant of allergy. That is to say, the element within the pollen which stimulates antibody production was absent in pine pollen—Swartz)

In their more general use these three terms are seldom as clearly differentiable as in their basic use. Stimulus and stimulant are usually interchangeably applicable to whatever exerts an impelling or invigorating effect (as on a process, an activity, or a mind) (whenever an idea loses its immediate felt quality, it ceases to be an idea and becomes, like an algebraic symbol, a mere stimulus to execute an operation without the need of thinking—Dewey) (to borrow from commercial banks increases the money supply and is a business stimulant—F. M. Knight) (the colonial-development money is the extra stimulus to generate development faster than would otherwise be possible—Lewis) but excitant, here too, is more likely to suggest an initiating (we hold that ethical statements are expressions and excitants of feeling which do not necessarily involve any assertions—Ayer) and it is applicable when unwanted or undesirable ends result (the desire to gain vast and lucrative readership and audiences is the major excitant to the excesses of which so many are aware—Newsweek) Incitement applies to something that moves or impels usually a course of action; the term tends to emphasize an urging or pressing intended to drive one into moving or acting quickly rather than the result attained (to issue a solemn public condemnation and warning that this attack against the Jewish people and its master induce the beast again to move forward—James) (nor could all the incitements of its master induce the beast again to move forward—Galsworthy) Impetus (see also SPEED 2) usually stresses the stimulation of an increase in the momentum of activity already initiated (what also gave an unusual impetus to the mind of men at this period was the discovery of the New World—Hazlitt) (in estimating the social importance of this movement, we must be careful to discount the temporary . . . impetus it received from the economic slump of this period—Day Lewis) But the term sometimes applies also to a stimulus that initiates action (it is the impetus that I ask of you: the will to try—Quiller-Couch) Ana spur, goad, incentive, *motive, inducement: excitation, piping, provocation (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE); irri tation, net ting (see corresponding verbs at irrat icate)

stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tightfisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheeseparing, penny-pinching can mean unwilling or manifesting unwillingness to share one's goods with others or to give to another a part of one's possessions. Stingy implies mainly a lack of generosity; the term is applicable whenever there is a suggestion of a mean or illiberal spirit (if I want anything, he says that it cannot be afforded. I never thought before that he was stingy, but I am sure now that he must be a miser at heart—Trollope (stingy at heart, Cabot, refusing to plunk down what they were asking for movies and plays, began browsing in a . . . public library—Purdy) Close and close fisted and tight and tight fisted usually imply stinginess of nature, but they also ordinarily suggest the power to keep a tight grip upon whatever one has acquired (closefisted in all his expenditures) (men and women who are closefisted and make a gift do not want their next week's mail loaded with appeals—William Lawrence) (he wasn't as tight as you . . . but he was a little bit close. So the bargain hung fire—Hammert) (must be eagle eyed and tight fisted about these expenditures—A. E. Stevenson) Niggardly implies the character of one who is so stingy and so closefisted that he grudgingly gives the smallest portion or amount possible; the term may refer not only to the giving or spending of money or the giving of material goods but to the provision of what would add to the comfort, happiness, or well-being of oneself or of others (as poor and niggardly as it would be to set down no more meat than your company will be sure to eat up—Swift) (his niggardly allowance for rent and food) (they were not niggardly, these tramps, and he who had money did not hesitate to share it among the rest—Maugham) (literature is so lavish with wealth and titles . . . the real world is so niggardly of these things—Huxley) Parsimonious stresses frugality, but it suggests also niggardliness; because of this double connotation the term usually suggests not a virtue but a fault or, often, a vice (a lonely bachelor in caring for his property and in adding to it by parsimonious living—Long) Penurious adds to parsimonious the suggestion of a niggardliness so great as to give the appearance of extreme poverty or of excessive closefistedness (a grudging master . . . a penurious niggard of his wealth—Milton) (I had a rich uncle . . . a penurious accumulating curmudgeon—Irving) Misery implies penuriousness but it stresses obsessive avariciousness as the motive (her expenditure was parsimonious and even miserly—J. R. Green) (a miserly man who hoards money out of avarice—Emerson) Cheeseparing and penny-pinching suggest frugality and parsimoniousness carried to the extreme (the cheeseparing guardians of the city's finances) (a campaign of administrative cheeseparing—Alan) (a penny-pinching appropriation for relief)

Ana *mean, sordid, ignoble: scrimpy, skimpy, *meager: *openhanded, munificent: *profuse, lavish, prodigal

Ant generous—Con *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent: *profluse, lavish, prodigal

stinking *malodorous, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, foul, filthy, nasty, *dirty: *offensive, repulsive, tinctively

stint n 1 task, duty, assignment, job, chore

Ana quantity, amount (see SUM): allotment, apportionment (see corresponding verbs at ALLOT): prescribing or prescription, assigning (see corresponding verbs at PRESCRIBE): sharing or share, participation (see corresponding verbs at SHARE)

2 *spel, bout, shift, tour, trick, turn, go

stipend *wage or wages, salary, fee, emolument, pay, hire

Ana remuneration, compensation, recompensing or remcompense (see corresponding verbs at PAY)

stipple vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, motte, fleck, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

stippled spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under
stipulation

**spottvb**

stipulation  *condition, terms, provision, proviso, reservation, strings*

**Ana** specification (see corresponding verb at MENTION): restriction, circumscription (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT)

**stir vb** Stir, rouse, arouse, awaken, wake, rally can all mean to cause to shift from quiescence or torpor into activity. Stir, often followed by up, usually presupposes excitement to activity by something which disturbs or agitates and so brings to the surface or into outward expression what is latent or dormant (a dreamy, faraway look came into Mr. Bohlen's eyes, and he smiled. Then he stirred himself and began leafing through the plans—Dahl) (if the . . . teacher longs to stir the sluggish mind of one of her scholars, she must first find out what the sluggishness is due to—Elliot) (she wants stirring up. She's got into a rut—Bennett) Sometimes the word suggests the evoking of rebellion or revolt (movements that begin by stirring up hostility against a group of people—Dewey) More often it implies the evocation of profound, agitating, but usually agreeable emotion (peace has no drums and trumpets to stir the pulse—Love-man) (men lacking an arm or leg stirred universal pity—Wechtert) Rouse, arouse, awaken, waken, all presuppose a state of rest or repose, often that of sleep. Rouse derives its implications from its application to the starting of game from coverts or lairs by the cries of hunters or by beating of bushes and often suggests incitement to activity by startling, frightening, or upsetting. In addition it commonly implies intense or vigorous activity and often ensuing commotion or turbulence (every tent roused by that clamor dread—Shelley) (roused out of sleep by a heavy pounding on the door—Wechsberg) (Antony . . . had spoken words which roused the mob to fury—Buchan) Arouse, though frequently used interchangeably with rouse, tends to be weaker in its implications and often means little more than to start into activity and conveys no hint of what follows; thus, a noise in the night arouses a sleeping soldier if he merely wakes up into consciousness of it, but it arouses him when he also makes determined efforts to trace its source or hastily arms himself; a fear may be aroused and immediately dispelled; passions are roused when they are so stirred up that they exert a compelling influence (now I had to guard against arousing the emotions of others—Mallor) (the new force stirred and aroused the people—Anderson) Awaken and waken, like arouse, frequently imply an ending of sleep; in extended use they are employed chiefly in reference to mental or spiritual powers or faculties which need only the proper stimulation to be called forth into activity or to be elicited (waken love)(the conscience of the nation was awakened) (her eyes brightened, her features appeared gradually to awaken, and life flowed back into her face—Farrell) (had wakened and heard the lion—Hemingway) (waken to the point about seven minutes after—Laski) (that tree always awakened pleasant memories, recalling a garden in the south of France—Cathey) Rally (see also RIDICULE) presupposes a diffusion of forces or a lack of concentration that promotes lethargy or inaction; it therefore implies a gathering together that stirs up or rouses (he rallied his strength for a final blow—Prescott) (as if his memory were impaired . . . [he] made an effort to rally his attention—Dickens) (they stirred and rallied a divided, defeated people—Shirer)

**Ana** analogous words *motion, movement, locomotion*  
**Ana** acting or activity, working or work, behaving or behavior, reaction (see corresponding verbs at ACT): change, alteration, variation, modification (see under CHANGE vb)

2 Stir, bustle, flurry, pother, fuss, ado all denote the signs of excitement or hurry that accompany an act, action, or an event. Stir suggests brisk or restless movement and ordinarily implies a crowd (he liked to hear the paper talked about. He liked to have a stir and rumpus going on—White) (as some messenger arrived . . . a stir would pass through the throng so full of swagger and of youth—Osbert Sitwell) Bustle adds the implication of a noisy, obtrusive, or self-important display of energy, especially when used in reference to an individual (she needs the bustle of life in a good hotel—Bennett) (tis true that strength and bustle build up a firm. But judgment and knowledge are what keep it established—Hardy) (the meaningless and vulgar bustle of newspaper offices—Gibbons) Flurry stresses nervous agitation and undue haste (so now began a great flurry . . . . There is no part of the world where there doesn't have to be excitement over a wedding—Upton Sinclair) (the resilience and strength of purpose that persist like deeply banked fires beneath a surface that is frequently all flurry and crepitation—Times Lit. Sup.) Pother and fuss both imply flurry and fidgety activity; pother often distinctively stresses commotion or confusion and fuss needlessly worry or effort (he is always in a pother about something or other) (she had invited her parents to come on the fiesta weekend, calculating that the excitement and fuss would distract their attention from herself—Wouk) (it had made a dreadful pother and was still remembered uneasily—Menchken) (even this pother about gods reminds one that something is worthwhile—Pound) Ado usually suggests fussiness or waste of energy (go to work without any more ado) It also often implies trouble or difficulty (there was much ado before their affairs were straightened out)

**Ana** agitation, disturbance, disquieting or disquiet (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): excitement, stimulation (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): *din, uproar, hubbub, pandemonium*  
**Ant** tranquillity

**stocky** thickset, thick, chunky, stubby, squat, dumpy

**stocky** quadruped, mammal, animal, organism, life, being

**stocky** thickset, thick, chunky, stubby, squat, dumpy are comparable when they apply to build of the human body and mean being relatively compact in form. Stocky implies a short and wide or thick build and is likely to be complimentary in suggesting compact sturdiness (thickset legs) (thickset body) (too thickset for jockeying—Masefield) Thick may be used for bodily parts (thick lips) (thick legs) more often than for body build. Chunky may indicate a body type ample but robust and solid (short and chunky, not quite fat—Harold Sinclair) (a well-fed, chunky, healthy boy) Stubby, less apt than others in this set to describe human body types, indicates noteworthy lack of height or length and corresponding shortness (outfielders' gloves have longer fingers . . . infielders' gloves have relatively stubby fingers—New Yorker) Squat and dumpy are usually uncomplimentary. Squat may indicate unshapely lack of height as though suggesting a person squatting (the squat misshapen figure that flattened itself into the shadow—Wilde) (anchored vessels of every sort from squat Baltic timber carriers—Wheel-
stoicism
impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stolidity (see under stoic
*impassive, phlegmatic, apathetic, stolid

stomach
stodgy

Stoop, condescend, deign can mean to descend
to a lower level (as in rank or dignity) where one belongs; the term,
implied a temperament or frame of mind that makes one
implies high rank or dignity or high standards of conduct;
implies an unworthy end (as to satisfy greed or ambition)
implies the suspension of some activity, especially one
has become a form of occupation or employment or is
a practice or habit
(discontinue a correspondence)
(discontinue a subscription to a journal)
(find no other road to immortality—D. H. Lawrence)
(have made two attempts to shave but his hand had been so
unsteady that he had been obliged to desist—Joyce)
*Romeo and Juliet) (though the term was only to
implies one haughty, arrogant, or contemptuous more often than it
implies high rank or dignity or high standards of conduct;
it usually means to stoop to what one believes is not fully
in keeping with one's dignity or to something that one is
reluctant to do or say or offer; therefore the term is most
common with scarcely, hardly, or in negative constructions

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**stout**

1 *strong, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious

**straightforward**, *forthright, aboveboard* when applied to persons, their actions, or their methods mean honest and open. Something straightforward is consistently direct and free from deviations or evasiveness *(a straightforward course of action)* *(a straightforward answer)* *(he is a man)* *(with clear, straightforward ideas, a frank, noble presence)* *(Disraeli)* Something forthright has directness like that of a thrust, or goes straight to the point without swerving or hesitating *(a forthright appeal for votes)* *(thought that this must be the true air of success: no conceit or obvious triumph, but a forthright glance, a confident smile, a new erectness in the shoulders—Wouk)* Something aboveboard is free from all traces of deception or duplicity. *Aboveboard* is chiefly used predicatively and applies more often to actions or methods than to persons *(one whose life had been so well-ordered, balanced, and aboveboard—Galsworthy)* *(the peace of mind that comes from being completely honest and aboveboard—Haupt)* Straightforward, forthright, and aboveboard are also used adverbially with the same implications and connotations as their adjectival forms.

**Ant** *devious: indirect

**strain**

1 *variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, clone, stock

2 *streak, vein, *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash

**strait**

1 *stress, pressure, tension

2 *Strain, sprain as nouns can mean an injury to a part of the body through overstretching and as verbs to cause or to suffer such an injury to a part of the body. **Strain**, the more general and less technical term, usually implies an injury to a body part or organ or to muscles as a result of overuse, overexertion, or overexertion or of over-effort (as in an attempt to regain one's balance or to lift too heavy an object); the injury may range from a slight soreness or stiffness to a disabling damage; thus, eyes**strain** is a condition of the eye or of the muscles of the eye involving pain and fatigue such as occurs in those who do close work with their eyes or in those who suffer from incorrect defects of vision; charley horse is a familiar term for a stiffness resulting from muscular strain in the arm or leg (as of an athlete) *(strained his back while trying to avoid a fall on a slippery sidewalk)* But **strain** may specifically apply to an injury resulting from a wrench or twist and involving overstretching of muscles and ligaments and is then nearly interchangeable with, though typically suggesting less severe injury than, **sprain** which definitely implies an injury to a joint, usually as a result of a wrenching, with stretching or tearing of its ligaments, damage to the synovial membrane, swelling and pain, and disablement of the joint; thus, one may **strain or sprain** an ankle by a sudden slip that wrenches it *(crippled by a sprain of the hip)* **strained** *(forced, labored, farfetched

**ana** *tense, taut, *tight:* *artificial, factitious: unnatural

(see irregular): *stiff, rigid, inflexible, wooden

**strait**

1 *Strait, sound, channel, passage, narrows can all denote a long and comparatively narrow stretch of water connecting two larger bodies. **Strait**, often as the plural **straits** with either singular or plural construction, denotes a relatively short and very narrow waterway *(the Strait of Dover connecting the English Channel and the North Sea)* *(the Straits of Gibraltar connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea)* **Sound** applies to a longer and more extensive waterway than a **strait;** the term is often applied to a long passage of water between the mainland and an island or group of islands and therefore at each end opening into the same ocean or sea or arms of the same ocean or sea *(Long Island Sound lying between the Connecticut shore and the north shore of Long Island and connecting the East River and the Atlantic Ocean)* *(the Chandelier Sound lying between the southeast coast of Louisiana and the Chandelier Islands and opening at both ends into the Gulf of Mexico)* **Channel** is less frequent than **strait or sound** as a technical term in the sense here considered, but when it is so used it denotes a relatively large sound *(the English Channel between southeastern England and the north coast of France)* *(the Mozambique Channel between the coast of southeastern Africa and Mozambique Island)* **Passage** is practically synonymous with **channel,** denoting a connecting body of water wider than a **strait** *(Mona Passage between the islands of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico)* **Narrows** designates a strait or a contracted part of a body of water; it is especially used of the necklike part of a bottle-shaped harbor *(the Narrows of New York harbor)*

**ana** analogous words  
**ant** antonyms  
**con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
straitlaced

2 pass, exigency, pinch, emergency, *juncture, continency, crisis

Ana *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude, rigor: perplexity, bewilderment, mystification (see corresponding verbs at PIZZLE): plight, *predicament, fix, quandary

straitlaced *prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, puritanical, stuffy

Ana narrow, narrow-minded, hidebound, intolerant (see ILLIBERAL): *rigid, rigorous, strict

Ant libertinism

strang *shore, coast, beach, bank, littoral, foreshore

strange, singular, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, outlandish, curious can mean varying from what is ordinary, usual, and to be expected. Strange, the most comprehensive of these terms, suggests unfamiliarity; it may apply to what is foreign, unnatural, inexplicable, or new *some strange and potent élan was released in Cabot shortly after the second treatment . . . He bloomed, as so few men do—Purdy *to most of us the art of China and Japan, however much it may attract and impress, is strange—Binyon *the people in the streets have their usual air, tranquil and indolent. No curiosity, no emotion in their faces. A strange people!—Edmund Wilson Singular distinctively implies difference from every other instance of its kind and therefore stresses individuality *a distinguished and singular excellence—Mencken *the taxi driver had lugged the parcel . . . for the woman, and then—proving himself a singular example of his species—he had broken a ten-dollar bill for her—Kahn Often, however, the word suggests strangeness that puzzles one or piques one's curiosity *I experienced a singular sensation on reading the first sentence .... There are sensations you cannot describe—F. M. Ford *this singular that even within the sight of the high towers of Antioch you could lose your way—Shelley Unique implies not only singularity but the fact of being unparalleled without suggesting, as singular does, a strange or baffling character or quality *personality always contains something unique—Justice Holmes *he has the almost unique distinction of having made speeches which were both effective when delivered and also models of literary eloquence—Inge *the majestic, the enduring novels treat of subjects which are rarely unique—Elizabeth Bowen Peculiar (see also CHARACTERISTIC) implies marked or conspicuous distinctiveness in character or quality *this difference arises . . . from the peculiar character of the Government of the United States—Taney *the peculiar etiquette attached to elevators was rigidly observed by members of both households—Bemelmans *only subtle and delicate minds . . . catch the characteristic aroma, the peculiar perfume—Brownell Often peculiar is employed where one of the succeeding terms (as eccentric or queer) might well be used *he is growing very peculiar *made little effort to remember the day; with its peculiar quality of dementia it seemed not a commonplace and civilized social event but a nightmare—Styron Eccentric implies divergence from the beaten track; erratic adds to eccentric a stronger implication of caprice and unpredictability *an eccentric preference for beginning his dinner . . . in the late afternoon—Cather *the house had grown, reflecting the then eccentric turns of Justine's mind—Cheever *the workings of his mind were erratic *this towering but erratic genius . . . who combined in his tempestuous character so many of the best and the worst qualities of the German—Shirer Odd stresses a departure from the usual, the normal, or the regular; it sometimes suggests an element of the fantastic; queer even more strongly implies eccentricity and often suggests that the thing so qualified is dubious or questionable *great men whose odd habits it would have been glorious piety to endure—George Eliot *the oddest sense of being herself invisible; unseen; unknown—Woolf *Alice was not much surprised at this, she was getting so well used to queer things happening—Lewis Carroll *completely out of control . . . her voice had become louder and her smile queerer—Wouk Quant implies pleasant or especially old-fashioned oddness; outlandish, uncouth or bizarre oddness *a quaint village, full of half-timbered houses *to post-Freudian ears, this kind of language seems touchingly quaint and ingenuous—Huxley *an outlandish custom *he wore the prophet's robe with a difference. He never let it look outlandish—Montague *he introduced outlandish or unbelievable people and situations into his work; that is, . . . fantasy was not a mode of escape but a device of satire—Fitzell Curious usually implies extraordinary oddness or a singularity that invites close attention, study, or inquiry. When the word is employed as an equivalent of one or another of the foregoing words it tends to retain to a greater or less degree the notion of extraordinariness and often suggests that the thing so described merits notice or investigation *a curious sickening smell *curious bits of folklore *curious customs and habits of speech surviving from an earlier age (my only guiding principle has been that the examples should be curious, striking and even, in certain cases, extravagant—Huxley *a curious sensation, sitting only a yard away from this man who fifty years before had made me so miserable that I had once contemplated suicide—Dahl *loneliness, far from being a rare and curious circumstance—Wolfe Ana *abnormal, atypical, aberrant: *fantastic, bizarre, grotesque: surprising, astonishing, amazing, flabbergasting (see SURPRISE) Ant familiar

stranger, foreigner, alien, outlander, outsider, immigrant, émigré can all designate a person who comes into a community from the outside and is not recognized as a member of that community. This is the primary denotation of some of the words, but the secondary sense of the others, especially the last three. Stranger and foreigner may both apply to one who comes from another country or sometimes from another section as a resident or visitor. They have somewhat different implications, however, stranger stressing the person's unfamiliarity with the language and customs and foreigner the fact that he speaks a different language, follows different customs, or bears allegiance to another government *the time came when I was the observant foreigner, examining education in France. To tell the truth, I was not a stranger to it, having lived in France as a child and again as a youth—Grandgent Alien emphasizes allegiance to another sovereign or government and is often opposed to citizen; thus, one may be called a foreigner after naturalization, but not with accuracy an alien. In extended use alien can imply either exclusion from full privileges of or inability to identify oneself with a group *the older I grow, the more of an alien I find myself in the world; I cannot get used to it, cannot believe that it is real—L. P. Smith *he is anesthetized to their theological and political enthusiasms. He finds himself an alien at their feasts of soul—Mencken Outlander, in its general sense, is preferred to foreigner only for a literary or rhetorical reason or because it carries the implications of outlandish *to this vast matriarchal blackness he had returned, bringing a bride, an outlander—Hervey *his neighbors were . . . outlanders of that particular type to which . . . his own fastidiousness found the greatest objection—Tarkington Outsider usually
strategic, tactical, logistic (see under STRATEGY)

*trick, ruse, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice,
suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, choke,
strangle

analogous words

Ant jectives of the war, and often, but not necessarily, connotes
keep, and ultimate evacuation and disposition of matériel;

or science of military supply and transportation; the term
covers such varied matters as design and development,
and controls the
outcomes of war—Donald Armstrong)

Hemmingway—Hamley)

no discipline or restraint—Hamley)

The same differences in meaning are also found in
strategic, tactical, and logistic (or logistical) as referred
to the conduct of a war (strategic air war now being con-
ducted so effectively upon German cities and factories
by the Royal Air force and the United States 8th air force
will in due time be supplemented or in part substituted by
tactical air operations on which our ground forces will
depend to cover advances of troops and to devastate the
huge fortifications erected by the Nazis in northern
France, Belgium and along the northern coast of the

strengthen

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strength *power, force, might, energy, puissance

strangle vb *suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, choke,
throttle

strategem *trick, ruse, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice,
tryst, *resource, resort: machination, intrigue, conspiracy,
*plot

strategy, tactics, logistics as used in relation to warfare
are not always clearly distinguished. Strategy is the art
or science involved in the direction of the forces at his
disposal by the commander in chief of a belligerent nation
or by those assisting him. The term usually implies the
planning of major operations intended to gain the ob-
jectives of the war, and often, but not necessarily, connotes
the effective presence of these officers at home or behind
the lines. Tactics is the art or science of handling forces
in the field or in action; the term implies not only the pres-
ence of the enemy as affecting the disposition or maneu-
vering of troops, ships, planes, and matériel but the direc-
tion of a commanding officer upon the scenes (the
theater of war is the province of strategy, the field of battle
is the province of tactics—Hamley)

Logistics is the art
or science of military supply and transportation; the term
usually implies both planning and implementation and
covers such varied matters as design and development,
acquisition, stockpiling, shipping and distribution, up-
keep, and ultimate evacuation and disposal of matériel;
acquisition, preparation, assignment, distribution, and
physical care of personnel; preparation, operation, up-
keep, and disposal of facilities; and provision of services.
Broadly logistics constitutes the theory and practice of
military housekeeping (generals and admirals and their
staffs plan campaigns. That is strategy. They fight battles
and these combat operations are known as tactics. A
third element determines the success or failure of strategy
and tactics. This is called logistics. A large part of an
army, a fleet, or an air force, and nearly the entire civilian
population today play a role in logistics. What they ac-
complish in producing and distributing the resources
needed to implement strategy and tactics controls the
outcome of war—Donald Armstrong

The same differences in meaning are also found in
strategic, tactical, and logistic (or logistical) as referred
to the conduct of a war (strategic air war now being con-
ducted so effectively upon German cities and factories
by the Royal Air force and the United States 8th air force
will in due time be supplemented or in part substituted by
tactical air operations on which our ground forces will
depend to cover advances of troops and to devastate the
huge fortifications erected by the Nazis in northern
France, Belgium and along the northern coast of the

continent—David Lawrence)<the outstanding military
lesson of this campaign was the continuous, calculated
application of air power . . . in the most intimate tactical
and logistical union with ground forces—MacArthur

straw vb *strew, scatter, sow, broadcast

stray vb *wander, roam, ramble, rove, range, prowl, grad,
gallivant, traipse, meander

streak n strain, vein, *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soup-
con, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash

stream n *flow, current, flood, tide, flux

stream vb *pour, gush, sluice

Ana flow, issue, emanate, proceed (see SPRING): flood,
deluge, inundate (see corresponding nouns at FLOOD)

streamer pennant, pendant, pennon, banner, *flag, ensign,
standard, color

strength *power, force, might, energy, puissance

ana stoutness, sturdiness, toughness, tenaciously

(see corresponding adjectives at STRONG): soundness,
healthiness (see corresponding adjectives at HEALTHY):
*possessions, means, resources, assets

strengthen, invigorate, fortify, energize, reinforce can
mean to make strong or stronger. Strengthen is the most
general term, applicable not only to persons or their phys-
ical or mental vitality, but also to things material or immaterial
(as a structure, a system, an aggregation, or an influence); the word can connote increase either in
force, energy, vigor, and power of resistance, or in inten-
sity, authority, or effectiveness (their friendship strengthened
as they grew older) (exercise is necessary to strengthen
the body) (opposition will only strengthen their belief)
(his case was greatly strengthened by the newly
discovered evidence) (the handle of the tool had been
bound by ordinary picture wire, apparently to
strengthen a fracture in the wood—Hynd) (impulses to
submission strengthened by habits of obedience bred
in the past—Dewey) (after a period of hoarse whispering,
his voice changes its tone and strengthens—Hearn)

Invigorate is commonly used in reference to living things
or of some power or activity of a living thing and is some-
times extended to things that have powers suggestive
of life; it implies an increase in vigor or vitality or active
or effective strength or force (their minds and bodies were
invigorated by exercise—Gibbon) (the series of Mid-
western novels that followed shocked and invigorated
American thought—S. R. L.) (the general run of Cana-
dians are invigorated when our athletes win recognition
in the United States—D. M. Fisher) (a passing priest
heard of Kaldi’s discovery and thought that he would
try these invigorating berries since he was inclined to
fall asleep during his prayers—Charles Cooper) (in-
vigorating sea breezes) Fortify, which primarily means
to strengthen a town or city by defensive structures,
in a more general sense means to strengthen against
attack or stress of any sort (a certain uneasiness had
come upon her, and even fortified by food she could not
bring herself to go—Boyle) (fortified himself with a
stiff drink) (I have been fortified in my belief by the
utterances of this Court from the time of Chief Justice
Taney to the present day—Justice Holmes) (set up on
a pedestal, fortified by the strongest bulwark in executive
acts, those principles which we would abandon at our
peril—Vannevar Bush) (the old-fashioned polemical
sermon followed, fortified with texts and garnished with
quotations in Greek—Brooks) Energize implies a
strengthening in the form of supplying the active power
for working or for being ready for work and, therefore,
is used of whatever can be roused into strong activity
or infused with a desire to act (the office of Inspector
General was greatly improved, and energized, during
the first administration of Mr. Pitt—Chalmers) (as between husband and wife, hers was definitely the stronger spirit. She was more highly energized, more industrious, more ambitious—S. H. Adams) (he energized the Garden-Suburb ethos with a certain original talent and the vigor of a prolonged adolescence—Leavis) Reinforce implies the making of what is weak stronger or of what is strong still stronger by or as if by an addition that stiffens and supports, and thereby adds effectiveness, powers of resistance, cogency, or durability (reinforce concrete by embedding steel bars or mesh in it) (reinforce an argument by additional evidence) (reinforce a stocking at heel and toe) (the stimulus given by his dialectics to their keen and eager minds was supplemented and reinforced by the appeal to their admiration and love of his sweet and virile personality—Dickinson) (Maria’s distrust returned, reinforced by resentment. Yet she said nothing—Hervey) (experience in Brazil seems to show that in mixed marriages the black element, if not reinforced, is absorbed by the white within a few generations—William Tate)

**An**a embolden, steel, nerve, *encourage, inspirit, hearten, cheer: *vitalize, activate; galvanize, quicken, stimulate (see PROVOKE): *intensify, heighten, aggravate

**Ant** weaken —Con enfeebles, debilitate, sap, undermine, cripple, disable (see WEAKEN): *discourage, dishearten, dispirit, dejects: *uneerve, enervate, unman, emasculate

**strenuous** energetic, *vigorous, lusty, nervous

**An**a virile, manful, manly (see MALE): dynamic, live, *active, operative: *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome: vehement, *intense, fierce, violent

**stress**

1 Stress, strain, pressure, tension are comparable terms when they apply to the action or effect of force exerted within or upon a thing. Stress and strain are the comparative terms of this group and are sometimes used interchangeably (put stresses and strains on parts of the body that were not constructed to bear that burden—Fishbein) (if sufficiently large stresses are applied to any crystal, it remains at least partly deformed when the stresses are removed—Seitz) (the wrench is an instrument for exerting a twisting strain, as in turning bolts and nuts—Burghardt & Axelrod) (by a powerful strain upon the reins, raising his horse’s forefeet from the ground—De Quincey) (the breakup due to tremendous strains experienced in bad weather have time and again proven the fatal power of squalls over dirigibles—Furnas)

Although stress is frequently used in technical contexts in the above sense of a force applied to deform a body, it is also used, especially in physics, of the equal and opposite forces that cause elongation of an elastic body or to the stress resulting from the elongation of such a body (a steel bar can safely bear a pull or tension of 16,000 lb. for each square inch of its cross-section—Samuel Slade & Louis Margolis)

2 *emphasis, accent, accentuation

**stretch**

_n* expance, amplitude, spread

**An**a area, tract, region: extent, magnitude, *size

**strew**, **straw**, **scatter**, **sow**, **broadcast** can mean to throw loosely or at intervals. Strew and the less common straw usually imply a spreading at intervals, but the intervals may be so fine as not to be obvious or so great that each thing may be separately identified (ground sown with beets) (strew a path with gravel) (as he sits in the armchair, the Sunday papers are sown around him—Mailer) (he looked . . . over the great mesa-strewn plain far below—Cather) (petty ordinances . . . of no more weight than dandelion fluff strewn by the wind—Clement Wood) (the tent of night in tatters strewn the sky-pavilioned land—Housman)

Scatter (see also SCATTER) implies a separation of parts or pieces, but it distinctively implies a throwing that lets the things fall where they will (scatter pennies) (scatter bread crumbs) (no railroad scatters its soil over the neat white frame houses—Corey Ford) (a story . . . attacking tuberculards for coming to San Antonio and scattering their deadly germs about this innocent city—Green Peyton) Sow basically implies the sowing of seeds where they will sprout and develop (surrounding fields have been sown . . . with squash, pumpkin, and maize—Science) or in its extended use the sowing of something comparable to seed that can be disseminated (as throughout a group, a community, or an organization) (sow discord among the club members) (sow seeds of reason and understanding throughout the world—A. E. Stevenson) Broadcast (see also DECLARE) implies a scattering widely or in all directions (it is best to broadcast very fine seed) (early in April, just before a rain begins, broadcast 3 pounds of white clover seed—H. S. Pearson) Ana spread: disseminate: disperse, dissipate (see SCATTER)

**strict** stringent, *rigid, rigorous

**An**a stern, *severe, austere, ascetic: *inflexible, inexorable: exacting, oppressive, *onerous, burdensome

**Ant** lax: loose: lenient, indulgent

**stricture** *animadversion, aspersion, reflection

**An**a criticism, censuring or censure, condemnation, denounced or denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

**Ant** commendation

**strident** 1 *loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, raucous, stertorous

**An**a harsh, *rough, *clamorous, *vociferous, boisterous, obstreperous


**strife** *discord, conflict, contention, dissension, difference, variance

**An**a combat, conflict, fight, affray, fray (see CONTEST): dispute, controversy, *argument: *brawl, broil, fracas: altercation, wrangle, *quarrel, squeal

**Ant** peace: accord

**strike** vb 1 Strike, hit, smite, punch, slap, slog, swat, clout, slug, cuff, box are comparable when they mean to come or bring into contact with or as if with a sharp blow. Strike, hit, and smite are the more general terms. Strike, the most general of the words, may indicate the motion of aiming or dealing the blow, the motion prior to contact with the hand, fist, instrument, weapon, or missile (strike at the enemy and miss) (strike out at random) It may

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
indicate various types of contact from a light, often stroking contact (the light breeze struck the ship on the north side) to a forcible collision or blasting contact (the car struck a post and overturned) (the lightning struck the house) (strike a man down with a heavy blow) (the enemy struck with full force) It may suggest several types of physical or emotional effect or impression (strike someone dead) (strike a line on paper) (strike out a name from a list) (to be struck by the beauty of the scenery) (grief-striken) (conscience-striken) or it may be used to indicate any of the types of contact suggested by the other words in this group. Hit, although it is used in most of the situations in which strike occurs, emphasizes more than the latter the physical or figurative contact with or impact upon an object, usually one aimed at; it tends to stress forcefulness (hit a child on the wrist) (the shell hit the tank and tore through the side) (the direct hit...hit him hard—H. G. Wells) (hit the right road home) (hit the winning number in a lottery). Hit, likely to appear in rhetorical or bookish contexts, commonly stresses the injuriousness or destructiveness of the contact and often suggests a motivation of anger or desire for vengeance (with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head—Judg 5:26) (conscience-smitten) (smitten with grief) Punch, slug, slog, swat, and clout are generally used to suggest the giving of various kinds of usually sharp or heavy blows. Punch suggests a quick blow with or as if with the fist (would handcuff everybody rather than face the risk of having their noses punched by somebody—Shaw) Slug emphasizes the heaviness of the impact and may suggest a certain viciousness in the delivery of the blow (was attacked by an assault suspect, who slammed him with a 5-ft. iron pipe—Time) Slog emphasizes the heavy and typically haphazard quality of the blows (“Slog them on the head with your club...” shouted Tammers. And as the twisted knot of men reeled conveniently towards me I did what execution I could—Strand Mag.) and in sports (as cricket or golf) it may stress power as opposed to finesse (hit hayfields fringed the very putting greens...and a man had to slog and slog again before he got out of them—Bernard Darwin) Swat suggests a forceful, slapping blow, usually with an instrument (as a bat, weapon, or flyswatter) (in off moments he would swat the regiments of cockroaches—de Kruijff) (swat flies) (swat a baseball out of the ball park) Clout suggests a heavy careless blow (as with the hand or fist) (a shoe clouted his skull and inflicted a fracture—McCrae) They clout our heads the moment our conclusions differ from theirs—Shaw) Slap, cuff, and box all denote blows of varying force with the open hand. Slap is the most general and indicates a sharp, stingy blow with or as if with the palm of the hand (slap a person in the face) (slapped the coverlet angrily—Kenneth Roberts) Cuff suggests a blow often forcible enough to dizzy or throw off balance and often dealt with the back of the hand (I swear I'll cuff you, if you strike again—Shaw) Box suggests the delivery of an openhanded blow but is ordinarily limited to one against the ears (the mother boxed her child's ears in a fit of temper) Ana *beat, pummel, buffet, pound, baste, belabor, thrash 2 impress, touch, influence, *affect, sway striking arresting, signal, salient, conspicuous, outstanding, *noticeable, remarkable, prominent Ana *effective, effectual, efficacious: telling, convincing, compelling, cogent (see valid): forceful, powerful; impressive, *moving string n 1 *succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train 2 in plural form strings *condition, stipulation, terms, provision, proviso, reservation stringent strict, *rigid, rigorous Ana *severe, austere, stern: limiting, restricting, circumlocuting, confining (see limit vb): restraining, curbing (see restrain vb): exacting, oppressive, *onerous strip vb Strip, divest, denude, bare, dismantle can mean to deprive a person or thing of what clothes, furnishes, or invests him or it. Strip stresses a pulling or tearing off rather than a laying bare, though the latter implication is frequent; it often connotes more or less violent action or complete depri
tion (strip the bark from a tree) (he was quickly stripped of his clothes) (where pasturing cattle stripped the ground) Once start stripping poetry of what you imagine are inessentials and you will find...the anatomy is made visible but the life will have gone—Day Lewis) (I had stripped a few of my habits, second and benzedrine at any rate, but I was...tense and brain-deadened—Mailer) Divest, in contrast to strip, does not suggest violence; it usually implies a taking away of what a person or thing has been clothed or equipped with especially as a sign of power, rank, influence, or prestige (divesting capitalists of further increments of power—Cohen) Therefore it often connotes an undoing or a dispossession or a degrading (divest an officer of all authority) (naturalism divests life, whether physical or spiritual, of all that separates it from the inanimate and inorganic—Inge) (the king is thus divested of his kingship and now becomes merely a corpse—Frazer) Denude implies a stripping or divesting, but distinctively it implies a resulting bareness or nakedness (striped of its vines and denuded of its shrubbery, the house would probably have been ugly enough—Cather) (a ghostly lunar rainbow—the spectrum cleansed and denuded of all the garish colors of day—Beebe) (modern agriculture...denudes the land of the protective cover and food that wild creatures need—G. S. Perry) Bare, although it suggests a removal of what covers or clothes, seldom carries implications of violent or complete stripping; it is chiefly used in idiomatic phrases which imply more than the mere act; thus, to bare one's head is to take off one's hat usually as a sign of respect or reverence; to bare one's sword is to unsheathe it and to have it ready for action; to bare one's heart to another is to reveal feelings one has concealed; to bare the secrets of the grave is to disclose, often as a result of a discovery of documents, something which had been known only to persons now dead (no hidden secrets are bare in this biography—Lubell) (bared her teeth at the audience with comic ferocity—Wouk) Dismantle is used chiefly with reference to the act of stripping a house, a building, a ship, or a complex installation (as of machinery) of its entire equipment and furnishings (dismantle a factory) (the cottage itself was built of old stones from the long dismantled Priory—Hardy) (hurriedly dismantled a second bomb that he had brought along—Shirer) Ana despoil, spoliate, devastate, waste, *ravage: rifle, loot, plunder, *rob Ant furnish: invest
a surface referred to and the sections bordering upon it  
<each white petal had a stripe of red> <gray cloth with alternate stripes of blue and red> <when one or more stripes of braid have been sewn on a soldier's sleeve to indicate his rank or his length of service, they are called stripes>  
If actual separation is not implied stripe may be employed when the difference between the portion of surface referred to and its neighboring portions is a matter of use, ownership, or physical character <the strip between sidewalk and curb belongs to the city> <each man on relief was allotted a strip of land for raising vegetables>  
However stripe may be used in such cases in preference to strip when the division is made evident by a contrast in appearance <narrow stripes of ice separated from each other by parallel moraines—Tndall> <stripes of cultivated land in various shades of green>  
Band (see also bond) may mean either a strip or stripe but often also connotes either an encircling with or without a suggestion of confining or unifying or a horizontal position rather than the vertical position so often connoted by stripe <the lower parts of the sleeves and of the skirt were adorned with bands of blue silk> <bands of colored light in the sky at dawn> <at closer range, the mountain showed three bands, the lowest green, the middle gray, and the highest white>  
Ribbon designates concretely a length of narrow woven material with selvage edges, usually one that is fine and firm in texture and is used for ornamental bands, ties, and bows. In extended use ribbon is often used in place of strip when the strips are very long, very narrow, and very thin and when the material is flexible enough to appear like ribbon or to be handled like ribbon <steel ribbon for use in springs> <ribbons of red, green, and gold paper for tying Christmas packages> <the sails were torn by the hurricane into ribbons> <the road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor—Noyes>  
Fillet, which basically denotes a narrow strip of ornamental material (as a band of ribbon for restraining the hair or a narrow molding or beading that forms the inner part of a picture frame), is often extended to various things that have no inherent ornamental quality and are otherwise describable as strips, ribbons, or bands (as a metal strip or ribbon from which coins are punched, a very thin molding, one of certain bands of white matter in the brain, or a long narrow piece of meat or fish without bone).  

stripe 786

strong

a wavering minority along the road of rectitude—Replier—or to a spiritual or mental power or faculty that acts with force and vigor <a strong mind> <a strong will> <a strong current> <a strong battery> <the memorandum was couched in strong language and the Russians replied to it . . . with equally stern words—Shirer> or to something (as color or light or emotion or sentiment) that is particularly intense or violent <a strong purple> <the strong light of the setting sun> <a strong love> <a strong attachment> <the impulse to fight is something so strong, so deep-seated, so uncontrollable by . . . reason—Edmund Wilson>  
Stout (see also fleshy) carries a stronger implication than does strong of an ability to resist aggression or destructive forces or of an ability to endure hard use, severe pain, or great temptation without giving way. When applied to persons, it often suggests resolution, doggedness, or fearlessness <a stouter champion never handled sword—Shak> <and let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail . . . to impart our courage unto our sons—Roosevelt>  
When applied to things, stout usually also suggests solid, substantial construction <a stout cane> <a stout ship> or a texture that resists stress or strain <a stout canvas> <a stout paper> <their feet were protected by stout boots—Mason>  
In fact the term is generally applicable when the suggestion of power to resist or endure is more emphatic than that of a power to do or to effect. Sturdy implies qualities in inanimate as well as in animate things that suggest the possession of rugged health; the term carries no suggestion of powers derived from such qualities as size, intensity, or vehemence but connotes rather an inner strength typically derived from healthy vigorous growth, close solid construction, or a determined spirit that gives it staying power and stoutness <the little fellow has sturdy legs> <was a sturdy, handsome, high-colored woman—Van Doren> <it is the sturdiest of creepers, facing the ferocious winds of the hills, the tremendous rains that blow up from the sea, and bitter frost—Jefferyes> <our people are . . . conspicuous for a sturdy independence—Inge>  
Stalwart usually implies strength derived from what is so deeply established or firmly rooted that it is unassailable or imprangible or is completely dependable <William Law . . . was a stalwart Churchman, and showed no sympathy with the sectaries—Inge> <Dryden brings his stalwart common sense to bear upon the problem, and clarifies the issue—Lowes> <what is best in our society will have to be saved by the advocates of some older and more stalwart system of thought—Kirk>  
When applied to persons with reference to their physique or prowess, stalwart regularly suggests great strength, but it often throws the emphasis upon heroic build or largeness of frame <a stalwart man, limbed like the old heroic breeds—J. R. Lowell>  
Tough suggests the strength that comes from a texture or a spirit that is firm and unyielding and effectually resists attempts to pierce, destroy, or overcome; it stresses hardness rather than vigor, resistant elasticity or wiriness rather than hardness or solidity, or a capacity for yielding that is just sufficient to increase rather than to destroy a person's or thing's strength or stoutness <a tough membrane> <a tough opponent> <the tough resistance> <any type who reached the age of six . . . was a pint of iron man, so tough, so ferocious, so sharp in the teeth that the wildest alley cat would have surrendered a freshly caught rat rather than contest the meal—Mailer> <physically fragile, she was spiritually tough—Sackville-West>  
Tenacious comes very close to tough in its most general implications, but it places greater emphasis upon
retentiveness of what has been gained or of adherence to a support, position, or idea; it carries a strong suggestion of holding on, of adhesiveness, or of maintaining strength or position in spite of all opposing forces that would dislodge, dispossess, thwart, or weaken. He had always held with tenacious devotion to one of the ancient traditions of his race—Wolfe. He seemed to hold on to life by a single thread only, but that single thread was very tenacious—Arnold. When applied to material things and especially to substances it may suggest a powerful clinging quality and extraordinary resistance to forces that tend to effect separation or pulling apart (tenacious mud). Bold and tenacious as the bamboo shooting up through the hard ground of winter—Binyon. When applied to persons it suggests a stubborn hold upon something (as a possession or an opinion) that defies the efforts of others to break. Italians in possession are probably as tenacious of their rights as any one else—Lucas.

Ant: weak

**Stronghold**  
Cathedral  
Fort, fortress  
Fastness  
Framework

Framework is frequently used in reference to a rigid framework, especially in the building trades for a rigid framework, especially of the heart. Its use, in a broad sense, is analogous to the word skeleton in reference to literary constructions, in which case the skeleton is an organ of the heart, to which reference is made in the following section.

**Structure**  
Building, edifice, pile  
2 Structure, anatomy, framework, skeleton are often used interchangeably. Structure is by far the richest in implications and the widest in its range of application. In general it denotes the formation, arrangement, and articulation of parts in something built up by nature or made by man. Often the word implies reference to everything that enters into the makeup of a particular body, organism, edifice, fabric, or substance; thus, a study of the structure of a brain involves attention to the two kinds of matter (gray and white) of which it is composed, to the three parts (forebrain, midbrain, hindbrain) into which it is divided, to the subdivisions of each of these parts, to the connections and interrelations between all these divisions, and to any peculiarities in form or arrangement of parts. Sometimes, however, structure implies a reference to certain features only, as for example: the parts or elements which distinguish kinds rather than individuals (crocodiles and alligators exhibit certain differences in structure) or the parts or features which are essential or necessary to a thing’s existence as distinguished from those that are removable, detachable, or dispensable (in Gothic architecture the pointed arch is part of the structure and is not a decorative addition) or the parts or features that reveal the underlying design as opposed to those that complete the work or bring it into fullness of being (study the structure of a poem).

**Anatomy** may be preferred when the typical structure of an organism or of an organ is to be denoted (the anatomy of an ape) (the anatomy of the heart). Framework and skeleton are applied to the underlying or supporting structure. Framework is used chiefly in reference to an artificial construction which serves as a prop and a guide in building but which is not visible in the completed thing (the framework of a sofa). The carpenters are now working on the framework for the house. Skeleton is frequently used in the building trades for a rigid framework, especially one made of steel; it is often used in place of structure, design, outline in reference to literary constructions, sometimes to imply that the design is carefully developed and its parts definitely articulated (the skeleton of his argument is now finished) but more often, probably, to indicate a sketchy conception of the whole which serves as a starting point (he has the skeleton of his plot in mind).

In either case it is usually further implied that the writing out in literary form and the elaboration of atmosphere, details, characters remain to be accomplished.

**Analogical words**

**Analogous words**

**Antonyms**

**Contrasted words**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, lumber, galumph, bumble can mean to move unsteadily, clumsily, or with defective equilibrium (as in walking, in doing, or in proceeding). Stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, and flounder as applied to physical movement or gait usually suggest a departure from the normal and imply some extraneous influence to be responsible for such departure. Stumble characteristically implies striking an obstacle or impediment which hinders free movement or direct progress and therefore usually suggests a fall or a check or a cause of embarrassment or perplexity (the horse stumbled over a stone and threw its rider) (he found himself running from tree to tree . . . stumbling wildly towards the cleared ground—Caldwell) (his thought staggers, and reels, and stumbles—Martin Gardner) (the classic instance of the second-rate man who is offered a first-rate destiny, and who, in stumbling after it, loses his way in the world—Buchan) Occasionally stumble implies nothing more than accidental discovery or a coming upon without design (she tried to rationalize his death as we will, stumbling onto such conclusions as that it was time for him to go; he was meant to die young—Cheever) Trip definitely implies a loss of footing or of something comparable to a loss of footing, often on account of the interposition of an unseen obstacle; therefore in extended use trip often connotes a falling into a trap, a laping in speech, or making a wrong move (his plum hands wavering uncertainly away from his body as he tripped, and caught up and tripped, trying desperately not to fall behind the men running—Mailer) (how I rejoiced when I found an author tripping—Tyn dall) (his tongue tripped over the word) (any military man familiar with firearms could trip you up, and if you were found out, you'd be hanged—Kenneth Roberts) Blunder stresses awkward confusion in movement or in proceeding that may suggest blindness, aimlessness, clumsiness, ignorance, or a failure to perceive where one is going or what is to be accomplished (unsteady on his feet and taken completely by surprise, he blundered headlong through the open doorway . . . and fell sprawling—Isherwood) (there was the constant danger of blundering into a house at a time when it was being ransacked by the Gestapo—Valtin) (the van . . . blundered away down the cart track like a drunken bee—Jan Struther) (various blundering attempts were made at alliance between various branches of thought—T. S. Eliot) Lurch suggests the heavy, ungainly rolling or swaying movement of a ship in a storm or of a drunken man; when applied more generally to persons, it usually implies loss of muscular control or extreme clumsiness (the distraught and frightened man . . . raised himself on his hands and lurched forward—Anderson) (sometimes, down the trough of darkness formed by the path under the hedges, men came lurching home—D. H. Lawrence) (the conductor . . . lurched through the car asking for tickets—Styron) Flounder stresses stumbling, struggling, or sprawling rather than rolling and usually implies an effort to proceed when one is out of one's element (as a fish out of water or a horse in the mire) or when one does not know the road or the way (went swiftly into the forest, leaping with sure feet over logs and brush. Pilon floundered behind him—Steinbeck) (they floundered on foot some eight miles— a squalid cabin—Cather) (In its extended use flounder usually implies the confusion of mind and the uncertainty of one who is completely muddled or at a loss but nevertheless proceeds <individuals who can't get a foothold in life, who flounder about in bewildered desperation—Deutsch> (nature has been floundering along for a great many millions of years to get things as they are—Furnas) Lum ber, galumph, lumber, and bumble by contrast with the foregoing terms tend to suggest clumsiness, irregularity, or heaviness as a natural or usual manner of movement or gait. Lumber implies a ponderous- ness or clumsiness in movement (as of one heavily burdened or of great weight) (the jeep, opening its siren at a column of Quartermaster's trucks that lumbered along half a mile ahead, summoned them with stentorian wails to move over—Coozens) (a veritable mountain of a man, [he] deeply resented the attention he invariably attracted when he lumbered down a Manhattan thoroughfare—Cerf) In extended use it implies comparable ponderousness or clumsiness in proceeding or accomplishing (wide spread exasperation with the union leadership and at the lumbering slowness of the machinery of negotiation—New Statesman) (where so many other historical novels lumber along beneath their load of conscientious detail, Mr. Graves's imagination is invariably stimulated by what he finds—Strong) Galumph adds to lumber the suggestion of a thumping, bumping, weighty gait (Frankie lived by day beside the ceaseless, dumping shuffle of the three-legged elephant which was the laundry's sheet-rolling machine. When he ploped onto his narrow pad in the long dim-lit dorm at night and turned his face to the white-washed wall, the three-legged elephant of the mangle roller followed, galumphing, through dreams—Algren) (doors banged, voices rose shrilly, several pairs of feet galumphed down the passage—Monica Stirling) The notion of thumping or of heavy, lurching irregularity is often prominent in extended use (I was sweating in the cool air, my heart galumphing as I stood up—McHugh) (the mornings are enlivened by the spectacle of high-ranking naval and Air Force officers, who will be horse- borne in the procession, uneasily galumphing along the bridle path on their mounts—Panter-Downes) but sometimes it retains an earlier implication of gaily clumsy prancing <to a country that liked to think of its leaders as . . . mad but never without their dignity, Low brought the manhandling democratic touch. He made rank and office commonplace, turned politics into a galumphing merry-go-round—Pritchett) LopPOL more likely to suggest bounding irregularity than clumsiness or heaviness (calves lolloped in long grass—Patrick White) (the lioness . . . started to charge and seemed to come on in great bounds. She appeared to be lolloping along with a lot of up-and-down motion—F. G. Stewart) (an interurban trolley line (which terrified me the way it went lolloping around curves)—Palmer) (the breeze went lolloping along the corridors, blowing the blinds out—Woolf) Bumble suggests a blundering, haphazard progress (the hot auditorium where the June bugs bumbled foolishly against the window screens—Stafford) (plane . . . hit the ground, her tail wheel exploded, and she came leaping like a grasshopper up the runway on a flat tail wheel . . . She bumped and bumbled up to the line—Steinbeck) and, especially in its extended use, may carry more than a suggestion of floundering and blundering (this novel describes a whole small town as it bumbles its way towards an acceptable life under conditions it never made—Graham Bates) (so long as we continue pursuing so shortsighted and blind a policy, so long, I believe, will we bumble and stumble into error—Cherin) AnA stagger, totter, *reel: *plunge, pitch, dive: falter, *hesitate, waver, vacillate: chance, *venture: encounter, *meet, confront

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
stupid adj Stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass, dumb are comparable when they mean conspicuously lacking in intelligence or power to absorb ideas or impressions or exhibiting such a lack. Stupid can apply to a sluggish slow-witted lack of intelligence, typically congenital or habitual, or it can apply to a usually more or less transitory benumbed or dazed state of mind that is typically the result of drunkenness, shock, or illness; although the term seldom is applied to the insane or the imbecile, it often also suggests senselessness <stupid with age—Shak.> <stupid with drink> <he could not stand stupid people, especially those who are made stupid by education—Wilde> <there emerged gradually a picture of stupid chicanery and petty corruption for stupid and petty ends—Faulkner> <he had gone on for years deceiving himself—Shak.> <there was a hollow look in his eyes—Kingsley> <offers slow or retarded boys an adjusted program of education—adv.> <Dull (see also DULL 2) suggests a lackluster slowness or sluggishness of mind that may be constitutional, or the result of lack of mental exercise, or of overwork, or of a physical condition, and is unresolved by any hint of quickness, brightness, or liveliness> <there were cows and they looked at him dully with their great dull eyes—James Baldwin> <had a warm spot in his heart for this dull, stupid, fumbling man—Shirer> <find the book long-winded, incredibly boring . . . and deadly dull—John O'London's Weekly> Dense implies a quality of mind that makes it impervious to ideas. Additionally it may imply qualities (as obtuseness or solidity) that reveal lack of perception, sensitiveness, or subtlety (a woman may be a fool, a sleepy fool, an agitated fool, a too awfully noxious fool, and she may even be simply stupid. But she is never dense—Conrad> <never offered to take me over the house, though I gave her the broadest hints. She's very dense—Clive Arden> Crass suggests a gross unfthinking quality that makes the mind incapable of delicate mental processes (as analysis, discrimination, and evaluation) or impervious to refined or spiritual ideas <crass ignorance> <those dedicated guardians of man's aspirations who somehow redeem their crass society by being simultaneously its exiles, queer ducks and catalysts—Viereck> <the new business buildings in the City of London represent British philistinism in its most crass and shortsighted form—Mumford> <he represented him as a crass and stupid person who had fallen through lack into flowing prosperity—Malamud> Dumb (see also DUMB 1) is a term of contempt that may be used in place of any of the preceding terms especially when obtuseness and inartculateness are also implied <how dumb do you think people are? or how obtuse are you, actually?—Wouk> <too dumb to do things in the right way—Reilly>

**stupendous** tremendous, prodigious, monumental, *monstrous*

**chicanery** and petty corruption for

**too proud, too self-conscious, maybe just too stupid**

**ana** enormous, immense, *huge, vast, colossal, gigantic: astounding, amazing, astonishing (see SURPRISE)

**sturdy** stout, *strong, stalwart, tough, tenacious*

**stupor** torpor, torpidity, lassitude, *lethargy, languor*

**stupify** daze, stun, bemuse, benumb, paralyze, petrify

**stun** daze, bemuse, benumb, paralyze, petrify

**stutter** *stammer

**style** n 1 diction, phraseology, phrasing, *language, vocabulary

**stylish, fashionable, modish, smart, chic, dashing** can mean conforming to the choice and usage of those who set the vogue (as persons of wealth and taste or often the avant-garde). **Stylish** is likely to stress currency and, correspondingly, transitoriness (a stylish address in the new part of the city) <recently it has been more stylish to assume that the author of a story is a complete victim and tool, either of his purse and social position or of his parents' neuroses and theories about child-raising—Smart> <a former college classmate of mine. . . . he had been a big wheel under the elms, a miracle of scholarship and coordination, and classified, in the jargon then stylish, as a snake, or suave operator—Perelman> <she has restored delight . . . to poetry, has written her poems with the completest possible clarity (here you will find no stylish obscurantism, so dear to the avant-garde)—Charles Jackson>

**Fashionable** is often interchangeable with **stylish** (a fashionable neighborhood) <it has become . . . fashionable to sneer at economics and emphasize "the human dilemma"—Mailer> but **fashionable** is distinctly more likely to imply conformance to what is established and generally accepted than to a transitory or restricted vogue <the Episcopal church—that's kind of fashionable in Paterson, where the nicest people go, or at least the ones with the most money—Chidsey> <one of the rare French intellectuals who has the courage to be publicly and outspokenly pro-American in France, a country where it is nowadays fashionable to ridicule the United States—Padover> **Modish** stresses conformity to the latest styles <all the ornaments deemed essential to a modish Victorian drawing room—New Yorker> but sometimes it suggests a step beyond what is describable as **stylish** or **fashionable** and may apply to what from another point of view might be called daring, extreme, or startling <tend to regard the pursuit of the new as necessarily silly and modish—Bentley> <nothing is so transitory as the modish. It is on the way out at the very moment that it comes in—J. M. Brown> <he was English enough to feel a contempt for modish philosophers who went about preaching a profitable brand of nihilism, blandly informing their fellow creatures that they were already in hell and there was no point in struggling against it—Wain> **Smart** comes close to **modish** in suggesting the height of what is stylish or fashionable, but it implies a position in the forefront of what is acceptably stylish
or fashionable rather than one beyond this point (he was handsome, he was rich, he was a sportsman and he was good company. . . . he had been long established as one of the smartest men in London—Maughan) <her college set had stayed rigidly in a zigzag path through the town, traversing a few hotel bars, nightclubs, and eating places which they considered smart—Wouk> <black is often used in smart, sophisticated interiors—Hazel & Julius Rockow> Chic is sometimes used simply as an equivalent to modish or smart <the good corporation wife does not make her friends uncomfortable by clothes too blatantly chic—Whye> or even of fashionable <whether or not he the artist liked it, he became chic—Harper's> However it may not imply conformity to the latest style so much as an effectiveness in style which suggests the exercise of a knack or skill and the achievement of distinction <the natural elegance which enables her to look chic in camouflaged parachutist's overalls—Edmond Taylor> <decided to put her culinary tricks into book form for other women who want to whip up a chic meal—Butcher> <achieved so great a virtuosity that now he not only can do anything but does everything, fluctuating between a wishful religiosity and a chic diablerie—Untermeyer> Dashing applies to people or to things which they wear or use; it implies not only stylishness or, more often, modishness but a bold, shining quality that enables one to cut a figure in any group or assemblage <you're willing to be a dashing but a bold, shining quality that enables one to cut a figure—Gardner> <he was a tall, handsome, dashing chap . . . whose magnificent disregard for money cut a wide swath in the social life of the town—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.> <a pair of dashing young brokers>

**Ana** *new, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modernist: *showy, ostentatious, pretentious

**Suave, urbane, diplomatic, bland, smooth, politic** as applied to persons, their demeanor, and their utterances can mean conspicuously and ingratiatingly tactful and well-mannered. These words at times can convey so strong a suggestion of insincerity or of a surface manner that their distinctive implications are obscured. It is chiefly in their nonderogatory use that essential differences in meaning are apparent. Suave suggests qualities that are or have the appearance of being acquired through discipline and training and that encourage or are intended to encourage easy and frictionless intercourse with others. Negatively, it suggests the absence of everything that may offend or repel; positively, it suggests such qualities as affability without fulsomeness, politeness without stiffness, and persuasiveness without evident desire to force one's opinion on others <what gentle, suave, courteous tones!—Jackson> <a slight disturbance of his ordinary suave and well-bred equanimity—Lyton> <they could be as suave in advancing their bromides as we could be gauche in establishing our originalities—J. M. Brown> Urbane implies a high degree of cultivation, poise, and wide social experience; it also commonly suggests an ingrained or inbred courtesy which makes for pleasant and agreeable intercourse among all kinds of men regardless of social or intellectual standing <writs with fluent charm, in the easy, urbane, richly allusive manner of an Oxford and Cambridge savant—Wecter> <men of delicate fancy, urbane instinct and aristocratic manner—in brief, superior men—in brief, gentry—Menschen> Since urbanity and an ability to deal with difficult or ticklish situations with great tact are theoretically the qualities of the typical diplomat, the adjective diplomatic, when used in reference to nondiplomats, carries these implications, often adding in addition a hint of artfulness in gaining one's own ends <Gabrielle's busy, active, diplomatic managing of the party—E. E. Hale> <the diplomatic manner . . . of a government official whose career depended on politeness to his equals and deference to his superiors—MacInnes> <I have grown to believe that the one thing worth aiming at is simplicity of heart and life; that one's relations with others should be direct and not diplomatic—Benson> Bland is negative as well as positive in its implications, for it usually implies the absence of irritating qualities as strongly as it suggests serenity, mildness, and gentility. Nevertheless, in spite of this vagueness, the term often carries a hint of benignity or the appearance of it and usually directly implies an ingratiating pleasantness <his manners were gentle, complying, and bland—Goldsmit> <he's simply a distinguished-looking old cleric with a sweet smile and a white tie: he's just honorable and bland and as cold as ice—Sanatana> <most of the time he sat behind a look of bland absorption, now and then permitting himself an inscrutable smile—Hervey> Smooth differs from bland chiefly in being more positive in its implications and in being more consistently derogatory. Sometimes it stresses suavity, often an assumed suavity <the words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart—Ps 55:21> At other times it carries even a stronger implication of tactfulness and craft than diplomatic <I was not even my parents' son in 1928 but a devilishly smooth imposter, awaiting their slightest blunder . . . to assert my true identity—Salinger> <the sales talk of our government for the second one was a smooth and professional job—Edmund Wilson> Politic (see also EXPEDIENT) when applied to persons implies both shrewdness and tact; the term usually suggests the ability to gain one's ends or to avoid friction through ingratiating means or diplomatic methods. It varies considerably, however, in its implication of artfulness, sometimes connoting cunning or craft and sometimes little more than just the right degree of suavity <I . . . am an attendant lord . . . deferential, glad to be of use, politic, cautious, and meticulous—T. S. Eliot> <the mayors and corporations as a rule guided their cities through difficult times with politic shrewdness—Edwin Benson> **Ana** *gracious, cordial, affable, genial, sociable: courteous, courteously, politely (see CIVIL): *fulous, uncouth, slick

**Ant** bluff

subdue subjuge, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick

**Ana** control, manage, direct (see CONDUCT vb): discipline, *punish, correct: foil, thwart, circumvent, *frustrate: *suppress, repress

**Ant** awaken (sense 2), waken

**Subdued** *tame, submissive


**Ant** intense: barbaric (of taste): bizarre (of effects): effervescent (of character and temperament)

**Subject** n 1 *citizen, national

**Ant** sovereign

**Subject** n 1 *subject, matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv can mean the basic idea or the principal object of thought or attention in a discourse or artistic composition. Subject is the most widely applicable as well as the least definite in denotation of these words; it implies merely some restriction in one's field of choice and a governing principle determining the selection of one's material and demanding some concentration in the treatment of it (as in a discourse or work of art) <what is the subject of his painting?> <your subject is too comprehensive to be treated adequately in so short an article> <it was the first of the . . . major mistakes in World War II and became a subject of violent controversy

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
—Shirer> Matter and the more usual subject matter are often used as close synonyms of subject (Chail, Son of God, Saviour of men! Thy name shall be the copious matter of my song—Milton) <Mr. Lytton Strachey . . . chose, as subject matter of a book, four people of whom the world had heard little but good—Repliery> As often, however, these terms refer not to the idea, object, or situation selected for treatment but to a restricted field or range of material from which one selects the specific subject he intends to treat <Alexander's Bridge was my first novel, and does not deal with the kind of subject matter in which I now find myself most at home—Cather> Argument (see also reason, argument 2) can denote the subject, especially the carefully delimited subject, for a particular discourse (as a poem or a part of a poem) that is planned in advance of execution <the argument of the book is as simple as you could wish for—Parris> The word sometimes implies explicit statement of the leading idea or a summarizing of its development <Pope prefaced each epistle of his Essay on Man with an argument of it> Topic applies to a subject, usually of general interest, chosen because of its possibilities for individual or original treatment or for discussion by different persons holding diverse views <the students were asked to write an essay on one of the assigned topics> <I can’t remember in a prolonged conversation what topic’s been covered and what haven’t—Purdy> Text can mean a verse or passage, usually from Scripture, chosen as providing or suggesting a subject for a sermon or similar discourse <the excellency of this text is that it will suit any sermon; and of this sermon, that it will suit any text—Sterne> In extended use it is often applied to whatever suggests itself as a good starting point for a discourse the subject of which is yet to be defined or which lacks a definite subject <my text for this chapter is . . . any good daily newspaper—La Barre> Theme denotes a subject which one selects for literary or artistic treatment; it is applicable to something (as an idea, proposition, text, melodic phrase, or mood) which a writer, composer, or artist proposes to develop (as in a poem), to elaborate upon (as in a movement of a symphony), or to illustrate (as in a mural or series of murals) or which can be detected in a completed work as the dominant object of his concern <tools are my theme, let satire be my song—Byron> <waterfalls are from very early times a favorite theme for the painter—Binyon> Theme does not necessarily suggest a clearer definition than subject or topic, but, in distinction from them, it invites comparison with the treatment and calls attention to the quality, the form, the design, or the execution of the completed work; thus, an overworked theme implies a lack of freshness in the thought or design; a compelling theme suggests force and enthusiasm in its treatment <to produce a mighty book you must choose a mighty theme—Melville> Motive and motif are restricted in reference to works of art to those in which design or execution of the completed work; thus, an overworked motive is much favored by decorative artists <don’t speak. Don’t think. This is, of course, a familiar refrain . . . . . > It is the motif of the great dark stories of the 1930’s—Geismar> Leitmotive designates a specific melodic phrase that is associated with a particular person, mood, or situation (as in an opera) and that is repeated each time this person, mood, or situation reappears. The word has considerable extended use and is often applied to an insistent or recurrent idea that becomes the dominant theme of an author or of a work (“Fate went its way uncompromisingly to the terrible end.” This is the leitmotiv of this interesting, dignified apologia of one of Austria’s Elder Statesmen—S. R. L.> Subject adj 1 dependent, *subordinate, secondary, tributary, collateral Ana *subservient, servile, slavish: conditional, continent, dependent, relative Ant sovereign, dominant 2 *liable, open, exposed, prone, susceptible, sensitive Ana *apt, likely, liable Ant exempt Subject matter *subject, matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv Subjoin *add, append, annex, superadd Ana attach, affix, *fasten: unite, conjoin, combine Con *detach, disengage: separate, part, sever Subjugate subdue, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick Ana circumvent, outwit, foil, thwart, *frustrate: compel, coerce, *force Sublime glorious, *splendid, superb, resplendent, gorgeous Ana transcendent, transcendental, ideal, *abstract: divine, spiritual, sacred, *holy: majestic, august, noble, stately (see grand) Sublunary *earthy, terrestrial, earthy, mundane, worldly Submerge immerse, duck, *dip, souse, dunk Ana *soak, saturate, drench, imprgnate Submission *surrender, capitulation Ana yielding, submitting, succumbing, bowing, caving in (see yield); compliance, acquiescence, resignation (see under compliant) Ant resistance Submissive *tame, subdued Ana docile, tractable, amenable, biddable, *obedient: meek, lowly, *humble: subservient, servile, slavish, menial Ant rebellious Submit *yield, capitulate, succumb, relent, defer, bow, cave Ana surrender, abandon, resign, *relinquish: abide, endure, suffer, *bear Ant resist, withstand Subordinate adj Subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, tributary, collateral are comparable when they mean placed in or belonging to a class, rank, or status lower than the highest or the first in importance or power. Subordinate applies to a person or thing that is lower than another in some such essential respect as by being under his or its authority <all officers of an independent army below the rank of general are subordinate officers> <Montholon, up to that moment subordinate to the Grand Marshal, was entrusted with the management of the Emperor's household—Maurois> or by having a less important or less conspicuous place, position, or status in the scheme of a whole than some other member, part, or element <the relation of dominating to subordinate features —Binyon> <ceremony is subordinate in the scheme of life, as color is in a painting—Ellis> or by loss of independence and reduction to a lower or inferior position <at that time considered as a subordinate and inferior class of beings . . . . . subjugated by the dominant race—Taney> <it does tell us . . . why a complex of beliefs is dominant at one time and subordinate at another—Hose> Secondary differs from subordinate mainly in suggesting a much narrower range of difference, for it implies a position...
or an importance that is just below what may be described as primary, main, chief, or leading. (what they actually believe is of secondary consequence; the main thing is what they say—Mencken) (the valuation of an object is thus secondary to the apprehension of it—Alexander) (each stage of the climb from valley to intermediate shoulders and crags, to a secondary and thence to the highest point—W. O. Douglas) In reference to order of development or derivation secondary is opposed to original or first and carries no necessary implication of inferiority in importance (the secondary meaning of a word) (his primary tools, the fundamental cutting tools with which he makes his secondary tools—R. W. Murray) Dependent (see also dependent 1) implies subordination to someone or something, but it also connotes the position or the status of one that hangs on, leans on, or relies on the other for support or for the provision of what is lacking in itself; thus, a dependent clause in a sentence is not completely intelligible apart from the main clause; a dependent child is not old enough to support himself and therefore must rely upon his parents or guardians. In its more common use dependent implies a loss, through subjugation or through weakness, of one’s independence; it therefore frequently stresses powerlessness or debasement more than subordination (England, long dependent and degraded, was again a power of the first rank—Mackay) (Maggie is not dependent on Honora—she could get a better job tomorrow—Cheever) Subject definitely implies subordination to a dominant power but never carries, as subordinate sometimes carries, an implication of relative importance within a scheme of the whole; it often tends to suggest loss of those powers which imply a degree of freedom, responsibility, self-discipline, and self-sufficiency (a subject race) (aristocracy is out of date, and subject populations will no longer obey even the most wise and virtuous rulers—Russell) Tributary basically applies to peoples, races, or nations that have been conquered and made subject to another people, race, or nation and that are forced to pay tribute to their conquerors, but in more general use it is often interchangeable with subject (no conquering race ever lived or could live . . . among a tributary one without begetting children on it—Quiller-Couch) In another sense it is also applicable to whatever has an outlet into another and larger thing of the same kind and thereby yields supplies (as a flow of water or material) which increase the size or importance of the latter (the tributary streams of the Mississippi river) (the lane, receiving two tributary lanes from who should say what remote hamlets, widened out with this accession—Mackenzie) Collateral implies a being side by side, but it suggests not equivalence in value but subordination of one through or as if through an indirect relation to or a loose connection with the other; thus, a collateral cause of a war, though by implication operative at the same time as the most important or primary cause, is subordinate to the latter; a collateral issue is not the main issue; a collateral descendant is not a direct or lineal descendant but one in a different line (as of a brother or sister) (the union had engaged successfully in many collateral activities such as banking and cooperative housing—Soule) (the limiting of inquiry to the immediate, with total disregard of the collateral or circumstantial events—Poe) 

**subscribe** agree, acquiesce, *assent, consent, accede

**Ana** concur, coincide, *agree: *approve, endorse, sanction: *promise, pledge, covenant

**Ant** boggle

**subservient** n. *auxiliary, subsidiary, contributory, ancillary, adjuvant, accessory

**Ana** subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject

**2 Subservient, servile, slavish, menial, obsequious** can mean showing or characterized by extreme compliance or abject obedience. **Subservient** (see also auxiliary) applies directly or indirectly to those who occupy a subordinate or dependent condition or who manifest the state of mind of one in such a position; the term stresses subordination and may connote cringing or truckling (editors and journalists who express opinions in print that are opposed to the interests of the rich are dismissed and replaced by subservient ones—Shaw) (a certainty that she would always worship him and be nice and subservient—Farrell) Servile suggests a lowly status and a mean or cringing submissiveness (servile labors) (mean, servile compliance—Burns) (in no country . . . did the clergy become by truckling (why completely servile to the political authority—Shirer) (they are not loyal, they are only servile—Shaw) Slavish suggests the status or attitude of a slave and typically implies an abject or debased servility unbecoming to a free man (a slavish yes-man to the party bosses—S. H. Adams) (Oriental literature . . . is based on a slavish acceptance by the pupil of the authority of the master—Cohen) (fear took hold on me from head to foot—slavish superstitious fear—Stevenson) (she also became increasingly assiduous in her slavish attentions, until . . . one would almost have thought that her duty toward him was her very life—Wolfe) Both servile and slavish are used of unduly close dependence upon an original or model (it is the business of art to imitate nature, but not with a servile pencil—Goldsmith) (a slavish devotion to tradition) Menial in its typical extended reference applies to occupations requiring no special skill or intellectual attainment or ranked low in economic or social status and stressing the humbleness and degradation of or like that of one bound to such an occupation (niggers were ineducable and would therefore always be menial—Mayer) (competing against a mass of unemployed, they accepted the most menial and worst paid jobs—Handlin) (encouraged to rise from the menial and mechanical operations of his craft—Mumford) (most menial of stations in that aristocratic old Boston world—Parrington) Obsequious may apply to persons who are actual inferiors or to the words, actions, or manners by which they reveal their sense of inferiority in the presence of their superiors (a duteous and knee-crooking knave . . . doting on his own mediocrity—Shak.) (be civil, but not obsequious—Meredith) The word may imply a servile, often a sycophantic, attitude (brutal and arrogant when winning, they are bootlicking and servilely obsequious when losing—Cohn) (on the second Saturday evening after he got his new position, the tobacconist, a rather obsequious man, called him Mr. Hall—Anderson) or extreme attentiveness in service or to the niceties of service (following him out, with obsequious politeness—Dickens)

**Ana** fawning, cringing, truckling, cowering (see fawn); *compliant, acquiescent, resigned: *mean, ignoble, abject

**Ant** domineering; overbearing

**subside** n. *fall, drop, sink, slump

**Ana** sag, flag. *droop, wilt: shrink, *contract, constrict 2 *abate, wane, ebb

**Ana** dwindle, diminish, *decrease

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Antonyms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>subsidiary</td>
<td>*auxiliary, contributory, subservient, ancillary, adjutant, accessory</td>
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<td>subsidy</td>
<td>grant, subvention, *appropriation</td>
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<td>subsit</td>
<td>exist, live, *be</td>
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<td>substantive</td>
<td>*living, livelihood, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread, bread and butter</td>
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<td>subspecies</td>
<td>*variety, race, breed, cultivar, strain, clone, stock</td>
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<td>substance</td>
<td>1 Substance, purport, gist, burden, core, pith</td>
<td>can denote the inner significance or central meaning of something written or said. Substance implies the essence of what has been said or written devoid of details and elaborations; the term is used especially when such an essence is repeated for the sake of others, but it may be used also of what characterizes a discourse and gives it body as distinguished from the frills or rhetorical froth that give it finish. <em>give the substance of a speech</em></td>
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<td>2 Purport lays the stress upon purpose or intent but when used of written or spoken discourse it applies to what is intended to be conveyed or imparted and so actually refers to the central meaning. It is often interchangeable with substance but always with the implication of the speaker’s or writer’s purpose. <em>the . . . purport of his letter was to inform them that Mr. Wickham had resolved on quitting the militia—Austen</em></td>
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<td>3 Burden implies the part most insisted upon or most often repeated and usually means the main topic or theme. <em>the burden of his conversation was that there was no escape “of no kind whatever”—Kipling</em></td>
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<td>4 Core can apply to various things that give the effect of being whatever remains after the outer or superficial part is stripped off; in application to what is written or said it emphasizes the centrality of the meaning and the relative unimportance of the other aspects. <em>the true center of the book is its core of irony, insight into the contrast between illusion and reality in the story of the West—Kohler</em></td>
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<td>5 Pith often equals substance in the sense of body; actually, however, it implies substance which gives a discourse its concentrated force, vigor, or vitality and is, therefore, a narrower and more expressive term. <em>there is pith in this essay</em></td>
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<td>6 *center, nucleus, heart, core, focus: *principle, fundamental; foundation, *base, groundwork</td>
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<td>7 *matter, material, stuff</td>
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<td>substantial</td>
<td>*massive, massy, bulky, monumental</td>
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<td>Ant</td>
<td>airy, ethereal</td>
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<td>substantialize</td>
<td>verify, corroborate, *confirm, authenticate, validate</td>
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<tr>
<td>substitu</td>
<td>n *surrogate, *resource, resort, expedient, shift, makeshift, stopgap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana</td>
<td>*device, contrivance, contraption: duplicate, copy, *reproduction</td>
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<td>2 Supply, substitute, *locum tenens, alternate, understudy, double, stand-in, pinch hitter</td>
<td>designate a person who performs or is prepared to perform the duties of another during the latter’s absence or incapacitation. Substitute is the general term interchangeable with any of the others; specifically it is often applied to a teacher not appointed to a full-time position but held in reserve for service when needed. A supply is a clergyman who substitutes for the regular preacher. A <em>locum tenens</em> is often a substitute for a professional man with a practice or clientele which needs to be cared for while he is away for a length of time; the term is used especially with respect to physicians and clergymen. An alternate is one appointed or elected to take the place of another (as a delegate to a convention, a holder of a fellowship, the winner of an award, or a juror) if the latter should be incapacitated or disqualified. An <em>understudy</em> is a reserve actor or actress prepared to take the part of a regular actor or actress on short notice. A double is a person sufficiently like another to be able to substitute for him in public and especially an anonymous actor or actress in motion pictures who substitutes in shots or scenes where the required action is considered too risky or Onorous for the regular player. A <em>stand-in</em> in motion pictures is one whose chief duty is to substitute for a star during the preparation (as in arranging lighting) for actual shooting of scenes. A <em>pinch hitter</em> is a baseball player sent in to bat to replace a weak hitter when a hit is particularly needed or, by extension, a person who substitutes for another in an emergency; the term may denote competence or ability to rise to the demands of the situation but is frequently a more graphic equivalent of substitute.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 *include, comprehend, embrace, involve, imply</td>
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<td>2 *logical, analytical</td>
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<td>Ana</td>
<td>penetrating, piercing, probing (see ENTER): *deep, profound; abstruse, *recondite</td>
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<td>3 *dense (in mind): blunt (in speech)</td>
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<td>4 *subtract *deduct</td>
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<td>5 *add</td>
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<td>6 *subvention grant, *appropriation, subsidy</td>
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<td>7 *subvert *overturn, overthrow, capsize, upset</td>
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<td>8 *ruin, wreck: *destroy, demolish: corrupt, pervert, deprave, *debase</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 *uphold, sustain</td>
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<tr>
<td>succeed</td>
<td>1 *follow, ensue, supervene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana</td>
<td>*displace, supplant, *replace, supersede</td>
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| 2 Succeed, prosper, thrive, flourish can mean to attain or to be attaining a desired end. Succeed (see also FOLLOW) implies little more than this. Both persons and things succeed when they are effective in gaining their purposes or ends, in particular or in general; the term implies an antithesis to fail (the teaching that fosters these ends succeeds; the teaching which negates them fails—Suszallo) (the little man had succeeded in disturbing the boy with his absurd proposal—Dahl) (the revolt against the tyranny of mathematics and physics is justified by the fact that these sciences have not succeeded in explaining the phenomena of life—Inge) Prosper carries an implication of continued or long-continuing success; it usually also suggests increasing success. Only through the context is it clear whether the success is in the continuation or the increase of health, of wealth, or of well-being (prosper in business) (Milenkova was soon prospering. His coat came in soft and shining; his purr cleared and his eyes lost the milkiness that had clouded them—
succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train, string

Succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train, string are comparable when they mean a number of things that follow each other in some order. Succession implies that the units, whether things or persons, follow each other, typically in order of time or, less often, of place and usually without break or interruption (a succession of disasters) (a succession of mild winters) (there was a dizzy succession of events and of constantly changing situations—Shirer) (a succession of rooms, one after the other, extending over a great length—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (reality is a succession of concrete and particular situations—Huxley) Progression (see also progress 2) applies to a succession in which there is movement and flow, and often change, so that a pattern is formed or an advance is indicated. The word is most frequent in mathematics and in music; in the former it denotes a succession of quantities between every two of which there is a particular but an unvarying relation (arithmetical progression) (all the following systems are based on a progression by which the amount of a bet is increased after a loss—Morehead & Mott-Smith) In music it denotes a succession of chords which constitute a harmony (a short melodic line without addition of simultaneous harmony, containing mostly stepwise progressions, moderately interspersed with leaps—Hindemith) Series applies to a number of things of similar or uniform character that stand in the same relation to each other or achieve the same end; often the term is indistinguishable from succession, but the combined or total effect of the units is rather more stressed than the fact that they follow each other (a series of notes) (a series of visits) (a series of payments) (it all came together in my understanding, as a series of experiments do when you begin to see where they are leading—Cather) (some so-called series are nothing more than miscellaneous collections of books published at the same price and in the same style—McColvin) Sequence is more restricted in meaning than series and implies a closer causal or logical connection between the things involved (as a numerical or chronological order or a settled recurrence in the same order) (the sequence of the seasons) (his thoughts flow in logical sequence) (preferring rather to get the news in weekly retrospective, from the periodicals—for these organs treated events of a preceding week as an understandable sequence and gave them discernible pattern—Terry Southern) (our presidents have run in sequences, and . . . have tended to be classifiable under three main types—Edmund Wilson) Chain applies to a succession or series which forms a logical or causal sequence (a chain of arguments) (a chain of effects) (the long chain of development which makes the very language of the English Bible what it is—Lowes) (there is no climactic choice in the story; it moves evenly on a chain of circumstances—Walcutt) Train applies to a number of persons, animals, or concrete things or of effects or ideas that follow as attendants or as consequences or sometimes (as in the case of causes) that precede (she always has a train of admirers) (I invite your Highness and your train to my poor cell—Shak.) (a long train of causes) (the August afternoon that the little train of silent people carried her out of her own door up to the family burying ground—Deland) (somebody who wrote and wrote and never finished even one train of thought to the very end—Purdy) String applies to a series or succession so uniform (as in character, size, or quality) that its units are or seem to be strung on a thread; usually there is little implication of chronological, logical, or causal connection (a string of victories) (this long string of single-handed successes made rich fare for . . . crime reporters—Sipers) (launched at once into a string of stories—Dawson & Wilson) Ana consecutiveness, successiveness (see corresponding adjectives at consecutive): articulation, concatenation, integration (see under integrate) Successful *consecutive, sequent, sequential, serial Ana continuous, *continual, constant, incessant: rotating, alternating (see rotate) Succinct terse, *concise, laconic, summary, pithy, comprehensive Ana *brief, short: compressed, condensed, contracted (see contract vb): compact, *close: curt, brusque, blunt (see bluff) Ana discursive succumb *yield, submit, capitulate, relent, defer, bow, cave Ana surrender, abandon, resign, *relinquish sudden hasty, *precipitate, headlong, abrupt, impetuous Ana quickened, hurried, speeded, accelerated (see speed vb): fast, rapid, swift, fleet, expeditious Suds *foam, froth, spume, lather, scum, yeast Sue pray, plead, petition (see under prayer) Ana entreat, beseech, *beg, importune, implore, supplicate: sollicit, request, *ask: *demand, claim, exact, require Suffer 1 *bear, endure, abide, tolerate, stand, brook Ana accept, *receive, admit: *yield, submit, bow 2 *experience, undergo, sustain Ana submit, succumb, defer, *yield 3 permit, allow, *let, leave Suffrance *permission, leave Ana toleration, endurance (see corresponding verbs at bear): acquiescence, resignation, compliance (see under compliant) Suffering *distress, misery, agony, dolor, passion Ana affliction, tribulation, *trial, visitation: adversity, *misfortune: *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, heartache, heartbreak Suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, choke, strangle,
throttle can all mean to interrupt the normal course of breathing. Suffocate commonly refers to conditions in which breathing is impossible through lack of available oxygen or through presence of noxious or poisonous gas

Suffrage, franchise, vote, ballot mean the right, analogous words 

on the expressed will of the majority, or on the ethical

Ballot, which specifically implies some method of secret withheld from British citizens who were not householders (franchise) Smother is likely to be used in situations in which the supply of oxygen is inadequate for life; it often suggests a deadly pall of smoke, dust, or impurity in the air (smothered by the dust after the explosion) (a smell of soot which smothered the scent of wistaria and iris—Bromfield)

Power to vote freely, effectively, and without coercion, on the expressed will of the majority, or on the ethical use of the vote (the ballot is the citizens’ means of getting the power to assert its rights) <every American citizen has a vote in choosing those who will make the laws>

Ballot, which specifically implies some method of secret voting, is likely to be used when the emphasis is on the power to vote freely, effectively, and without coercion, on the expressed will of the majority, or on the ethical use of the vote (the ballot is the citizens’ means of getting the kind of government they want) <among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and . . . they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the cost—Lincoln>

suggest

1 Suggest, imply, hint, intimate, insinuate can all mean to convey an idea or the thought of something by indirect means. Suggest emphasizes a putting into the mind as the result of an association of ideas, an awakening of a desire, or an initiating of a train of thought (the militant severity of his judgments, and the caustic wit of his comments, suggest . . . how long and bitter would be the struggle—Parrington) (suggesting attractive books (with jackets that truly suggest their contents)—Malcolm Cowley) (he can suggest in his work the immobility of a plain or the extreme action of a bolt of lightning, without showing either—Nichols)

Imply (see also include) is in general opposed to express; the term stresses a suggesting, or putting into the mind, of an idea, a thought, or a meaning that is involved in a statement, an action, a situation, or a word and forms a part, but not necessarily an obvious part, of its full signification or significance (the philosophy of Nature which is implied in Chinese art—Binyon) (dislikes intensely to say this; in chapter after chapter he approaches it and implies it, only to draw back from saying it quite baldly—Brand Blanchard) Very often the difference between suggest and imply is not clear, though suggest often connotes the necessity of delicate perception and imply connotes the need of inference (a competent portraitist knows how to imply the profile in the full face—Huxley) (the “sayings” of a community, its proverbs, are its characteristic comment upon life; they imply its history, suggest its attitude toward the world and its way of accepting life—Cather)

Hint implies the use of a remote or covert suggestion and often also connotes lack of candor, frankness, or straightforwardness (by looking for a minute at the soft hinted green in the branches against the sky—Shirley Jackson) (he was not candid with her about his feelings; for once, when he had merely hinted at them to her, she had laughed—Dell) (the Star Route frauds, hinted at while Hayes was president, were uncovered before the death of Garfield—Paxson)

Intimate frequently implies a lighter or more elusive suggestion than hint but it connotes delicacy of approach rather than lack of candor or frankness (he said that he had to be prudent or might not be able to say all that he thought, thus intimating to his hearers that they might infer that he meant more—Justice Holmes)

Insinuate (see also introduce 2) implies an artful hinting or a conveying, especially of an unpleasant or deprecative suggestion, in an underhanded or devious manner (by his tone and expression, rather than by his words, he suggested lack of candor, frankness, or straightforwardness; the difference between saying it quite baldly—Brand Blanchard)

Antonyms

suggest

Infuse, imbue, ingrain, inoculate, leaven

Introduce, interpose, interject; impregnate, penetrate, pervade (see permeate)

Intimate frequently implies a lighter or more elusive suggestion than hint but it connotes delicacy of approach rather than lack of candor or frankness (he said that he had to be prudent or might not be able to say all that he thought, thus intimating to his hearers that they might infer that he meant more—Justice Holmes)

Insinuate (see also introduce 2) implies an artful hinting or a conveying, especially of an unpleasant or deprecative suggestion, in an underhanded or devious manner (by his tone and expression, rather than by his words, he insinuated that the boy was not to be trusted) (he could quietly insinuate the most scandalously hilarious things about the Joneses—Theodore Sturgeon) (the voice that insinuates that Jews and Negroes and Catholicks are inferior excrescences on our body politic—Lerner)

Dull, sleeper, insomniac

Con
that suggests may be an outward sign which prompts an inference (a certain well-do-to air about the man sug- gested that he was not poor for his degree—Hardy) It may be a symbol, which calls to mind whatever it conventionally represents (the fleur-de-lis suggests the royal power of France) It may be a fragment which evokes an image of a whole or a concrete detail that gives an inkling of something abstract or incapable of representation (the curve of the greyhound is not only the line of beauty, but a line which suggests—Jeffries) It may be a word or a phrase that calls up a train of associations and reveals more than it actually denotes (phrases flat and precise on the surface yet suggesting mystery below—Day Lewis) (the business of words in prose is primarily to state; in poetry, not only to state, but also (and sometimes primarily) to suggest—Lowes) One thing adumbrates another when the former faintly or darkly or sketchily suggests the latter. Adumbrate seldom takes a material object and is especially appro- priate for use with one that is or is felt as beyond the present level or sometimes the reach of human comprehen- sion or imagination (the Saxon demands, flatly presented or delicately adumbrated at Potsdam—Mostly) (this concept is adumbrated, but not yet distinctly conceived—Lowie) (both in the vastness and the richness of the visible universe the invisible God is adumbrated—Isaac Taylor) When one things shows (or shadows forth) another thing, it represents that thing obscurely (as by a symbol or other indirect means). Sometimes the word comes close to prefigure or foreshadow, but as a rule precedence is not implied (to the Chinese painters this world of nature seemed a more effective way of shadowing forth the manifold moods of man than by representing human figures animated by these moods—Binyon)

**Ant** manifest

**suggestion** touch, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

**suit** 1. prayer, plea, petition, appeal

**suggestion** 2. lawsuit, lawsuit, action, cause, case are all used to designate legal proceedings instituted for the sake of demanding justice or enforcing a right. Though often used inter- changeably in the sense of lawsuit, they may have certain differences in their connotations and their applications. Suit stresses the attempt of a complainant through litiga- tion to gain an end (as redress for a wrong, recognition of a claim, or the enforcement of law); it therefore may be used of the proceedings from the time of formal appli- cation through the prosecution (win a suit) (withdraw a suit) (a suit in equity) Lawsuit can add to suit the implication of actual trial in court and often of that of judicial decision; it may therefore refer to the entire proceedings (the lawsuit of Brown versus Jones ended in victory for the defendant) Action comes very close to suit, but it is relatively colorless and throws the emphasis on actual proceedings rather than on petition (bring an action in Court) In technical legal use, however, it is a proceeding in a court of law which is distinguished from a suit in equity and which has for its end the ascertainment of facts. If the complainant’s position is found correct in such an action, an appropriate legal remedy may then be applied. Cause emphasizes the grounds on which one institutes a suit; consequently, like suit, it implies the plaintiff’s point of view, but it suggests even more strongly his sense of the justice of his demand (the customary arts of the pleader, the appeal to the sympathies of the public . . . he rejected as unworthy of himself and of his cause—Dickinson) Case, like cause, may imply rather the grounds of action than the actual proceedings but, unlike cause, may view or present these grounds from either or both points of view (the plaintiff has a good case) (the defendant’s attorney stated his case) However case often is applied to the entire proceedings in a law- suit including the judicial decision (one of the famous cases in legal history) (a study of historic capital cases)

**suitable** fit, meet, proper, appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous

**sulky** surly, morose, glum, *sullen, crabbed, saturnine, dour, gloomy

**suit** cranky, cross, testy, touchy (see IRASCIBLE); peevish, petulant, fretful, querulous, *irritable

**sullen** glu, morose, surly, sulky, crabbed, saturnine, dour, gloomy can mean governed by or showing, especially in one’s aspect, a forbidding or disagreeable mood or disposition. One is sullen who is, often by disposition, gloomy, silent, and ill-humored and who refuses to be sociable, cooperative, or responsive (Sheridan was generally very dull in society, and sat sullen and silent—Scott) (he made them go back to the fields immediately after supper and work until midnight. They went in sullen silence—Anderson) (the furious quarrels, and always, always the bitter sullen face of the boy brooding over his work—Dahl) One is glum who is dizzily silent either because of low spirits or depressing circumstances (we have of course good reason to look glum and little reason to laugh . . . now deprived of most of the things that make for gaiety and high spirits—Main) (the two of you . . . sitting there as glum as a pair of saints in hell—Dshkep) One is morose who is austere or sour and inclined to gloinness (a morose ill-conditioned, ill-natured person—South) (should there be any cold-blooded and morose mortals who really dislike this book—Boswell) One is sullen who adds churlishness or gruffness of speech and manner to sulleness or moroseness (he indulged his moods. If he were surly, he did not bother to hide it; if he were aggressive, he would swear at her—Mailer) (“Sam, put it out of your mind,” I snapped in a rather surly rebuff—Michener) (the somewhat surly goodness, the hard and unattractive pieties into which she cannot really enter—Pater) One is sulky who manifests dis- pleasure, discontent, or resentment by giving way child-ishly to a fit of peevish sullenness (though he had come in sulky unwillingness, he was impressed by the supper—Sinclair Lewis) (we were a precious pair: I sulky and obstinate, she changeable and hot-tempered—Shaw) One is crabbed who is actually or seemingly ill-natured, harsh, and forbidding. The term often refers to one’s aspect and manner of speaking and usually implies a sour or morose disposition or a settled crossness (divine Philoso- phy! Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose—Mil- ton) (the querulous, exacting father could not help . . . exasperating the children whom, in his own crabbed way, he yet genuinely loved—Woolf) One is saturnine who presents a heavy, forbidding, taciturn gloom (driven to saturnine and scornful silence by Gerald’s godless con- versation—Wylie) (Sheridan’s humor, or rather wit, was always saturnine, and sometimes savage; he never laughed —Byron) but saturnine may come close to sardonic (which see under SARCASM) and then suggests less a depressing heaviness and gloom than —is characterized by a skepticism that is often at least superficially attractive (novels . . . in which evil is personified by saturnine persons who
sully

soil, dirty, tarnish, foul, befoul, smirch, besmirch.

sum, amount, number, aggregate, total, whole.

summit, peak, pinnacle, climax, apex, acme, culmination.

summative

Ana

lowering, glowering, frowning, scowling (see FROWN); spiteful, malevolent, *malicious, malignant; *cynical, pessimistic.

sully

spot, spatter, sprinkle: defile, pollute, taint.

sum

spot, spatter, sprinkle: defile, pollute, taint, *contaminate.

sum n

Sum, amount, number, aggregate, total, whole.

quantity

denote a result obtained by putting or taking together all in a given group or mass. Sum denotes the result of simple addition, usually of figures, sometimes of particulars (four is the sum of two and two).

Amount denotes the result reached by combining all the sums or weights or measures that form a whole (the amount of his purchases).

The amount of cotton raised in one year.

Number, with its strong suggestion of enumerating, is usually applied to a countable aggregate of persons or things and is clearly distinct from amount, which ordinarily applies to things in bulk or mass; thus, one may pick a large number of apples to make a large amount of applesauce.

Aggregate denotes the result reached by counting and considering together all the distinct individuals or particulars in a group or collection (though his errors are individually insignificant, their aggregate is so large as to destroy confidence in his accuracy). It is not true that a social force or effort is the mere aggregate of individual forces and efforts—Hobson.

Total and whole suggest the completeness or inclusiveness of the result; total often further implies magnitude in the result, and whole, unity in what is summed up (a grand total of ten millions).

The whole is the sum of its parts.

Quantity in general use is employed chiefly of things which are measured in bulk, even though they can be counted (a quantity of apples). In technical and scientific use quantity is not limited to an aggregate or bulk but may be used of anything that is measurable in extent, duration, volume, magnitude, intensity, or value (systematic quantity).

Quantity of a word performed by a machine.

sum vb

*add, total, tot, cast, figure, foot.

Ana

compute, *calculate, estimate, reckon: *count, enumerate, number.

summary adj

pithy, copious, *concise, terse, succinct, laconic.

Ana

brief, short: *quick, prompt, ready, apt: compacted or compact, concentrated (see COMPACT vb).

Ant

cumstantial.

summative

*cumulative, accumulative, additive.

summit, peak, pinnacle, climax, apex, acme, culmination, meridian, zenith, apogee.

meridian, apogee can mean the highest point attained or attainable. Summit is applied to what represents the topmost level attainable by effort or to what is the highest in its type or kind of attainable things (this scaleless monster, eight or nine feet long, sprawling in the shade by the side of the mud pools... was the summit of labyrin-thodont evolution—Swinton).

The Bar's outstanding figure by acclaim... in the fullness of his powers and at the summit of his fame—Lustgarten.

Peak usually implies a point rather than a level (the peak of enthusiasm). It is frequently applied to something that is or can be represented in a graph; used absolutely it designates the highest point reached in a course or during a stated or implied length of time (security prices reached new peaks this year).

His vocal control was at its peak when he did the recording—Paul Hume.

Pinnacle is applied chiefly to what has reached a dizzy and, often, insecure height (the word theater means different things to different groups. To some its very pinnacle is South Pacific, which is despised by the aesthetes—Miller). A pinnacle of happiness—Brooks.

Never achieved the pinnacle of public life, the presidency, when lesser men did—Vanseveld.

Climax implies a scale of ascending values; it is applied to the highest point in force, in intensity, in interest, or in impressiveness in an ascending movement or series. The word often suggests an end or close (reserve your strongest argument for the climax of your speech).

The quarrel had been only the climax of a long period of increasing strain—Davis.

The Marxist version of history, according to which the seeming harmonies of our society would blow up in a catastrophic climax—Niebuhr.

Apex is applied to the highest or culminating point (as in time or of accomplishment) to which everything in a career, a system of thought, or a cultural development ascends and in which everything is concentrated (if terrestrial culture were a pyramid, at the apex (where the power is) would sit a blind man, for... by blinding ourselves, bit by bit, may we rise above our fellows—Theodore Sturgeon).

The British people, who look upon the king as the apex of their national and social aspirations—Bolitho.

The argument is that Wordsworth's economic, political, religious, and "sexual" unorthodoxies dawned gradually, reaching an apex about 1793—Carlos Baker.

Acme is applied to what embodies or represents the perfection or pure essence of a thing (Sir Philip Sidney was the acme of courtesy).

To say "mither" instead of "mother" seems to many the acme of romance—Wilde.

Seemed to consider this the very acme of humor, for he fairly hooted at us—R. H. Davis.

Culmination can denote an apex that is the outcome of a movement, a growth, a development, or a progress and that represents its natural end or attained objective (this joint effort of church and crown... found its culmination under the auspices of President Roosevelt).

When the nobles were definitely conquered by the crown and the Reformation by the church—Brownell.

The recent use of the atomic bomb... is the culmination of years of Herculean effort—Stimson.

But often culmination suggests a coming to a head or issue rather than to a high point (war is a culmination of evils, a sudden attack on the very existence of the body politic—Roosevelt).

The Reforma... was... the culmination of a long agitation for national independence in religious matters—Inge.

Meridian is applied to the prime or period of fullest development or vigor in a life (as of a person, a race, or an institution); it connotes not only prior ascent but ensuing decline (I have touched the highest point of all my greatness: and, from that full meridian of my glory, I haste now to my setting—Shak).

The past eighteen years have constituted one of the great historical meridians of the presidency—Rossiter. Zenith adds to meridian the implications of lust and distinction (he had reached the zenith of his powers).

Classical studies reached their zenith in the twelfth century—H. O. Taylor.

Apogee, like meridian, is applied to the highest point (as in a course, a career, or a
movement), but it seldom connotes being at the prime or height of glory (the French Revolution reached its apogee in the Reign of Terror) (a range man whose deeply burned, granular face reached an apogee of redness in his beard—Hervey)

**summon, summons, summon, cite, convok, convene, muster**

mean to demand the presence of persons or, by extension, things. **Summon** implies the exercise of authority or of power; it usually suggests a mandate, an imperative order or bidding, or urgency (the king summoned his privy councilors to the palace) <summoned his secretary>

<summon a person to appear in court> I summon your Grace to his Majesty's parliament—Shak.> (a confiding, playful little animal, whom one alternately trained to do tricks and then summoned to jump snuggling upon one's knee—Sackville-West) she could summon tears and delights an one summons servants—H. G. Wells> Summons, sometimes interchangeable with summon, usually implies the actual serving with a legal writ to appear in court.

**Call** is often used in place of summon, especially when less formality is implied or the imperativeness of the bidding is not stressed, or when actual shouting is suggested <call men to arms> call witnesses to court> (call a servant) > (the president called congress together for an extra session) (I can call spirits from the vastly deep—Shak.)

Often, however, there is a suggestion of an impulse of God, of Nature, or of necessity (the young man felt that he was called to the ministry) <America is called to greatness—A. E. Stevenson> he felt called upon to speak

**Cite** (see also ADDUCE) may occasionally replace summon or summons, especially in legal use <Andrew was cited to appear and testify—W. B. Parker> he hath cited me to Rome, for heresy—Tennyson>

**Convok** implies a summons to assemble, especially for legislative or deliberative purposes <the king convoked parliament> <the Italian government convoked great congresses of physicists and engineers—Darrow> he convoked the chiefs of the three armed services . . . and laid down the law—Shirer>

**Convene** is related to convok somewhat as call is to summon; it is weaker in its suggestions of the exercise of authority and of imperativeness, but otherwise it is often not distinguishable <convene the students in the school auditorium> <the Senate was convened by the tribunes—Plut.> (the court-martial, perhaps fortunately, was never convened—Powell>

**Muster** implies the summoning of an army or other body of troops or of a ship's company (as for military action, inspection, parade, or exercise). In extended use, it implies in the assembling of a number of things that form a collection or a group in order that they may be exhibited, displayed, or utilized as a whole (a dow that had a mind to be sparkish, tricked himself up with all the gay feathers he could muster together—LeStrange>

before the residents could muster a fighting force, the marauders had filled their boats with plunder and were gone—Laird>

Muster is used in place of summon with such objects as courage or strength, especially when the context implies the previous dissipation of the quality mentioned <at length you have mustered heart to visit the old place—Dickens>

**Ana** *different, disparate, diverse, divergent: *distinct, separate: individual, distinctive, peculiar (see CHARACTERISTIC)

**superadd** annex, append, subjoin, *add

**superannuated** aged, old, elderly

**superb** *splendid, resplendent, glorious, gorgeous, sublime

**superlative, transcendent, surpassing, *supreme: sumptuous, luxurious, opulent: imposing, stately, majestic, magnificent, *grand

**supercilious** disdainful, overbearing, arrogant, haughty, *proud, lordly, insolent

**Ana** vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE: contemptuous, scornful (see corresponding nouns under DESPISE vb)

**supererogatory, gratuitous, uncalled-for, wanton** are comparable when they mean given or done freely and without compulsion or provocation or without warrant or justification. **Supererogatory** basically implies a giving above or beyond what is required or is laid down in the laws or rules; the word then suggests a devotion or loyalty that is not satisfied merely with the doing of what is required and that finds expression in the performance of additional labors, works, or services beyond those expected or demanded <the supererogatory services of representatives in Congress> In other usage the term is definitely defective in that it implies not a giving freely over and above what is required but a giving or adding of what is not needed or wanted and is therefore an embarrassment or encumbrance (for a mind like his, education seemed supererogatory. Training would only have destroyed his natural aptitudes—Huxley) (the virtual unity of language, laws, general race-ideals would seem to render protection of frontiers supererogatory—Angell>

**Gratuitous** may apply to a giving voluntarily without expectation of recompense, reward, or compensation <the gratuitous education provided by the public schools of the United States> but it often stresses a giving without provocation of something disagreeable, offensive, troublesome, or painful (a gratuitous insult) (a gratuitous . . . imposition of labor—Mann>

Gratuitous often means little more than uncalled-for, which suggests not only a lack of provocation but a lack of need or justification and therefore implies impertinence or absurdity, often logical absurdity (the gratuitous assumption that the new must surpass the old—Grandgent) (uncalled-for interference) (uncalled-for advice) Wanton (see also LICENTIOUS) also implies want of provocation, but it stresses capriciousness and the absence of a motive except recklessness of purpose or simply an impatience of purpose <Shelley> believing the deed [the burning of a haystack] to have been unprovoked and wanton—Meredith>

**tyranny consists in the wanton and improper use of strength by the stronger—Bryce>

**Ana** *free, independent, autonomous: *excessive, extreme, exorbitant: *superfluous, supernumerary, extra, spare

**superficial, shallow, cursory, uncritical** can mean lacking in depth, solidity, and comprehensiveness. **Superficial** applies chiefly to persons, their minds, their emotions, their attainments, or their utterances or writings, but it is also applicable to things (as circumstances, factors, conditions, or qualities). The term usually implies a concern with surface aspects or obvious features or an avoidance of all but these aspects or features (he had time for no more than a superficial examination of the report) <multiple superficial wounds of the left and right thigh . . . Profound wounds of right knee—Hemingway> (the tendency . . . of prose drama
is to emphasize the ephemeral and superficial; if we want to get at the permanent and universal we tend to express ourselves in verse—T. S. Eliot> Often the term is definitely depreciative and adds implications of unpleasing qualities (as pretense, ostentation, slightness, lack of thoroughness, insignificance, or insincerity) (the lecture was very superficial) (our political theory is hopelessly sophomoric and superficial—Mencken) (its treatment of what is one of the important themes of our day seems generally too slick and superficial to be taken seriously—Merle Miller) Shallow regularly implies a lack of depth (a shallow stream) (shallow breathing) and when applied to persons, their knowledge, their reasoning, or their emotions, is almost invariably derogatory and differs little from superficial used derogatorily except in its freedom from implication of outward show or of apparent but not genuine significance (do you suppose this eternal shallow cynicism of yours has any real bearing on a nature like hers?—Shaw) (he continued to prop up this utterly muddled man, this confused and shallow "philosopher," as the intellectual mentor of the Nazi movement—Shukman) people who are proprietors—shallow and callous egotists . . . are not capable of so noble and selfless a feeling as love—Salisbury) Curiosity stresses a lack of thoroughness or of care for details rather than a concentration on the obvious; it often also suggests haste and casualness (even from a cursory reading of the book, I judge that it is a very fine piece of work) (knowing the nature of women, your curious observations might prove to be more exacting . . . than my own—Terry Southern) (the coffeehouse must not be dismissed with a cursory mention—Macaulay) (as they worked, they cursed us—not with a common cursory curse, but with long, carefully thought-out, comprehensive curses—Jerome)

Uncritical implies a superficiality or shallowness unbecoming to a critic or sound judge, whether of literature or the arts or of more general matters (as data, statements, or events) which must be evaluated, related, estimated, or judged (an uncritical judgment of a book) (she was absolutely uncritical, she believed everything—Audrey Barker) (I would not have you so uncritical as to blame the Church or its clergy for what happened—Quiller-Couch)

Ant radical (sense 1)

Superfluity *excess, surplus, surplusage, overplus

Ana overflowing or overflow, teeming, swelling (see teem): exuberance, profusion, lavishness, prodigality (see corresponding adjectives at profuse)

Superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare all describe what is above or beyond what is needed or dispensable. Superfluous implies a superabundance or excess that requires elimination or pruning (many people . . . found themselves superfluous and, in their turn, were compelled to emigrate—Handlin) (artists . . . not tempted, as are those who work direct from nature, to transcribe superfluous detail because it happens to be before their eyes—Binoy) all-sometimes the term either loses its implication of richness of supply or places no emphasis on that idea and comes to mean little more than nonessential or dispensable, if circumstances require its sacrifice (art, music, literature, and the like—in short . . . superfluous things—Sherman) (gradually the heat, the exhaustion had consumed all superfluous energy—Hervey) or unnecessary, useless, or needless (authority, like a good educator, ought to aim at making itself superfluous—Inge) Surplus applies to what remains over when what is needed or required for all present purposes has been used (there will be no surplus wheat this year) (each year the surplus funds of the institution were invested) (the task of reducing those with surplus land to part with it voluntarily to the landless—Masani) (transporting its troops to Manchuria, giving it surplus airplanes—Richard Watts)

Surplusary implies something added to a number that is normal, adequate, or prescribed; it need not necessarily suggest that there is no need or no use for what is added, though in reference to a physical condition it often implies a departure from the normal (extra ribs, as well as other supernumerary internal parts—Science News Letter) (a supernumerary member of a cast used for mob scenes) (offered the supernumerary position of inspector general—Roucek) Extra is often used in place of supernumerary (buy a few extra Christmas presents in case someone has been forgotten) (was looking at Kitty as if she had suddenly sprouted an extra head—Rolf) but it may also apply to an addition not in number but in amount (he was subjected to extra work as acting chairman of the House Committee—C. H. Lincoln) or in price (there is an extra charge for coffee) Spare is often used in place of surplus but it carries a stronger suggestion of being held for future use, often a special use (a spare suit of clothes) (the spare room is the guest room) (a pouch for carrying tobacco, tinder, and spare arrow-poison—Huntingford) (carry a spare tire for an automobile) or of not having any demands on it for a particular use (he never has any spare cash) (bring along a little spare time, too, and some extra patience, to work these fast . . . streams of New England—Corey Ford) or of being easily spared (have you a spare cigarette on you?)

Ana supererogatory, gratuitous, uncalled-for, wanton: *profuse, lavish, prodigal, exuberant: *excessive, indispen-
sable, dispensable, spare all

superhuman preternatural, miraculous, supranatural, *supernatural

Ana potent, puissant, *powerful, forcible, forceful: Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, gigantic (see huge)

Superimpose *overlay, superepose, appliqué

Superior adj *better, preferable

Ant inferior

Superlative adj *supreme, transcendent, surpassing, peerless, incomparable, preeminent

Ana *consummate, finished, accomplished: *splendid, glorious, sublime, superb

Supernatural, supranatural, preternatural, miraculous, superhuman are overlapping rather than strictly synony-

mous terms whose meanings all involve a contrast with what is natural or, sometimes, normal or predictable.

All, with the possible exception of the uncommon supranatural, are used hyperbolically to mean exceeding usual or likely human standards and then are generally equivalent to such terms as extraordinary, exceptional, or wonderful; thus, in an emergency a man may exhibit supernatural strength; one may show preternatural awareness of small sounds when alone at night; a scholar may decipher a manuscript with miraculous accuracy; a player may win against odds by a superhuman effort. Supernatural stresses deviation from the natural that is felt as above or beyond what is observable and capable of being experienced by ordinary means; in much of its use it suggests spirituality and implies a relation to God or to divine powers (a supernatural religion) (the gods in Homer do exert supernatural effects; for when Zeus nods, all Olympus shakes—Noss) (medieval theologians who did so much to establish and define the terminology of Christianity spoke of man's supernatural life, the life of the soul above the natural life of the body—M. W. Baldwin) (the belief in a supernatural power, in God, was natural to him who felt that he could plow and plant, but that only God made his work produce grain and fruit—
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
senses and in the range of their applicability. Support suggests the presence of a foundation or base and is applicable in diverse uses with the general meaning or suggestion of carrying from or as if from below, of maintaining or holding up the weight or pressure of, and of forestalling sinking or falling back, or sometimes, merely, of enduring the difficulties or rigors of without yielding and without undue distress (pillars supporting the balcony) (he supports the greater muscular tension involved with less evident fatigue—Brownell) (support the Constitution) (found the Roman winter ... too poignant for his anatomy to support without pain—Wylie) Sustain may center attention on the fact of constantly holding up or of maintaining undiminished (sustain the weight of office) (found it difficult to sustain an interest in their talk—Douglas) or it may more specifically imply an upholding by aiding or backing up (for nine years, Napoleon has been sustained by the people of France with a unanimity such as the United States never knew—Aguecheek) or by supplying the physical or mental nutriments needed for strength (this intellectual interest is great enough to sustain the reader through the analytical labyrinths we must search together—Hunter Mead) Prop may imply a weakness, a tendency to fall, sink, or recede, or a need for strengthening or reinforcing on the part of the thing being treated (propping up the table with a packing case) (trying to prop up the decaying structures of last-century imperialism—G. L. Kirk) (the plot, a slim tale of vengeance, is psychologically shallow and propped up by unpardonable coincidences—Anthony Boucher) Bolster blends the suggestions of sustain and prop: it may suggest a supporting comparable to that afforded an invalid by pillows (bolster up the falling fortunes of the East India Company—Parrington) (bolster the diminishing lumber trade within the next 75 years—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.) (assign some extra instruments to bolster the choir’s volume of sound—P. H. Lang) Buttress tends to suggest strengthening, reinforcing, or stabilizing, sometimes massive, at a stress point in the manner of an architectural buttress (combat business slumps and to buttress the economy so that danger of another depression will be reduced to a minimum—Newsweek) (a code of laws buttressed by divine sanctions which should be unshakable—Farrington) (the popular success formula is buttressed by evidence from the careers of an impressive minority—R. B. Morris) Brace may suggest supporting or strengthening so that the thing treated is made firm, unyielding, or rigid against pressure (brace the shelf with an angle iron) (then he braced himself against a giant oak on his front lawn and experienced a savage kind of exaltation as the elements raged around him—Cerf) (the shoring up of a tottering political system, which is precisely the problem that we face in trying to brace the western democracies—G. W. Johnson) Ana *carry, bear, convey; endure, *bear, suffer, stand: evidence, evince, *show; *indicate, attest, argue, betoken; uphold, advocate, back, champion (see SUPPORT 2) 2 Support, uphold, advocate, back, champion are comparable when they mean to favor actively and in some concrete manner a person or thing that meets opposition. Support is general and comparatively colorless. One supports a candidate for election whether one merely votes for him or takes a leading part in his campaign; one supports a cause whether one merely announces one’s stand in favor of it or contributes money and time to furthering its interests (any politician who supported her husband was regarded with favor by Mrs. Lincoln—R. P. Randall) (it is not enough to support the capitalist system; to escape abuse as an iconoclast, you must publicly venerate it as well—Bliven b. 1889) Uphold carries an implication of keeping erect or from falling or breaking down; it is appropriately used in reference to something that already exists but is attacked or challenged (those who uphold the ideal of pure poetry—Day Lewis) (tried to uphold the morale of the occupied capital—Paxson) (he is the Philistine who upholds and aids the heavy, cumbrous, blind, mechanical forces of society—Wilde) Advocate implies vocal support either in speeches or in writings; often it connotes urging or pleading (I believe that our political leaders should live by faith ... but I doubt that they should advocate faith, if only because such advocacy renders a few people uncomfortable—E. B. White) (the few local believers in world government brought to town a play that advocated it—Davis) Back often implies strong support from the rear to be used whenever assistance is needed to prevent the failure of a person or of his ventures or efforts. Sometimes it connotes reserve forces or the use of force; sometimes it implies money reserves or the promise of financial assistance (his father said he would back him in business) (states, large and small, with ... their very practical traders pushing for foreign markets, and their navies and armies to back the traders and annex these markets—Shaw) (there would be more talk, but talk backed by armed force—Cloete) Often back derives its implications from its use in betting and suggests a willingness to hazard something and especially money on a person’s or thing’s chance for success (I back you to hold your own against them all—Wharton) (the wife of a Dublin civil servant prohibited her husband from backing horses, but he continued to gamble secretly—The Irish Digest) Champion implies public defense of a person or thing believed to be unjustly attacked or too weak to advocate its own cause and may therefore connote distinction or gallantry in the one who champions (who ... championed every cause I called my heart’s cause, loving as I loved, hating my hates, spurned falsehood, championed truth—Browning) Ana *approve, endorse, sanction: espouse, embrace, *adopt: *defend, protect, shield support n maintenance, sustenance, *living, livelihood, subsistence, keep, bread Ant adversary, antagonist supposed, suppositional, supposititious, reputed, putative, purported, conjectural, hypothetical can mean accepted or advanced as true, real, or in accordance with the facts on the basis of less than conclusive evidence. All imply a measure of doubt of what is asserted and may serve as a disclaimer of responsibility for the assertion. Supposed is likely to imply rather general or common acceptance of what is asserted, though suggesting the presence of uncertainty or conflicting evidence or the likelihood of error (the identity thus asserted with its supposed though sometimes debated poetic essence—Kolodin) (there has not been a reputable student of grammar for a long time who believed the grammar books which are in common use. But we, the people, are loyal to our supposed grammar—Laird) (have we not in the present censorship an ineffective check on certain supposed evils which perhaps are not very real evils?—Walkley) Suppositional occasionally comes close to supposed (we have no reason to conclude that my idea of the absent thing has only such meaning as can be expressed in anticipatory terms —whether the anticipation be mine or that of a suppositional observer—Victor Lowe) but usually it carries distinct and positive suggestions of fraudulentness or spuriousness (ready to lend his last cent to a man in distress or suppositional distress—Herzberg) (dispatched a lawyer ... to enlarge upon the theme of his father’s supposi-
Suppositious

Suppositious is used chiefly to imply that a belief or assertion is based on theory or on a postulate or hypothesis, and lacks factual support. This was no suppositious contract between ruler and ruled in prehistoric times—Parrington. It [magic] comes down to a suppositious, misguided philosophy, a pseudo science—Howells. Reputed, putative, and purported imply a basis in tradition or in popular belief. Reputed in itself is usually a thoroughly neutral word. Ferdinand Latizai, reputed to have been a Mexican—Amer. Guide Series: La. Ross's goose, which was reputed to be near extinction—Times Lit. Sup. can be strongly colored by context. Naturally, no lady would willingly admit that she had been ignored; so that the reputed prowess of Danny may be somewhat overstated—Steinbeck. Putative describes something that is commonly or generally accepted to be true. Now that the man, too, was saved from a frightened away is a fact which diminished the putative efficiency of the new regime—Mumford. Supposed to the U. S. Fascists met... its slapstick Waterpolo, when a small detachment of Philadelphia cops stormed headquarters and captured the entire putative army, all of them generals—C. W. Ferguson. In its common legal use it applies to a thing or person that may be subject to proof that it is not what it is generally accepted to be; thus, a putative marriage is one duly formalized but to a greater or less degree invalid because of some impediment (as consanguinity). Proceedings to establish paternity and provide for the support of a child born out of wedlock may be instituted... within one year after the putative father has ceased making contributions for the support of such child—U. S. Code. Supposed head of the family is an ancient and garrulous hush; his helpmate is a domineering crone—McCarten. But especially in its common journalistic use the word tends to stress the writer's disclaimer of responsibility for the matter asserted (compare alleged under ADDUCE) and may approach rumored in meaning. The weekly reproduced a purported letter from De Gasperi, apparently addressed to a British officer in 1944—Time. A list containing the names of 380 purported Communists in the United States—Current Biol. Conjectural implies inference from incomplete or defective evidence, and what is so described is offered as a possibility or likelihood but not as a fact. A conjectural etymology of a word (conjectural emendations in a faulty text). Conjectural or conjectural (something) hypothetical describes someone or something (as a principle, a situation, or a question) that is invented or put forward as possibly true or as likely to be true in the main if not in detail, or as the tentative basis for continuing an argument or investigation (a hypothetical explanation of nebluae). This land claimed by the Spaniards—a hypothetical claim, all the interiors being still in the hands of the Indians—Amer. Guide Series: Texas. My French visitor—who was a real, flesh-and-blood visitor, and not, like most of his kind, a hypothetical foreigner invented to point a moral—Grandgent. This study is hypothetical—that is, tentative propositions derived from the existing body of social theory and empirical knowledge, but not yet refined into tested theoretical generalizations—A. K. Davis.

Supposititious, suppositious

Supposititious, suppositious is supposed, reputed, putative, purported, conjectural, hypothetical.

Ana

Ana pretended, simulated, feigned, shammed, counterfeit or counterpart (see ASSUME): questionable, dubious, *doubtful: factitious, *artificial.

Suppress

2 Suppress, repress both mean to hold back by the use of more or less force someone or something that seeks an outlet (as by expression or activity). Suppress carries a strong implication of putting down or keeping back completely. It usually implies the exercise of great or oppressive power or even of violence. It often is a synonym of such words as overpower, crush, abolish, destroy, eliminate, or stifle, but in each case it tends strongly to suggest the prompt use of effective methods (suppress an insurrection). Ungovernable passions are suppressed by the very same means which keep the rest of us in order—Conrad. The bishop was purple with suppressed wrath—Sherman. A regime of terror designed to brutally suppress... freedom, culture and national life—Shirer.

Repress, on the other hand, implies little more than a checking or restraining sometimes by an external force, sometimes by the power of the will or mind. It often suggests that the thing so held back may break out again or in a different way and so comes close to inhibit, bridge, or curb (repressed his curiosity) (repressed her desire to weep). His breathing was a little quickened; but he repressed all other signs of agitation—Dickens. Money and religion: yes, those are the two repressed subjects in the modern novel upon which furtively we open the door—Pritchett. It is necessary to repress a natural scorn of the master of the glad hand and the soft soap—H. A. Burton. As she passed the elm tree... a thrill of recollected fear would run through her; but she repressed the temptation to talk about it—Mary Fitt.

In psychology suppress is commonly used with reference to desires, instincts, and emotions which are consciously and forcibly inhibited by the mind from seeking expression or overt activity; repress usually suggests an unconscious or subconscious process by which a desire or an impulse that is regarded as unacceptable because of one's religious, moral, or social training is inhibited by a refusal to recognize it or to permit consideration of it and so is left to operate in the unconscious.


Supranatural

Supranatural, miraculous, preternatural, superhuman.

Supremacy

Supremacy, ascendancy denote the position of being first (as in rank, power, or influence). Supremacy implies superiority over all others (as in utility, in quality, in efficiency, in desirability, or in prestige) (in the Sahara, the automobile has begun to challenge the supremacy of the camel). Supremacy is commonly used with reference to power or authority of the home... was so deep and so great that not even the Crown could enter the home—Wayne Morse. Last summer American atomic supremacy gave place to something like atomic equality between 'the two great colossi'—New Statesman. Ascendancy may or may not imply supremacy, but it always involves the idea of domination or of autocratic power (an idea has ascendancy over his imagination when it has the latter completely under its sway) (the whole system of oppression and cruelty by which dominant castes seek to retain their ascendancy—Russell). A speaker can get an ascendancy over the House, if he has a strong personality and the...
ability to regain the thread of his speech—Woodrow Wyatt) (the rays of the gas lamps, feeble at first in their struggle with the dying day, had now at length gained ascendency—Poe)

**Ana** preeminence, transcendence, superlativeness, peerlessness, incomparability (see corresponding adjectives at **supreme**): *power, authority, dominion, control, sway

**supreme adj** Supreme, superlative, transcendent, surpassing, preeminent, peerless, incomparable can all mean highest in a scale of values. All of these words may be interchangeable when used rhetorically or bombastically with the resulting loss in definiteness, but all are capable of discriminative use in which they carry distinctive implications and connotations. **Supreme** is applicable to what is not only the highest in rank, power, or quality but has no equals in that status, all others of the same class or kind being inferior in varying degrees (the Supreme Court of the United States) (Shakespeare is generally regarded as the **dramatic poet** I (did not detect in his playing the fire and dash that I look for in the work of a **genius of Goethe** (Sargent) (he smiled upon with an air of supreme contempt—"It's the first time I've ever done what I wanted to do"—Bromfield)

**Superlative** is applicable to whatever, by comparison with all other things of the same kind or with all other manifestations of the same quality, admits of no superior especially in commendatory qualities, for superlative may admit equals but it excludes superiors (the **superlative genius of Goethe** (his superlative rudeness) (what makes him a great artist is a high fervor of spirit, which produces a superlative, instead of a comparative, clarity of vision—Galsworthy) (there is a smaller proportion than usual of superior books and a minuscule number of superlative ones—Kinkead) (enhanced with a superlative commentary . . . it is commendable in all respects—McCarten)

**Transcendent** and surpassing are applicable to whatever goes beyond everything else of its kind or in its quality; both can connote an exceeding even of the superlative, but transcendent suggests realization of the ideal, and surpassing suggests almost inconceivable attainment (the transcendent acting of Duse) (Cleopatra's reputation for transcendent beauty) (his surpassing skill in surgery) (the geometric pattern is of a surpassing intricacy—Rovere) (his) native gifts are perhaps not of a transcendent kind; they have their roots in a quality of mind that ought to be as frequent as it is modest—Trilling

**Preeminent** is applicable to what goes beyond all others in achieving distinction or eminence; it implies both superlativeness and uniqueness within the limits indicated, but it seldom carries a suggestion of direct supremacy or transcendency (the preeminent general in that war) (the preeminent film of the year) (the preeminent example of magnanimity) (although his case is preeminent in the number of others—J. D. Adams) (Peerless and incomparable both imply the absence of equals but, commonly, peerless connotes the absence of superiors and incomparable connotes the impossibility of being equaled; while both normally refer to commendatory qualities, incomparable is also freely referable to qualities that merit condemnation (a peerless performance of Hamlet) (Philip Sidney, called the peerless one of his age—Quiller-Couch) (the incomparable refinement with which he has drawn this interior with its two youthful figures—Binyon) (nothing—simply nothing at all—transcends a cat's incomparable insincerity—Theodore Sturgeon) (peerless among women; perfect in beauty, perfect in courtliness—H. O. Taylor)

**Ana** *chief, foremost, leading, capital: predominant, *dominant, paramount, sovereign

**surfe** vb *satiare, sate, cloy, pall, glut, gorge

**Ant** whet

**surly** morose, glum, *sullen, crabbed, sulky, saturnine, dour, gloomy

**Ant** amiable —Con *gracious, cordial, affable, genial

**surmise** vb *conjecture, guess

**Ant** infer, gather, judge, deduce, conclude: *think, conceive, fancy, imagine: *consider, regard, deem

**Ant** sensible —**Con** *gracious, cordial, affable, genial

**Ant** amiable

**Ant** unsure

**sure** 1 assured, *confident, sanguine, presumptuous

**Ana** relying, trusting, depending, counting, banking (see RELY): inerrant, unerring, *infallible: *safe, secure

2 Sure, certain, positive, **cousure** mean having or showing no doubt. Sure and certain are often interchangeable. But sure frequently emphasizes the mere subjective state of assurance; certain often suggests more strongly a conviction that is based on definite grounds or on indubitable evidence ("I know my hour is come." "Not so, my lord." "Nay, I am sure it is."—Shak.) (be out of hope, of question, of doubt; be certain—Shak.) (in the library he too seemed surer of himself—though once they were on their way home he became almost remote, strangely watchful—Malamud) (they were sure and certain, forever wrong, but always confident. They had no hesitation, they confessed no ignorance or error—Wolfe) Positive often suggests overconfidence or dogmatism, but it implies conviction or full confidence in the rightness or correctness of one's statement or conclusion (an assertive positive man . . . had his own notion of what a young man should be—Anderson) (so much more positive than most of his customers, and he impressed his own convictions on them so determinedly, that he had his own way—Scudder) (an easy and elegant skepticism was the attitude expected of an educated adult: anything might be discussed, but it was a trifle vulgar to reach very positive conclusions—Russell)

**Cousure** tends to carry a strong implication of presumption or overconfidence in positiveness (certitude is not the test of certainty. We have been cousure of many things that were not so—Justice Holmes) (people . . . regarded as brash to the point of arrogance, cousure to the verge of folly—MacLeish)

**Ana** decisive, *decided: self-assured, assured, self-confident (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE):

dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular (see DICTATORIAL)

**Ant** unsure

**safety** 1 security, bond, *guarantee, guaranty, bail

**Ana** *pledge, earnest, token, hostage, pawn

2 guarantor, *sponsor, backer, patron, angel

**Ant** sure

**surgical** vb *rise, arise, ascend, mount, soar, tower, rocket, levitate

**Ant** whet
**surplusage** 804

**surprise** vb 1 *Surprise, waylay, ambush* are comparable when they mean to attack unawares. *Surprise* is in military as well as in general use. As a technical term it implies strategy in the disposition and movement of troops and equipment and secrecy in the operations; it need not suggest that the attack has been successful (an army suddenly attacked within the lines which it had reckoned upon to ward off its enemy is in a military sense *surprised—Maurice*) <R.A.F. bombers surprised a large invasion training exercise and inflicted heavy losses—Shirer> In more general use one may *surprise* a person or something he is concealing by coming on him when he is off guard (the servants must vanish silently if *surprised* at their tasks—Sackville-West) <high instincts before which our mortal nature did tremble like a guilty thing *surprised—Wordsworth*> *Waylay* commonly suggests a lying in wait on a road or highway. Sometimes it implies concealment by the roadside and an often evil intent to distress or interfere with (as by robbery or assault) (he was waylaid on his way home from the bank) <I am waylaid by Beauty—Oh, savage Beauty, suffer me to pass—Millay> Sometimes it carries no suggestion of hostility or evil intent but implies intercepting a person in his progress and detaining him (unable any longer to bear not seeing her, he waylaid her in the street. She would not speak to him, but he insisted on speaking to her—Maugham) <riding in the park...> Carola beheld her intended galloping furiously down the Row, and left her sister Clementina's side to waylay him—Meredith> *Ambush* tends to evoke the image of would-be attackers concealed in a thicket; it is often used in reference to guerrilla warfare (his body was brought after he had been *ambushed* by Indians on nearby Wolf Run—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) but it can be extended to other situations in which one is caught as if by an ambush (see *ambush n*) (the same kind of feeling *ambushed* me a few weeks ago—Jan Struther) <the woman clasped her hands together; the butterfly sleeves fluttered as though *ambushed—Harriet La Barre>*

**Ana** *catch, capture: *take, seize, grasp, grab

2 *Surprise, astonish, astound, amaze, flabbergast* can mean to impress one forcibly because unexpected or startling or unusual. *Surprise* can mean to come upon another suddenly and with startling effect, or, more broadly, it can apply to an unexpected or unanticipated development that tends to arouse some degree of surprise, amazement, or astonishment. *Astonish* implies a state of war and present domination by a victor (as a technical term it implies surrender, but it suggests a conditional one on the power or authority of another and often suggests loss of independence; it is used especially of those who rebel or of those whose weak condition leaves them at the mercy of a stronger power or subject to its threats. Unlike *surrender*, *submission* often implies surrender (as of an army, its supplies, and its fortifications), but it stresses the acknowledgment of the power or authority of another and often suggests loss of independence; it is used especially of those who rebel or of those whose weak condition leaves them at the mercy of a stronger power or subject to its threats. Unlike *surrender*, *submission* often implies not a previous state of war but a threat of disasterous warfare <departure of the forces concerned (in Greece to offer earth and water was the sign of capitulation—Newman) after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Buckner... negotiated terms of capitulation... for the trans-Mississippi armies—Coulter>*

**surreptitious** underhand, underhanded, *secret, covert, stealthy, furtive, clandestine

**Ana** sneaking, slinking, skulking, lurking (see lurk); hidden, concealed, screened (see hide)

**surrogate** substitute, shift, makeshift, expedient, *resource, respite, stopgap

**surround, environ, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring** can mean to close in or as if in a ring about something. *Surround* is a general term without specific connotations; it implies enclosure as if by a circle or a ring <the town was once surrounded by a wall> <a crowd surrounded the victim of the accident> <the ships

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
are surrounded by a veil of smoke} <whole divisions were frequently overrun or surrounded and cut to pieces when a timely withdrawal would have saved them—Shirer>

Often the term denotes not a literal enclosure but something which forms the circumstances, the environment, or the border of something <surrounded by luxury> <a pleasant white-haired widow surrounded by many potted plants—Cheever> <those mental and moral barriers with which the average Englishman surrounds himself—Bagot>

Environs also implies enclosure as if by a circle or a ring, but it often differs somewhat from surround in carrying a clearer implication of the permanent or continuing existence of what surrounds; thus, "a nation environed by foes" does not clearly imply as immediate danger as "an army surrounded by foes" does, but the former does suggest a persistent or ever-present danger in a way that the latter cannot.

The difference is often slight but usually perceptible <the passions and motives of the savage world which underlies as well as environs civilization—Howells> <persuading the doubter that our human spirits are environed by other and vaster spiritual powers—Whiteley> <there are old buildings still ... but they are usually overshadowed by an environing swarm of new stucco—H. L. Davis>

Encircle is not quite the equal of surround though very like it in meaning and often interchangeable with it; it more definitely suggests an enclosing circle and therefore often is suited to a more concrete use; in this sense it is often equal to circle <I found myself encircled in the arms of my ... Father—Richardson> <a wreath encircles the brow of Apollo> <the close which encircles the venerable cathedral—Macaulay> <its frame residences—many of them aged—circle a small business district—Amer. Guide Series: Texas>

Also, encircle and circle may denote to proceed in a circle about something, a meaning unknown to surround <circled the house in his search> <as a hungry wolf might have encircled ... the firelit camp encircled its frame residences—Macaulay>

Encompass suggests something that closes in or shuts off a place or person; it often also suggests a motive (as protection or defense) <as a hungry wolf might have encircled ... the firelit camp encircled its frame residences—Macaulay>

The close which encircles the venerable cathedral—Macaulay> <its frame residences—many of them aged—circle a small business district—Amer. Guide Series: Texas> Also, encircle and circle may denote to proceed in a circle about something, a meaning unknown to surround <circled the house in his search> <as a hungry wolf might have encircled ... the firelit camp encircled its frame residences—Macaulay>'

**surveillance**

**suspended**

* overview, supervision

A surveillance inspection, scrutiny, examination (see under scrutinize)

A survey view, espy, descry, behold; see, observe, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern

A *scrutinize, scan, inspect, examine: see, look, watch

A survey n *compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect, sketch, précis, aperçu

A survive *outlive, outlast

A *endure, continue, persist, last: withstand, resist, fight

**susceptible**

1 sensitive, subject, exposed, prone, liable, open

A inclined, disposed, predisposed (see incline vb): alive, awake, sensible, conscious (see aware)

A immune 2 sentient, sensitive, impressionable, responsive

A affected, impressed, touched, influenced, swayed (see affect): stirred, aroused, roused (see stir)

A resisting, withstanding (see resist): frustrating, thwarting, baffling (see frustrate)

**suspand**

1 disbar, shut out, *exclude, eliminate, debar, blackball, rule out

A *eject, dismiss, oust; banish, exile, ostracize

2 stay, intermit, postpone, defer

A *delay, detain, retard

3 hang, sling, dangle

A *poise, balance, steady, stabilize

**suspended**, **pendent**, **pendulous** can mean hanging from or remaining in place as if hanging from a support. Suspended may imply attachment from a point or points above so that a thing swings freely or is held steady in its proper place or position. <suspended from his neck was a medalion—R. H. Brown> <chimes are a set of metal tubes suspended from a frame and struck by wooden mallets—McConathy et al.> <suspended ceiling> or it may suggest a being poised or a being upheld (as by buoyancy) <they neither float nor fly, they are suspended—Jeffries> <water free from suspended silt> Pendent usually describes something which hangs downward from a support or from one point of attachment; it seldom carries any further implication and so is applicable both to what is motionless and to what swings or moves or is in danger of falling (a trailing creeper with curving leaf and twining
tendril, and pendent bud and blossom—Hudson> (the smokehouse, its sooty rafters jeweled with fat hams like eardrops and pendent strips of cured meddling meat—Cobb) Pendulous adds to pendent the specific implication of swaying or swinging, sometimes carrying a suggestion of actual floating in space > (a pendulous nest) > (breasts ... grown flabby and pendulous with many children—Buck) > (the steep cliffs ... hung with pendulous vines, swinging blossoms in the air—Melville) > (so blend the turrets and shadows there that all seems pendulous in air—Poe)

suspicion 1 mistrust, *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosity, skepticism
Ana misgiving, foreboding, presentiment, *apprehension: distrust, mistrust (see under distrust vb) 2 *touch, suggestion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak
sustain 1 *support, prop, bolster, buttress, brace
Ana *continue, persist, endure, abide: uphold, back (see support): prove, demonstrate
subvert 1 *experience, undergo, suffer
Ana *receive, accept, take: endure, *bear, stand, brook: *meet, encounter, face, confront
sweat 1 *nourishment, nutriment, *food, aliment, pabulum, pap
2 maintenance, support, *living, livelihood, subsistence, keep, bread
suture n *joint, articulation
swag n *spoil, plunder, loot, booty, prize
swagger vb * strut, bristle, bridle
Ana flourish, brandish, shake, *swing, wave: brag, *boast, vaunt, crow, gasconade
Con cower, cringe, truckle (see fawn): shrink, quail, brench, wince (see recoil)
swallow vb *eat, ingest, devour, consume
Ana *receive, accept, take: believe, credit (see corresponding nouns at believe): *absorb, imbibe, assimilate
swarm vb *teem, abound, overflow
swat vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, plug, slog, clout, slap, cuff, box
Ana *beat, pound, pummel, baste, belabor
sway vb 1 *swing, oscillate, fluctuate, pendulate, vibrate, waver, undulate
Ana *shake, rock, agitate, convulse
2 influence, impress, strike, touch, *affect
Ana control, direct, manage, *conduct: rule, *govern: bias, *incline, dispose, predispose
sway n dominion, control, command, *power, authority
Ana *supremacy, ascendency: *range, reach, scope, sweep: spread, stretch, amplitude, *expanse
swearing *blasphemy, profanity, cursing
swell n *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview
Ana *expand, amplify, distend, inflate, dilate
sweeping *indiscriminate, wholesale
Ana promiscuous, heterogeneous, motley, *miscellaneous
sweet, engaging, winning, winsome, dulcet are comparable when they are applied to persons or things with respect to the sensations they evoke or the impressions they produce and mean distinctly pleasing or charming because devoid of all that irritates, annoys, or embitters. Sweet when extended beyond its primary application to one of the basic taste sensations, whether to things that produce other sensory impressions or to persons or things that induce emotional or intellectual response, is ordinarily a term of mild general approbation for what pleases, attracts, or charms without stirring deeply or arousing a profound response <what a sweet little cottage> <twilight, sweet with the smell of lilac and freshly turned earth—Corey Ford> <flower motifs and emblems, all printed in sweet colors—Rosen> has been very sweet. He wants to help, but of course there's nothing he can do—Auchincloss> but in this as in its primary application sweet may also imply an excess of what in more moderate quantity is pleasing and then comes close to surfeiting or cloying (compare satiate) > (the flaw in her book is the sweet side, the Pollyanna note, that fatal emphasis on the happy ending—Rosemary Benét> Engaging and winning come very close to one another, both implying a power to attract favorable attention and strongly suggesting a power to please or delight; engaging, however, more often stresses the power of a thing to attract such attention, whereas winning usually emphasizes the power of a person to please or delight <an engaging story> <an engaging manner> <she has winning ways> <a winning smile> <affectionate, cheerful, happy, his sweet and engaging personality drew all men's love—H. O. Taylor> <simple as a child, with his gentle, winning voice and grave smile—Brooks> Winsome is chiefly applied to persons or to their attractions; the term is somewhat more inclusive in meaning than the others, for it usually implies an engaging quality, a cheerful disposition, pleasing though not striking looks, and often a childlike quality <tears came to his eyes as he remembered her childlike look, and winsome fanciful ways—Wilde> Dulcet suggests an appealing and gratifying or soothing quality whether to the senses (as of some, especially musical, sounds) or to the feelings or emotions <the voice was ... dulcet as the hum of heavy honeybees amid orange blossoms—Wouk> <could not ... expect such dulcet weather to last—Sackville-West> <the classic, dulcet, but difficult art of architecture—R. W. Kennedy>
Ana *pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, gratifying, grateful, welcome: delicious, delectable, luscious, *delightful: lovely, fair, *beautiful: ineffable (see unutterable) Ant sour; bitter
swell vb *expand, amplify, distend, inflate, dilate
Ana *extend, elongate, lengthen: *intensify, heighten, enhance: *increase, augment, enlarge
Ant shrink —Con *contract, condense, compress, constrict
swerve, veer, deviate, depart, digress, diverge mean to turn aside from a straight line or a defined course. Swerve may refer to a turning aside, usually somewhat abruptly, by a person or material thing <at that point the road swerves to the left> <the great roots of a tree swerves to the left) <[the ship] plunged and tacked and veered—Coleridge> <the wind veered round, and the Aurora was now able to lay up clear of the island of Maritimo—Marryat> In extended use the term commonly implies a change or series of changes of direction or course under an external influence comparable to the wind <his thought, veering and tacking as the winds blew—Parrington> or a turning aside for a tactical reason (as to avoid an undue influence) <the plan has worked. ...
the state... has not only veered away from bankruptcy; it has also improved its services—Armbrister. Deviate implies a turning aside from a customary, chosen, allotted, or prescribed course (finding it no easy matter to make my way without constantly deviating to this side or that from the course I wished to keep—Hudson). It is commonly used in reference to persons, or their minds, their morals, and their actions, with the suggestion of a swerving from a norm or standard or from a right or lawful procedure or course (when the aesthetic sense deviates from its proper ends to burden itself with moral intentions... it ceases to realize morality—Ellis) (had told him the story many times and... never deviated in the telling—Costain) (from a fundamental sincerity he could not deviate—T. S. Eliot). The next three words of this group usually imply a turning aside from a literal or figurative way (as a path, course, track, or standard) which still continues. Depart stresses the turning away from and leaving an old path, a customary course, or an accepted type or standard; it may further imply a forsaking of the antiquated, conventional, or traditional (books) which depart widely from the usual type—Grandgent; or a deviation from what is right, true, or normal (forced by circumstance to depart from the principles of his own logic—W. P. Webb). Digress commonly implies a departure from the subject of one's discourse that may be voluntary and made with the intent to return (let me digress for a few minutes to indicate the possible results of this condition) or involuntary and the result of an inability to think coherently or to stick to the point to be developed (I shall not pursue these points further for fear of digressing too far from my main theme—Spilsbury). Diverge is sometimes used in the sense of depart (let them [professors] diverge in the slightest from what is the current official doctrine, and they are turned out of their chairs—Mencken) but more typically it suggests a separation of a main, old, or original course or path into two or more courses or paths that lead away from each other (they proceeded along the road together till... their paths diverged—Hardy) (two roads diverging like the branches of a Y—Bellloc). Ana turn, divert, deflect, shear, avert: *curve, bend swift fast, rapid, fleet, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious Ana easy, effortless, smooth, facile: headlong, *pre-analytical, reeling, whirling, tottering (see reel): swaying, *dupe, gull, bamboozle, hoodwink, trick: *steal, Ana Tennyson) (you cannot warn them off—Costain). Many times and... never deviated—Grandgent). From the usual type—Or a deviation from what is usually used in the sense of oscillate (the double complex pendulum—Encyc. Brit.) in one plane—American attitudes oscillate between the poles of escape and revolt—Levin). (American attitudes oscillate between such poles as withdrawal and intervention, optimism and pessimism, idealism and cynicism—Bundy). Vibrate is sometimes used in the sense of oscillate (the double complex pendulum, when it vibrates in one plane—Encyc. Brit.) but it more typically implies rapid periodic oscillations usually over an arc of small amplitude and may suggest the rapid pulsations of the string of a musical instrument (as the piano or violin) when touched by a hammer or bow or
the rapid beating of some wings (as of a hawkmoth or hummingbird) you know that if you strike a note of music, all the octave notes will vibrate—Manning* (ultrasonic . . . waves vibrate so fast they can’t be heard by the human ear—Boyd Wright) In a more extended sense vibrate may imply a trembling, a quavering, or a throbbing suggestive of the movements of musical strings when an instrument is being played (on summer evenings when the air vibrated with the song of insects—Anderson) nerve and bone of that poor man’s body vibrated to those words—Stowe* Fluctuate occasionally implies a tossing up and down restlessly like the waves of the sea or like something floating on such waves, but is chiefly used in an extended sense implying constant irregular alternations suggestive of the movement of waves (stock prices that fluctuate from day to day) (the old unquiet breast, which neither deadens into rest, nor ever feels the fiery glow that whirs the spirit from itself away, but fluctuates to and fro—Arnold) the respiration, pulse, and blood pressure of the test subject to fluctuate widely from the normal—Armstrong* (there are about seven hundred and fifty of them . . . but the number fluctuates rapidly with the demands of the situation—Hahn* Pendulate, a somewhat uncommon word, is a near synonym of oscillate in implying a swinging between two extremes, but it often comes close to fluctuate in its strong suggestion of constant change (the ill-starred scoundrel pendulates between Heaven and Earth—Carlyle) he pendulated between extremes, between adding to his poetic masterpieces and to his notorious "Don Juan list"—Cournos* saw the Colonel pendulating between Perkins' room and Pinchot's room. He would toddle out of one room . . . and enter another—White* Waver (see also HESITATE) carries a stronger implication of unsteadiness or of uncertainty in swinging than does sway or oscillate (banners and pennons wavering with the wind—Barners) his assuredness, his plump hands wavering uncertainly away from his body—Mailer* a great misery spoke from the hold. It waved eerily about the fringes of her consciousness—Hervey* Undulate is more often used than fluctuate when a wavelike motion is implied; especially in its extended use it seldom suggests violent changes, but rather the continuous rolling or rippling that is associated with the steady flow of waves (the ripe corn under the undulating air undulates like an ocean—Shelley) the . . . flame . . . made the jades undulate like green pools—Lowell* the great serpent drew back like a flash, and turning, undulated slowly away—Beebe* Ana* turn, spin, whirl, wheel, revolve, rotate, gyrate:*shake, shakeable, quiver, quaver, quake 3 wield, manipulate, *handle, ply Ana control, manage, direct, *conduct swipe vb* steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, snatch, cop swirL vb circle, spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, eddy, *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, pirouette sybaritic* sensuous, sensual, luxurious, voluptuous, epicurean sycophant* parasite, favorite, toady, licksptille, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, sponger Ana blandisher, cajoler, wheedler (see corresponding verbs at COAX): fawner, truckler (see corresponding verbs at FAWN) syllabus* compendium, digest, pandect, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu Ana conspectus, synopsis, epitome,* abridgment, brief, abstract symbol 1 Symbol, emblem, attribute, type can all denote a perceptible thing that stands for or suggests something invisible or intangible. Symbol and emblem are often used interchangeably but they can be so used as to convey clearly distinguishable notions. Symbol is applicable to whatever serves as an outward sign of something spiritual or immaterial; thus, the cross is to Christians the symbol of salvation because of its connection with the Crucifixion; the circle, in medieval thought, was the symbol of eternity because it, like eternity, has neither beginning nor end. This close and natural connection between the symbol and what it makes visible or partly intelligible is not always so strongly implied; it may be a traditional, conventional, or even an arbitrary association of one thing with another that is suggested (a king's crown is the symbol of his sovereignty and his scepter the symbol of his authority) (upstairs suites and private dining rooms whose symbol became a hot bird and a cold bottle served by a gray-waiter in sideburns—Lucius Beebe) a flock of sheep is not the symbol of a free people—New Republic* Emblem, as distinguished from symbol, implies representation of an abstraction or use in representation; it is applicable chiefly to a pictorial device or a representation of an object or a combination of objects (as on a shield, a banner, or a flag) intended to serve as an arbitrary or chosen symbol of the character or history of one (as a family, a nation, a royal line, or an office) that has adopted it; thus, the spread eagle, the usual emblem of the United States, is found in its coat of arms and on some of its coins and postage stamps; the emblem of Turkey, a crescent and a star, appears on its flag (the emblem of the school is a dolphin, token of the marine source of the founder's wealth—Thoroogood) remembering this flower . . . as the feminine emblem of the big college football games—Edmund Wilson* Emblem is also applied to what is technically known in painting and sculpture as an attribute, some object that is conventionally associated with the representation either of a character (as a Greek divinity or a Christian saint) or of a personified abstraction, and is the means by which the character or abstraction is identified; thus, in fine art the balance is the emblem, or attribute, of Justice; the turning wheel, of Fortune; the club, of Hercules; and the spiked wheel, of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Saint Helena is always painted with a cross beside her, or holding one, as a reminder that it was she who found the original cross. In this instance the cross is an attribute, not a symbol—G. W. Benson) Type, especially in theological use, is applied to a person or thing that prefigures or foreshadows someone or something to come and that stands therefore as his or its symbol until the reality appears. In theology, biblical interpretation, and religious poetry, it usually also implies a divine dispensation whereby the spiritual or immaterial reality is prefigured by a living person, event, experience, or the like; thus, in medieval religious poetry Jerusalem is the type of heaven (the heavenly Jerusalem); in allegorical interpretation of Scriptures, the paschal lamb is the type of Christ, the victim on the Cross (spiritual wisdom . . . is unchanging and eternal; it is communicated to us in types and shadows dim—in symbols—till we grow up into the power of understanding it—Inge) concludes that the whole of the Old Testament is one great prophecy, one great type of what was to come—Maas* Ana* sign, mark, token, badge: device, motif, design, *figure, pattern 2 *character, sign, mark Ana* device, contrivance: diagram, delineation, outline, sketch (see under SKETCH vb) symbolism* allegory symmetry, proportion, balance, harmony are comparable chiefly as used in the arts of design and decoration to
mean a quality which gives aesthetic pleasure and which depends upon the proper relating of details and parts to each other (as in magnitude, or arrangement) and to the consequent effect produced by the whole. Symmetry implies a median line or an axis on either side of which the details correspond (as in size, form, and placing). Often it implies such mathematical precision especially in arrangement of elements or parts as is observable in the corresponding halves of a perfect crystal, in a geometrically regular star, or in the conventionalized leaf or flower of decorative design (symmetry is the keynote of most formal gardens) (the symmetry of a Greek temple) (abandoned the decent gown for a short coat and jacket and displayed the symmetry of their legs—Trevelyan) but, in its stress of mechanical precision, symmetry may sometimes suggest an arid sterile quality, lacking in true artistic expression (symmetry is a condition of perfect but inert balance; it will be entirely useless in a composition—Taubes) Proportion implies a grace or beauty, independent of a thing's actual magnitude, duration, or intensity, that stems from the measured fitness of every one of its details and the consequent perfection of the whole (we care for size, but inartistically; we care nothing for proportion, which is what makes size count—Brownell) (an impressive structure of Greek design, notable for its beauty of proportion and simplicity of detail—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) Balance is sometimes employed as an equivalent of symmetry, but it can be used distinctively to imply equality of values rather than repetition of details or parts and a massing of different things (as light and shade, sharply contrasted colors, or figures and background) so that each one tends to offset the other or to reduce the other's emphasis without loss of significance on either side. Balance implies as its aesthetic object an inducing of a pleasant satisfaction in the thing's quiet beauty or of a delight in the unified yet varied effect of the whole (it is a similar principle of unsymmetrical balance which the Taoist artists sought in design. Space therefore, empty space, becomes a positive factor, no longer something not filled and left over, but something exerting an attractive power to the eye, and balancing the attractive power of forms and masses—Binyon) (every good statue is marked by a certain air of repose; every fine picture exists in a state of stable equilibrium brought about by the balance of its masses—Krutch) (balance is a subtler quality than symmetry. Symmetry means repetition . . . Balance, which is a free, almost irregular extension of the concept of symmetry, implies, unlike symmetry, the element of risk—Charles Johnson) Harmony, when used specifically in reference to the arts of design and decoration, retains as its leading implication the same idea as is involved in its general sense (symmetry) (harmony) that of beauty resulting from a perfect interrelation of details and their fusion into an agreeable whole. However it often denotes specifically the aesthetic impression produced by something which manifests symmetry, proportion, or balance, or these qualities in combination (a coloring harmony obtained by the aid of a long experience in the effects of light on translucent surfaces—Henry Adams) (we hear harmonious tones; but . . . the pleasure they give us . . . [is] the pleasure of their relational form which makes us attribute to them and their physical combination a quality which we call harmony—Alexander) (choosing with care and with a good eye for harmony the shoes, socks, and necktie he would wear—Wolfe)

sympathetic 1 *consonant, congenial, congruous, compatible, consistent

Ana agreeing, harmonizing or harmonious, accordant, correspondent (see corresponding verbs at AGREE) 2 *tender, compassionate, warm, warmhearted, responsive

Ana kindly, *kind, benign, benignant: understanding, appreciating, comprehending (see UNDERSTAND) Ant unsympathetic

sympathy 1 *attraction, affinity

Ana reciprocity, correspondence (see corresponding adjectives at RECIPROCAL): *harmony, consonance, accord, concord

Ant antipathy

2 Sympathy, pity, compassion, commiseration, condolence, ruth, empathy are comparable though often not interchangeable when they mean a feeling for the suffering or distress of another. Sympathy is the most general term, ranging in meaning from friendly interest or agreement in taste or opinion to emotional identification, often accompanied by deep tenderness (sympathy with my desire to increase my . . . knowledge—Fairchild) (sympathies were . . . with the Roman Stoics—Ellis) (satire had its roots not in hatred but in sympathy—Perry) Pity has the strongest emotional connotation; the emotion may be one of tenderness, love, or respect induced by the magnitude of another's suffering or of fellowship with the sufferer (pity is the feeling which arrests the mind in the presence of whatsoever is grave and constant in human sufferings and unites it with the human sufferer—Joyce) (pity that made you cry . . . not for this person or that person who is suffering, but . . . for the very nature of things. . . . out of pity comes the balm which heals—Saroyan) Pity sometimes may suggest a tinge of contempt for one who is inferior whether because of suffering or from inherent weakness; there is also a frequent suggestion that the effect if not the purpose of pity is to keep the object in a weak or inferior state (pity for the man who could think of nothing better—T. S. Eliot) (the parents of a crippled child should give him understanding and challenge rather than pity) Compassion, which originally meant fellowship in suffering between equals, has come to denote imaginative or emotional sharing of the distress or misfortune of another or others who are considered or treated as equals; it implies tenderness and understanding as well as an urgent desire to aid and spare (one of his neighbor women cooked a chicken and brought it in to him out of pure compassion—Cather) (with understanding, with compassion (so different from pity) she shows the sordid impact . . . on the lives of the natives—Campion) (when Jesus came in his gentleness with his divine compassion—Bridges) but while compassion suggests a greater dignity in the object than pity often does, it also implies a greater detachment in the subject (as a priest he regards all history from that eminence of spiritual objectivity which is called compassion—Albright) Commiseration and condolence agree in placing the emphasis on expression of a feeling for another's affliction, rather than on the feeling itself. Commiseration denotes a spontaneous and vocal expression, often one made in public or by a crowd (there was a murmur of commiseration as Charles Darnay crossed the room . . . the soft and compassionate voices of women—Dickens) Condolence denotes a formal expression of sympathy especially for the loss of a relative through death and refers strictly to an observance of etiquette without an implication as to the underlying feeling (a condolence call) (they received many condolences) Ruth denotes softening of a stern or indifferent disposition (look homeward, Angel, now, and melt with ruth—Milton) Empathy, of all the terms here discussed, has the least emotional content; it describes a gift, often a cultivated gift, for vicarious feeling, but the feeling need not be one of sorrow; thus empathy is often used as a synonym for
some senses of sympathy as well as in distinction from sympathy (what he lacks is not sympathy but empathy, the ability to put himself in the other fellow's place—G. W. Johnson) Empathy is frequently employed with reference to a nonhuman object (as a literary character or an idea, culture, or work of art) (a fundamental component of the aesthetic attitude is sympathy, or—more accurately—empathy). In the presence of any work of art... the recipient... must surrender his independent and outstanding personality, to identify himself with the form or action presented by the artist—Read

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

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barring or upsetting situations (mental poise . . . a balance of mind and temper that neither challenged nor avoided notice, nor admitted question of superiority or inferiority—Henry Adams) (would look into his eyes, the reserve, the statueque poise all going to pieces—Styron) Savor faire may stress worldly or social experience and a knowledge of what is the proper thing to say or do or of how to act under all circumstances (the inexperience and want of savoir faire in high matters of diplomatic of the Emperor and his ministers—Greville) But it as often suggests a seemingly intuitive ability to act appropriately and with the utmost ease and tact rather than one based on breadth of experience (the alcoholic usually has memories of occasions when liquor seemed to sharpen his wits, polish his manners and infuse him with savoir faire—Seliger) Ana diplomaticness or diplomacy, politness or policy, suavity, urbanity (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE): *courtesy, amenity, gallantry Ant awkwardness tactical strategic, logistic (see under STRATEGY) tactics *strategy, logistics tag n mark, brand, stamp, label, ticket (see under MARK vb) take vb 1 *mark, brand, stamp, label, ticket 2 *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tail tail vb *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tag taint vb *contaminate, pollute, defile Ana *debase, deprave, corrupt, vitiate: spoil, decompose, rot, putrefy, *decay: imbue, inoculate, *infuse take 1 Take, seize, grasp, clutch, snatch, grab are comparable when they mean to get hold of by or as if by reaching out through the hand. Take is not only the most general but also the only colorless term in this group. In ordinary use, especially with reference to physical things, it may imply nothing more than a movement of the hand to get hold of something (take the lamp from the table) (take meat from a platter) or it may imply, with reference not only to physical but to immaterial or intangible things, numerous and often difficult operations by means of which one gets possession of or control over something (take a city) Between these two extremes take may imply, in innumerable idiomatic applications, a very wide range of methods of getting hold of something or possessing it in some way; thus, one takes a prize by winning it in a competition; one takes a cottage by renting it; one takes the temperature of a room by observing the thermometter (take a bath) (take the air) (take a rest) Seize usually suggests a sudden and forcible taking or getting hold of, and it therefore is interchangeable with take only when emphasis is placed upon these qualities (the hungry children seized the food that was offered them) (the policeman seized the thief in the act of escaping) (the fort was seized before its defenders had time to repel the assault) (seizing between his teeth the cartilage of the trainer's ear—Shaw) In extended use, especially when the thing seized or the thing seizing is something immaterial or intangible, the term usually suggests a catching of something fleeting or elusive (seize an opportunity) (seize the attention of the crowd) or the capture of something by force and, usually, surprise (seize the throne) (the Breton seized more than he could hold; the Norman took less than he would have liked—Henry Adams) or the nearly understanding of something difficult to apprehend or analyze (the character of Louis XIII is difficult to seize, for it comprised qualities hardly ever combined in one man—Bello) Grasp basically implies a laying hold of with the hands, teeth, or claws so as to hold firmly (thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff—Shak.) In extended use the term implies a comparable ability to comprehend fully or adequately something difficult to comprehend either inherently or by reason of circumstances (understood the words I heard, but couldn't seem to grasp their meaning—Kenneth Roberts) (the evil of the corruption and falsification of law, religion, education, and public opinion is so enormous that the minds of ordinary people are unable to grasp it—Shaw) Clutch in its basic use implies more haste, more avidity, more urgency, and often less success in getting hold of the thing desired than grasp (1 . . . clutched desperately at the twigs as I fell—Hudson) Only when success is clearly indicated is a tight hold or a clenching suggested (I gave him all the money in my possession . . . Gunga Dass clutched the coins, and hid them at once in his ragged loincloth—Kipling) (he clutched Father Joseph's hand with a grip surprisingly strong—Cather) In extended use the term usually suggests a mental or emotional grasping at or seizing that is comparable to a physical clutching (they clutched childishly at straws of optimism—Wouk) (can you never like things without clutching them as if you wanted to pull the heart out of them?—D. H. Lawrence) Snatch carries the strongest implication of a sudden, hurried movement, but it seldom carries as strong a suggestion of the use of force as does its closest synonym, seize; rather, it often implies stealth (snatch a purse) (snatch a kiss) or promptness in rescuing (snatch a child from the flames) (snatched from the jaws of death) or rudeness or roughness (snatched the book from her hand) Consequently in extended use one snatch only what one can get by chance, surreptitiously, or by prompt action (snatch a free moment for writing a letter) (youngsters snatching at fun while they chased the dream of a happy marriage—Wouk) Grab commonly implies more rudeness or roughness than snatch, and it also usually implies as much force or violence as seize; distinctively it often suggests vulgarity and indifference to the rights of others or to the standards of the community, or a more or less open unscrupulousness in getting what one wants for oneself (grab all the meat from the platter) (grabbed his hat and ran) (grab power) (Hitler had been helpless to prevent the Russians from grabbing the Baltic States—Shirer) Ana *have, hold, own, possess: *catch, capture: confiscate, appropriate, preempt (see ARROGATE) 2 *receive, accept, admit Ana acquiesce, accede, *assent, consent, subscribe 3 *bring, fetch Ana *carry, convey, bear tale *story, narrative, anecdote, yarn Ana *fiction, fable: *myth, legend, saga talent genius, *gift, faculty, aptitude, knack, bent, turn Ana capacity, *ability, capability: *art, skill, craft, cunning: endowment (see corresponding verb at DOWER) talisman *fetish, charm, amulet talk vb *speak, converse Ana *discuss, dispute, argue: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descend: chant, chatter, prate talk n *speech, address, oration, harangue, lecture, sermon, homily talkative, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, glib are comparable chiefly as applied to persons and their moods and as meaning given to talk or talking. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are also seen in their corresponding nouns talkativeness, loquacity or loquaciousness, garrulity or garrulosity, volubility or volubleness, and glibness. Talkative and talkativeness, the least explicit of these terms, may imply nothing more than a readiness to engage in talk, or they may suggest fluency and ease in talking or a disposition to enjoy conversation (a talkative boy learns French sooner in France than a silent
boy—Sydney Smith (he was talkative, he had a natural curiosity—Styron) (among them they noticed a beautiful, slim, talkative old man, with bright black eyes and snow-white hair—L. P. Smith) Loquacious and loquacity more commonly imply fluency and ease in speech or, sometimes, an undue talkativeness (had lost his usual loquacity and quaint humor—Kingsley) (talks in a rapid and persuasive fashion (he is described as loquacious and good-natured)—Current Biog.) (a loquaciousness at times rising to eloquence—Walter Cerf) Garrulous and garrulity imply prolix, tedious, or rambling loquacity and usually suggest much idle talk about trivial things (a fond garrulous old man, who loved to indulge his mind in reminiscences of the past—Trollope) (his petty vanities and anxieties, are set down with a naive, irresistible garrulity—Brit. Book News) Voluble and volubility suggest a free, flowing, and seemingly unending loquacity (perhaps it was an overwhelming shock for the voluble French to discover that foreigners could enjoy conversation, too—MacInnes) (realizing that she had made a faux pas, was uneasy and voluble—S. H. Adams) (he sang of the lark, and it was the lark's voluble self—Pater) (for it was not a fault in him to dislike Aunt Charlotte, whose volubility must have assorted ill with his customary reserve—Archibald Marshall) Glib and glibness are often interchangeable with voluble and volubility, but distinctively they may suggest a facility indicative of superficiality, trickery, or deceitfulness (as usual when bemused, he flung out a smoke screen of his own variety of glib chatter—Theodore Sturgeon) (a glib excuse) (to train students as speakers, while neglecting them as listeners, is to foster glibness and deceitfulness—Wendell Johnson) Ana *vocal, fluent, articulate, voluble, glib, eloquent; *vociferous, clamorous Ant silent —Con reticent, reserved, uncommunicative, secretive (see SILENT)

talkativeness loquacity, garrulity, volubility, glibness (see under TALKATIVE) Ana fluency, artfulness, eloquence, volubility, glibness (see corresponding adjectives at VOCAL) Ant silence
tall *high, lofty Ant short
tally vb *agree, square, accord, harmonize, correspond, conform, jibe Ana *match, equal: coincide, concur (see AGREE) Con *differ

tame adj Tame, subdued, submissive are comparable when tame implies opposition to wild and in its basic sense applies chiefly to animals that have been domesticated and therefore accustomed to control by men (tame horses) In extended use it also applies to persons, or less directly to the acts and words of persons, whose wills have been broken or who have allowed themselves to be dominated by the will of another (the tribunal lately so insolent, became on a suddenly strangely tame—Macaulay) Often the term implies little more than a temperamental lack of proper spirit or independence, or undue docility or timidity (a tame reply) (tame acquiescence in tradition and routine—Babbitt) Subdued stresses quietness and in its most general sense implies a toning down with a loss or veiling of all vehemence or intensity (a subdued, passionate, desperate voice—Styron) (subdued colors) In reference to persons, their acts, words, or characters, it implies a real or apparent domination by or subjection to another, or a similar response to circumstances, and a resulting quietness or meekness that suggests a broken will, complete dependence, or excessive timorousness (Zeke's natural manner with his mother was well-trained deception, a subdued mockery—Farrell) (she had a mild, subdued, expiring look—Crabbe) (in such a man, so gentle and subdued . . . a race illustrous for heroic deeds, humbled, but not degraded, may expire—Wordsworth) Submissive implies the state of mind of one who has yielded his will to control by another and who unquestioningly or humbly obeys what is ordered or accepts what is given (meek, humble, timid persons . . . who are cautious, prudent, and submissive, leave things very much as they find them—Benson) (the bigot is conventional, rigid . . . is submissive to authority, suppressive of the weak —Ernst) (the perverse, negative will . . . has to be made submissive before it can become positive and integrated with the heart and mind—Henry Miller) Ana tractable, amenable, docile, biddable, *obedient: *timid, timorous: pliant, pliable (see PLASTIC) Ant fierce
tamp vb *pack, crowd, cram, stuff, ram Ana *press, squeeze, jam, crowd: *compact, consolidate, concentrate
tamper *meddle, interfere, intermeddle Ana *interpose, interfere, intervene: trouble, discommoder, *inconvenience
tang *taste, flavor, savory, relish, smack Ana pungency, piquancy, raciness (see corresponding adjectives at PUNGENT)
tangent adj abutting, adjoining, *adjacent, contiguous, conterminous, juxtaposed
tangible sensible, *perceptible, palpable, appreciable, ponderable Ana *material, physical, corporeal, objective: actual, *real, true: obvious, *evident, manifest Ant intangible
tantalize tease, harass, harry, *worry, annoy, plague, pester Ana vex, *annoy, irk, bother: torment, torture, try, *afflict: *bait, badger Ant satisfy
tantamount *same, selfsame, very, identical, identic, equivalent, equal Ana *like, alike, uniform, similar
tap vb Tap, knock, rap, thump, thud can mean, as verbs, to strike or hit audibly or, as nouns, the sound or effect produced by such striking or hitting. Tap implies a light blow usually repeated (as to attract attention to one's presence, needs, or wishes) (tap at her door) (tapping on the window) (she tapped her pencil on the desk for order) Knock implies a more forcible blow than tap, often a pounding or hammering (as on a door to call attention to one's need for admittance or on a person's body or head in an attack or a collision) (there came a heavy knock on the door) (the messenger knocked loudly to awaken us) In extended use knock may imply a sound or an effect that suggests a knocking (an automobile engine may knock because of uneven combustion) Rap suggests a smart, vigorous striking (as with the knuckles) on a hard surface so as to produce a sharp, quick sound or succession of sounds (the chairman rapped sharply for order) (a rap at the door) In extended use rap implies utterance that comes as quick and as sharp as rapping (rap out a series of commands) (the tired businessman . . . wants his poems snapped at him, rapped at him—Lowes) Thump implies the dull, heavy, yet resonant sound made by something that pounds or beats (as the fist upon a table or heavy feet upon the ground) or by something that pulsates forcibly and noisily
When they mean a piece of work which one is asked to do and is expected to accomplish. Task refers to a specific piece of work or service usually imposed by authority or circumstance but sometimes undertaken voluntarily (some person or some organization whose task it is to realize the daydreams of the masses—Huxley) (the spirit in which judge or advocate is to look upon his task—Cardozo) Duty is likely to indicate work, service, or conduct enjoined on a person because of his rank, status, occupation, or affiliation; it is more likely in most uses to suggest obligation, often moral, than specific imposition by a taskmaster (it is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is—John Marshall) (some of the military branches having a preferred status...had higher pay scales for less dangerous duties—Kingsley Davis) Assignment suggests a specific amount of work or sort of service assigned authoritatively (it is not our assignment to settle specific questions of territories—Truman) Job is a general term wide in suggestion ranging from voluntary undertaking of some signal service down to an assigned bit of menial work (a job that suits me from some relative's charm would mean getting up endless small sums at a desk or feeding coal in at the door of a furnace—Montague) Stint stresses carefully or equitably measured or timed apportionment of work (took to doing "German Romance" as my daily work, ten pages daily my stint—Carlyle) Chore is likely to suggest minor routine activity necessary for continuing satisfactory operating (as of farm or office) (leisure after the chores and happy meeting places where the farmer and his family might play—Burlingame)

**taste**

### 1 Taste, flavor, savor, tang, relish, smack can all mean the property of a substance which makes it perceptible to the gustatory sense. Taste not only is the most inclusive of these terms but it gives no suggestion of a specific character or quality (dislike the taste of olives) (the fundamental tases are acid, sweet, bitter, and salt) Flavor applies to the property of a thing which is recognized by the cooperation of the olfactory and gustatory and to some extent tactile senses. The term therefore usually denotes the combination of tastes and smells perceived when eating or drinking a thing. Usually, also, it suggests the blend of tastes and odors and textures that give a substance a distinctive or peculiar character (this peach has a particularly fine flavor) (the flavor of a fine tea has been described as "a bouquet which can be tasted") Savor stresses sensitiveness of palate or of nose and may refer to the odor of something cooking as well as to the flavor of something eaten (caught the rich savor of roasting meat as they passed the window) (sipping slowly to enjoy the full savor of the wine) Tang applies chiefly to a sharp penetrating savor, flavor, or odor; it usually implies a live, pungent quality (prefer apples with a tang) (the tang of dry champagne) (the tang of a salt breeze) Relish and smack are comparatively rare in this sense; relish (see also TASTE 2) comes close to savor and usually suggests enjoyment of the taste (a Laplander...has no notion of the relish of wine—Hume) (my first endeavor must be to distinguish the true taste of fruits, refine my palate, and establish a just relish in the kind—Shafesbury) Smack comes close to flavor but applies usually to one that is added to or is different from the typical flavor of a substance (ale with a burnt musty smack) (a good smack of pepper in this stew)

In extended use these words usually call up one or more suggestions from their basic senses. Tastes usually denote a strong impression or a heightened sense of the quality of
something <the book leaves a bad taste in the mouth> <the first taste of sudden death and destruction from the skies —Shirer> Flavor implies a predominant or distinctive and pervasive quality <impacted an unwonted lachrymose flavor to his tone—Purdy> <the passing hour's supporting joys have lost the keen-edged flavor—Meredith> <flavor, in fine, is the spirit of the dramatist projected into his work—Galsworthy> Savor differs from flavor largely in suggesting a stimulating or enlivening character or quality that, like salt, spice, or other seasoning, gives life or pungency to a thing <an odd blend of bitter naturalism and quiet humor ... gives it a savor quite its own —Anthony Boucher> <no one treats me like a child now, and the savor has gone out of my life—Ellis> Tang, relish, and smack come still closer to their basic senses <the language has a tang of Shakespeare—Gray> <Yankeeisms ... whose salt-sea flavor has its own peculiar tang in it —J. R. Lowell> <the full flavor, the whole relish of delight—Beecher> <your lordship ... hath yet some smack of age in you, some relish of the saltiness of time—Shak.> <the Saxon names of places, with the pleasant, wholesome smack of the soil in them—Arnold>

2 Taste, palate, relish, gusto, zest are comparable when they mean a liking for or an enjoyment of something because of qualities that give the sense of taste a pleasurable sensation or that produce comparably pleasant mental or aesthetic impressions. Taste (see also TASTE 1) may imply a liking that is either natural or acquired; the term is often used to designate a deep-seated or ingrained longing for something that lies behind one's predilection for it, one's bent to it, one's aptitude for it, or a predisposition to enjoy one thing more than another <cultivate a taste for olives> <he had no taste for the study of law> <she had a taste for melancholy—for the smell of orange rinds and woodsmoke—that was extraordinary—Cheever> More often taste refers to a liking that is based upon an understanding of peculiar excellences, especially aesthetic excellences, and that gives one a more or less discerning appreciation of a thing's beauty or perfection (as of form, design, and color) or grace and dignity and consequently greater enjoyment of it <a connoisseur, possessing above all things an exquisite taste—Dahly> <all tastes are legitimate, and it is not necessary to account for them—Virgil Thomson> <without any technical knowledge she had acquired a good taste in music—Ellis> In this sense taste is often so close to another sense of taste, namely, the power of discriminating aesthetic judgment, that the two meanings tend to overlap. In the first case, however, taste is not an abstraction but a concrete thing referable to an individual or a group of individuals <we have our tastes in painting as in confectionery. Some of us prefer Tintoretto to Rembrandt, as we do chocolate to coconut—Brownell> In the latter sense taste is an abstraction used commonly without reference to individuals. In general it implies a capacity for discerning true excellence and the setting up of standards whereby all may be taught to appreciate the excellence they discern; sometimes it denotes the body of standards so set up <you do have talent, but you're pitifully ignorant of the first principles of taste—Wouk> Palate may imply either the literal physical sensation or sense of taste <a wine taster must have a discriminating palate> <people who considered cider was just like champagne. It was a matter of palate—Hilton> or a corresponding intellectual reaction and then suggest pleasure afforded the mind <in the midst of such beauty ... one's body is all one tingling palate—Muir> <had no philosophy, but things distressed his palate, and two of those things were International propaganda and the Organized State—Yeats> Relish often suggests a more distinct or a more exciting flavor in the thing that evokes enjoyment or liking; but especially it tends to imply a keener or more personal gratification than taste <a man of ... a quick relish for pleasure—Macauley> <seemed to speak all his words with an immense wet-licked relish, as though they tasted good on the tongue—Dahl> <the artist's brain can go further and build up, always with a passionate relish for what it is producing—Montague>

Gusto can imply either the hearty relish with which one sometimes may attack a meal, execute a piece of work, or go about the performance of an act (as a task or duty), or a quality in the thing which is executed or in the act which is performed that indicates vital or enthusiastic interest, keen delight, and intense imaginative or emotional energy <the act of making ambiguous politicians succumb with glee and gusto to the temptations of power—Huxley> <this dramatic sense ... gives Rostand's characters—Cyrano at least—a gusto which is uncommon on the modern stage—T. S. Elliot> Zest, like gusto, applies either to the spirit in which one approaches something one likes to do, make, or encounter or the quality imparted to the thing done, made, or envisioned as a result of this spirit. In contrast with gusto it suggests eagerness, avidity, or a perception of a thing's piquancy or peculiar flavor rather than a hearty appetite indicative of abounding energy <the Elizabethan theater had its cause in an ardent zest for life and living—Arnold> <his robustiousness, his zest for malicious humor—Hervey>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
tear

815

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<tr>
<td>ana</td>
<td>slit, slash, *cut: *pull, drag: damage, *injure, impair</td>
<td>2 *rush, dash, shoot, charge</td>
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<td>*bait, badger, lecturer, chivy: importune, adjure, *beg: fret, chafe, gall (see ABRADE)</td>
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<td>tedium</td>
<td>boredom, ennui, doldrums are comparable when they denote a state of dissatisfaction and weariness. Tedium suggests a repression of energy for lack of a proper or adequate outlet, and dullness or lowness of spirits resulting from irksome inactivity or from the irksome monotony of one's pursuits or surroundings (incessant recurrence without variety breeds *tedium—Lowers) *able boys and girls will go through endless *tedium... to acquire some coveted knowledge or skill—Russell</td>
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<td>bow</td>
<td>work, buyers add to *tedium suggestions of listlessness, dreariness, and unrest resulting either from a lack of interest in one's pursuits or surroundings or from the fact that they pall or fail to excite interest (I suppose I shall go on *existing till the *tedom of it becomes too great—J. R. Green) *wealthy indolent women... who got up at noon and spent the rest of the day trying to relieve their *boredom—Dahl</td>
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<td>ana</td>
<td>irksomeness, tediousness, tiresomeness, weariness (see corresponding adjectives at IRKSOME): melancholy, dumps, blues, gloom (see SADNESS)</td>
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<td>teen</td>
<td>abound, swarm, overflow can all mean to be plentifully supplied (with) or to be rich (in). Though they are often interchangeable, each of these words may carry different connotations, and in its relevant extended sense implies even more strongly the implication of exceeding capacity &lt;he overflowed &lt;wealthy indolent women... who got up at noon and spent the rest of the day trying to relieve their boredom—Dahl&gt;</td>
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| or the result, the bringing out or development of qualities or capacities latent in the individual or regarded as essential in his position <schools that educate boys for the ministry> (in my eyes the question is not what to teach, but how to educate—Kingsley) *educate the masses into becoming fit for self-government—Huxley | Train, even when it is used as a close synonym of educate, almost invariably suggests a distinct end or aim which guides teachers and instructors; it implies, therefore, such subjection of the pupil as will form him or fit him for the state in view <universities exist... on the one hand, to train men and women for certain professions—Russell> Train is especially employed in reference to the instruction of persons or sometimes animals who must be physically in excellent condition, mentally proficient, or quickly responsive to orders for a given occupation or kind of work <train a dog to point game> *troops... equipped and trained to fight in the bitter cold and the deep snow—Shirer> Discipline, even more than train, implies subordination to a master or subjection to control, often self-control <he consciously seeks to discipline himself in fine thinking and right living—Ellis> *feeling... the rush of old jealously to his head thought long since disciplined from him—Buck> *School is sometimes interchangeable with educate *of some of them have been schooled at Eton and Harrow—Shaw—Schooled and *taught to the heart of a piece of writing, *inculcate, implant, *implant |

*conversely, it is often used with reference to qualities as to things <the young soldiers abound in vigor and courage> Swarm in its relevant extended sense implies even more strongly than teen motion and thronging <a marketplace swarming with buyers and sellers—Macaulay> It is also more capable of suggesting infestation (the house swarmed with flies) *overflow in its extended sense adds to abound the implication of exceeding capacity <he overflows with good nature> Sometimes it suggests glutting (the market overflows with goods) |

| Ana | teeny | tiny, little, diminutive, *small, petite, wee, weeny, |

**tare** vb

Tear, rip, rend, split, cleave, rive can all mean to separate forcibly one part of a continuous material or substance from another, or one object from another with which it is closely and firmly associated. Tear implies pulling apart or away by or as if by main force; it often suggests jagged rough edges or laceration <tore his coat on a nail> *tear a piece of paper lengthwise> <he took hold of it with his powerful hands and tore it out by the roots—Anderson> *flood tore a... gorge through the township—Amer. Guide Series: Vt.> *grief tears her heart> Rip usually implies a forcible pulling or breaking apart typically along a line or juncture (as a seam, a joint, or a connection) <Macduff was from his mother's womb torn asunder by flashes of lightning—Shak.> *rip the shingles from a roof> |

**rend** implies greater violence than tear and either heightens the implication of a lacerating effect or adds that of severing or sundering <rend your heart, and not your garments—Joel 2:13> *the black volume of clouds... rent asunder by flashes of lightning—Irving> *his pride and vanity had been rent by her ultimate rejection—H. G. Wells> Split implies a cutting or breaking apart in a continuous, straight, and usually lengthwise direction or in the direction of grain or layers <split a log with a wedge> *great rocks split by an earthquake> In extended use the term implies force or intensity sufficient to split something <split their sides with laughter> *pain that seemed about to split his head, but sorrow split my heart, if ever I did hate thee—Shak.> *ear-splitting outrages> Cleave, a somewhat rhetorical word, may come close to split, but more often it conveys the notion of laying open by or as by a stroke of an edged weapon <struck the final blow, cleaving the Archbishop's skull—Lucas> *his acumen cleave clean to the heart of a piece of writing—Mendelbaum> *Rive is elevated for split <blunt wedges rive hard knots—Shak.> *all thoughts to rive the heart are here, and all are vain—Housman> |

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—Mandelbaum) |
teeter vb *shake, tremble, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, wobble, shimmery, dither

tell vb 1 *count, enumerate, number 2 *say, utter, state
3 divulge, discover, *reveal, disclose, betray

Ana impart, *communicate: *relate, rehearse, recite, recount: *inform, acquaint, apprise

telling compelling, convincing, cogent, sound, *valid

Ana forceful, forcible, *powerful, potent: *effective, effectual, efficacious: *conclusive, decisive, determinative, definitive

temerity, audacity, hardihood, effrontery, nerve, cheek, gall are comparable when they mean conspicuous or flagrant boldness (as in speech, behavior, or action). Temerity usually implies contempt of danger and consequent rashness; often it suggests, especially when a proposal or project is under discussion, a failure to estimate one's chances of success (impetuously brushed aside the legalistic twaddle of the lawyers . . . and they frowned on such temerity—Bowers) (tenth-rate critics and compilers, for whom any violent shock to the public taste would be a temerity not to be risked—Arnold)

Audacity implies either a bold and open disregard of the restraints imposed by prudence, convention, decorum, or authority or undue presumption in making advances (he had committed the supreme audacity of looking into her soul—Sackville-West) (the moral audacity, the sense of spiritual freedom, that one gets from certain scenes in the Gospels—Edmund Wilson)

Hardihood stresses firmness of purpose and often additionally implies considered defiance (as of conventions or decorum). It may be used without depreciative intent, but it is frequently employed as a term of contempt almost equivalent to insolence or impudence (no historian or astronomer will have the hardihood to maintain that he commands this God's-eye view—Toynbee) (the reviewers . . . were staggered by my hardihood in offering a woman of forty as a subject of serious interest to the public—Bennett) Effrontery is definitely derogatory; it is used in place of any of the three preceding words when one wishes to impute flagrant disregard of the laws of courtesy, propriety, or fair dealing or an arrogant assumption of a privilege (had the damnable effrontery to tell me my father's delay was occasioned . . . by his addiction to immoral practices—Cheever) (she had won her way to success by strength of will and hardiness of heart, and a kind of haughty effrontery—Wharton) Nerve, cheek, and gall are close to effrontery, nerve, however, often carrying a strong suggestion of hardihood, cheek of impudent self-assurance, and gall of outrageous insolence (had the haughtily nerve to tell you . . . that you were being vulgar—Wouk) (the cheek of him . . . imagine a miserable-looking leprechaun like Pat Dolan to be having notions of a fine girl like Maria—Laverty) (the small stockholder who . . . has the gall to ask questions about the management—Cohn)

Ana rashness, recklessness, foolhardiness, daring, venturesomeness (see corresponding adjectives at ADVENTUROUS); precipitativeness, impetuosity, abruptness (see corresponding adjectives at PREEPITATE); impertinence, intrusiveness, officiousness (see corresponding adjectives at IMPERTINENT)

Ant caution

temper vb *moderate, qualify


Ant intensify

temper n 1 *mood, humor, vein

Ana mettle, spirit (see COURAGE): emotion, *feeling, affection, passion: attitude, *position, stand
2 *disposition, temperament, complexion, character, personality, individuality

Ana *state, condition, posture, situation: *quality, property, attribute

temperament *disposition, temper, complexion, character, personality, individuality

Ana *mind, soul: nature, kind, *type

temperance, sobriety, abstinence, abstemiousness, continence can all mean self-restraint in the gratification of appetites or passions. In its more general sense temperance implies simply habitual moderation and the exercise of judgment (temperance in eating and drinking) (exaggeration, exaltation, the fanatic spirit, are extremely rare. Temperance is the almost universal rule in speech, demeanor, taste, and habits—Brownell) But temperance may be used specifically in reference to the use of intoxicating beverages and then tends to imply not merely moderation but abstinence; thus, a temperance hotel is one where no intoxicating liquors are sold or served. Sobriety, like temperance, suggests avoidance of excess not only in drinking (what would be sobriety for a billiard player would be ruinous drunkenness for a . . . billiard player—Shaw) but also in thought or action. Often it connotes the idea of seriousness or of avoidance of ostentation (sobriety in dress) (admired him for his cleanliness, sobriety and industry—Cheever) Abstinence implies voluntary deprivation (the Cynics preached abstinence from all common ambitions, rank, possessions, power, the things which clog man's feet—Buchan) (the man who has made a virtue of abstinence secretly regrets, when he grows old, the discretions of his youth—Abel)

Abstemiousness and its much commoner adjective abstemious suggest habitual self-restraint, moderation, or frugality especially in eating or drinking (the most abstemious of men . . . he held old-fashioned and rather puritanical views—Wooll) Continence emphasizes self-restraint in regard to one's impulses or desires (he knew what to say, so he knows also when to leave off, a continence which is practiced by few writers—Dryden)

In its specific sense it stresses self-restraint in sexual indulgence. Sometimes it implies chastity or complete abstinence; often, when referred to husband and wife, it implies avoidance of undue indulgence (chastity is either abstinence or continence. Abstinence is that of virgins or widows; continence, of married persons—Taylor)

Ana forgoing, forbearing or forbearance, sacrificing or sacrifice, eschewal (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): frugality, sparingness, thriftiness (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING): restraining, curbing, checking (see RESTRAIN)

temperate 1 *moderate

Ana mild, gentle, lenient, *soft: *steady, even, equable, constant: restrained, curbed, checked (see RESTRAIN)

Ant intemperate: inordinate

2 *sober, continent, unimpassioned

Ant *sparing, frugal, economical: abstaining, refraining, forbearing (see REFRAIN): dispassionate, just, equable, *fair

temporal *profound, secular, lay

Ana *material, objective, physical, corporeal

Ant spiritual

temporary, provisional, ad interim, acting, supply can all be applied to a person holding a post for a limited time, to the post held by that person, or to his appointment. Temporariness merely implies that the post is not held on tenure but may be terminated at the will of those having the appointive power. It is interchangeable with many of the other words but is not so explicit (a temporary position)
enforce, commit, *deport, deport to

A similar or related word in meaning, but with a different connotation or usage.

Antonyms: Tempt, entice, invite, *lure, decoy, seduce

Ana analogous words: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *nurse, nurture, foster, cherish, cultivate

Antonyms: Tenor, trend, drift, tenor can mean a movement or course having a particular direction and character or the direction and character which such a movement or course takes. Tendency usually implies an inherent or acquired inclination in a person or thing that causes him or it to move in a definite direction so long as no one or nothing interferes. Often, when used in reference to persons, the word means little more than leaning, propensity, or disposition (a growing tendency to disarmingly underestimate the potential strength of the United States—Shirer) (he worked to destroy the tendency to dreams in himself—Anderson) More often, especially when used in reference to groups or communities or their activities or the course or direction they take with or without consciousness or intent, the term implies a driving force behind the direction or course taken and an insusceptibility to its being controlled or changed (gave the King a policy at once plausible and insidious, temporizing and yet thick with tendency—Hackett) (the whole tendency of evolution is towards a diminishing birthrate—Ellis) (the tendencies which Lycurgus had endeavored to repress by external regulation reasserted themselves—Dickinson) Trend is used primarily in reference to something that follows an irregular or winding course and denotes the general direction maintained in spite of these irregularities (jagged ranges of mountains with a north and south trend) In its extended use trend may differ from tendency in implying a direction subject to change through the interposition of a sufficiently strong force or agency, in implying a course taken at a given time by something subject to change and fluctuation, or in implying the general direction followed by a changing or fluctuating thing throughout its entire course or within given limits of space or of time (the current trends toward intolerance and the garrison state—Mower) (Aristotle, the most balanced of all the Greek thinkers and the best exponent of the normal trend of their ideas—Dickinson) Drift may apply to a tendency whose direction or course is determined by such external influences as a wind or the movement of flowing water or a fashion or a state of feeling (the drift of public opinion went steadily against him—Parrington) (stoutly opposed the drift toward national prohibition and equal suffrage—Sam Acheson) but it may apply also to the direction or course taken by something (as speech, writing, or teaching) that has a meaning, a purpose, or an objective which is not definitely stated or made clear but which is inferable; in this sense the word is scarcely distinguishable from intention, purport, or import (for the drift of the Maker is dark, an Isis hid by a veil—Tennyson) (write it down . . . and then maybe I can get the drift of it—Stafford) (I see the whole drift of your argument—Goldsmith) Tenor is a very close synonym of drift in this latter sense but it more often refers to utterances or documents and carries a much stronger implication of clearness of meaning or purport (the general tenor . . . of the talks—Bernard Smith) Both in this sense and in its more common sense of a course or movement having a particular clearly observable direction tenor carries a strong implication of continuity in that course and of absence of fluctuation in its direction; therefore it frequently suggests unaltered, often unalterable, procedure (along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept to dreams—Dickinson) (the village . . . was away from the main road and the tenor of its simple agricultural economy had not been disturbed—Lengar) (even a foible is forgiven so long as it ruffles not the calm tenor of respectability—Gogarty)

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
tender vb *offer, proffer, present, prefer

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
adjectives at FEARFUL: agitation, disquiet, perturbation, upsetting or upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): appalling, daunting, disquieting (see DISMAY)

terrorize  terrify, *frighten, fright, alarm, scare, startle, affray, affright


terse  *concise, succinct, laconic, summary, pithy, compendious

Ana *brief, short: compact, *close: *expressive, sententious, meaningful: *incisive, crisp, clear-cut

test  n trial, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE)

Ana examination, inspection, scrutiny (see under ScrutINIZE): verification, substantiation, corroboration, confirmation (see corresponding verbs at CONFIRM)

test  vb try, *prove, demonstrate

Ana essay (see ATTEMPT vb): examine, inspect, *scrutinize: verify, substantiate, *confirm

testimonial  n recommendation, *credential, character, reference

Ana commendation (see corresponding verb at COMMEND): approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)

testimonial  *evidence, deposition, affidavit

Ana trial, test, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE); witnessing or witness, attesting or attestation, certifying or certification, vouching for (see corresponding verbs at CERTIFY)

testy  *irascible, choleric, splenetic, touchy, cranky, cross

Ana irritable, peevish, snappish, waspish: hasty, sudden, impetuous (see PRECIPITATE): captious, carping, caviling, faultfinding (see CRITICAL)

text  topic, argument, theme, *subject, matter, subject matter, motive, motif, leitmotiv

thallastic  *aquatic, marine, oceanic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal

thankful  *grateful

Ana appreciating or appreciative, valuing, prizing, cherishing, treating (see corresponding verbs at APPRECIATE): satisfied, content (see under SATISFY)

Ant thankless

thaumaturgy  *magic, sorcery, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy

thaw  vb melt, *liquefy, deliquesce, fuse

Ant freeze

theatrical  adj *dramatic, dramaturgic, melodramatic, histronic

Ana *artificial, factitious: formal, conventional, *ceremonial, ceremonious: affecting, pretending, assuming, simulating, feigning (see ASSUME): *showy, pretentious, ostentatious

thief, larceny, robbery, burglary mean the act or crime of stealing, though they have differences in legal application. The same differences in implications and applications are observable in the agent nouns thief, larcener or larcenist, robber, burglar, denoting one who steals. Theft and thief are the most general and the least technical of these terms; they imply the taking and removing of another's property usually by stealth or without his knowledge and always without his consent. The terms are often so broad that they may include reference to any taking of another's property without his consent (as by pilfering, purloining, swindling, embezzling, or plagiarizing) (the theft of a purse) (the theft of the city's money by grafters) (a thief removed his watch from his pocket) Larceny and the less common agent nouns larcener and larcenist are legal terms implying direct theft but excluding such specialized forms as swindling, embezzlement, and plagiarizing. The terms connote an unlawful or felonious act, a removal of another's property from the place where it belongs, and complete possession, even for a moment, by the thief (the shoplifter was not apprehended until she had left the store, so that there would be proof of larceny) (the maid was found guilty of larceny) Grand larceny and petty larceny are common in ordinary use as indicating respectively a theft of an appreciable amount and a theft of a negligible amount.

Robbery and robber in their precise legal use imply the taking of another's property from his person or in his presence by means of violence or intimidation (highway robbery) (the paymaster was attacked and the payroll money was seized by armed robbers) Burglary and burglar in legal use imply a breaking and entering with an intent to commit a felony, usually that of larceny or robbery. In the laws of different states and nations the detailed specifications of the crime, for example, the time of occurrence (nighttime often being stipulated) or the actual commission of the felony, may or may not be considered material to the charge (the burglary of their home was committed during their absence for the evening) (she lived in constant fear of burglars)

theme  1 text, topic, argument, *subject, matter, subject matter, motive, motif, leitmotiv

2 composition, paper, *essay, article

then *therefore, hence, consequently, accordingly, so

theorem  *principle, axiom, fundamental, law

theoretical, speculative, academic can be applied to minds, types of reasoning or philosophizing, or branches of learning as meaning concerned principally with abstractions and theories, sometimes at the expense of practical basis or application. Theoretical in its most usual and nonderogatory sense applies to branches of learning (as sciences) which deal with the inferences drawn from observed facts and from the results of experiments and with the laws or theories that explain them (the distinguishing feature of theoretical science is the anticipation of facts from experience—Georg von Wright).

In this sense the term is often opposed to applied, which describes branches of learning which have to do with the putting of such laws and theories into use (as in mechanics, in industry, or in social reform) (theoretical versus applied chemistry) (applied ethics is grounded upon theoretical ethics) (a purely theoretical definition would be that a person is emotionally sensitive when many stimuli produce emotions in him—Russell). But theoretical often implies a divorce from actuality or reality that makes one unable to see things as they are and usually makes him see them only in the terms of preexistent ideas or theories. In this sense it is opposed to practical (seems compelled to establish that . . . the book does have great practical importance in spite of its predominantly theoretical character—M. G. Whitey) (things that had seemed drearily theoretical, dry, axiomatic, platitudinous, showed themselves to be great generalizations from a torrent of human effort and mortal endeavor—Benson).

Speculative (see also thoughtful) 1 may go further than theoretical in suggesting a deep interest in theorizing or in forming theories or hypotheses and often additionally implies a daring use of the imagination (the rights of man . . . were necessarily more abstract, more detached from usage and concrete applicability, more open to speculative interpretation—Sabine) (so vaguely speculative are they that the author would try to explain them by lengthy prefaces—W. J. Fisher). Often, however, there is very little difference evident in the use of these terms (was a great inventor and builder, but in the speculative and theoretic side of science he had little interest—Buchan).

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words
thin

*lean, spare
adj.

...
thin 821 think

tenuous—Eddington) (tenuous evening mists—Darow) or something which is so finespun or so fine-drawn as to be exceedingly subtle, abstruse, or visionary (a tenuous idealism—Binyon) (poetry . . . so tenuous in thought and feeling that only the most exquisite diction can justify its perpetuation in cold print—Grandgent) (I did not despise the golden, tenuous imaginings . . . in my own spirit—Galsworthy) Rare in the sense of rarefied (see also INFREQUENT, CHOICE) is applied chiefly to gases and especially to air (he was high . . . nearly slumping in the rare air—Cozens) In its uncommon extended use it suggests tenuity or sometimes extreme exaltation or elevation (reared in the rarest air of German intellectualism—Time) (if we try to express almost any poems of his in prose, we find it impossible; its rare spirit evaporates in the process—Day Lewis)

Ana *lean, spare, lank, lanky, gaunt: *meager, exiguous, scantly: cadaverous, pinched, wasted, *haggard: attenuated, extenuated, diluted (see thin vb) Ant thick

think vb Thin, attenuate, extenuate, dilute, rarely. Thin is the most inclusive of these terms and is interchangeable with any of the others, though not without some loss of precision or of specific connotations. Basically it implies reduction in thickness or in density; in extended use it implies a comparable diminution (as of strength, depth, or intensity) (thin a forest by removing surplus trees) (thin wine by adding water) (the voice thins when one raises its pitch) (thin paint with turpentine) (constant use thins silver) Attenuate implies thinning as the result of some such process as drawing out, spinning fine, or culturing (as a strain of bacteria) repeatedly or as the effect of conditions (as disease or starvation) which emaciate (attenuate wire by drawing it through successively smaller holes) (hammer brass in order to attenuate it) (a wave of current attenuates in magnitude and phase as it travels along a transmission line) (attenuate a virus by heating it) (the powerful frame attenuated by spare living—Dickens) In its frequent extended use attenuate implies the loss of properties that are necessary to a thing's strength, richness, effectiveness, or vitality, and it often connotes overrefining, oversubtilizing, or overemphasis of an opposing quality (we may reject and reject till we attenuate history into sapless meagerness—Palgrave) (if she had had a little more self-control she would have attenuated the emotion to nothing by sheer reasoning—Hardy) (illusions which science can attenuate or destroy, but which it is powerless to enrich—Krutch) Extenuate in a somewhat learned use can suggest attrition either by literally evacuating and exhausting (see also palliate) (peasants . . . so extenuated by hunger that they could scarcely hold the spade—Lecky) or by a gradual diminishing of a thing's importance or significance (the . . . tendency . . . to extenuate the responsibility of human nature, not merely on the moral side, but equally on the spiritual side—Mackenzie) Dilute implies a thinning of what is concentrated by the addition or, in extended use, sometimes by the influence of something that weakens it, neutralizes it, or destroys its vigor or intensity (dilute peppermint oil with alcohol) (dilute hydrochloric acid with water) (the pioneer spirit has been diluted by new race mixtures, its confidence shaken by new social trends—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) (the rough, spontaneous conversation of men they [clergymen] do not hear, but only a mincing and diluted speech—Emerson) Rarely implies a thinning in density and usually an expansion in volume or a decrease in weight or pressure (the rarefied air of mountainous regions) (the expansive power of moisture rarefied by heat—Mackay)

The word occurs in extended use chiefly with reference to ideas, emotions, and intellectual powers, sometimes suggesting their spiritualization or refinement and the elimination of all grossness and impurity and sometimes impeding to them a vaporous or tenuous quality (plain truths lose much of their weight when they are rarefied into subtleties—Cudworth) (love is a gentle flame that rarefies and expands her whole being—Hazlitt)

Ana reduce, lessen, diminish, *decrease: *liquefy, melt Ant thicken

thing 1 matter, concern, business, *affair

2 Thing, object, article are comprehensive terms applicable to whatever is apprehended as having actual, distinct, and demonstrable existence. They vary, however, in their range of application. Thing is the term of widest reference. In its most inclusive sense it need not imply direct knowledge through the senses but is equally applicable to something so known and to something the existence of which is inferred from its signs or its effects; thus, one thinks of the state, the church, literature, and the law as things rather than as ideas or abstractions; a friend's affection is as real a thing as is his house or his hand; one distinguishes a word from the thing it names (name the things that are on this table) (wanted to do the right thing) (a blind person recognizes things through such qualities as shape, texture, smell, taste, and sound) In somewhat more restricted use thing can denote specifically an entity having existence in space or time and distinguished from one existing only in thought (virtue is not a thing but an attribute of a thing) or in still more restricted use an inanimate entity and especially a material possession as distinguished from living beings and especially persons (more interested in things than in human beings) Often the word is used idiomatically to mention without specifically identifying an item that cannot or need not be further identified or whose nature is implicit in the context; thus, in "be sure to wear warm things," clothing is implied; in "bring in the tea things," the necessary collection of dishes, implements, and foods is implied (what's that thing in your hand?) Occasionally thing may be used in reference to persons when contempt is expressed or derogation intended (do you call that thing a man?) Object has for its primary implications externality to the mind or existence outside the observer. In philosophic and scientific use it is applied to something that is put before one as an entity capable of being seen, observed, or contemplated (a thinker may make an abstraction, such as love, art, or justice, an object of thought) (modern physicists are concentrating on the atom as an object of study) This basic implication of object is its chief distinction from thing when either word is used to denote something that can be perceived by one or more of the senses. For object in this, its ordinary sense, is applied chiefly to what has body and usually substance and shape (he grooped his way in the darkness with hands outstretched to detect any objects in his path) (in the glare of the torch they saw moving objects in the distance) Article is the most limited in its range of application, being used chiefly of objects that are thought of as members of a group, kind, or class (meat is an important article of food) (articles of a man's clothing) (a chair is an article of furniture) (articles of apparel)

Ana *item, detail, particular

think 1 Think, conceive, imagine, fancy, realize, envisage, envision are comparable when they mean to form an idea or notion of something in the mind. Think, the most general and least explicit word of this group, may imply nothing more than the entrance of an idea or notion into one's mind (please do not think of it) but often it suggests

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
stress on the process than upon the results of thinking; it is often used to suggest the appearance or the atmosphere of profound but not necessarily productive thinking. <still cogitating and looking for an explanation in the fire—Dickens> Mrs. Berry had not cogitated long ere she pronounced distinctly and without a shadow of dubiosity: "My opinion is ..."—Meredith. Reflect usually implies a turning of one's thoughts back upon or back to something that exists, has occurred, or needs reexamining; it implies quiet, unhurried, and serious consideration or study. <stood reflecting on the circumstances of the preceding hours—Hardy> all the most important things in his life, [he] sometimes reflected, had been determined by chance—Cather. <began to ... study its organization, reflect on its psychology and political techniques and ponder the reasons—Shirer> Reason implies consecutive logical thought, beginning with a postulate, a premise, or definite data or evidence and proceeding through inferences drawn from these to a conclusion or judgment. <since, where all is uncertain, we must reason from what is probable of human nature—Quiller-Couch> no man as near death as I was feeling, could, I reasoned, be absorbed by such trifles—Lucas. Speculate implies the processes of reasoning but stresses either the uncertainty of the premises or the incompleteness of the data and therefore usually imputes a hypothetical or theoretical character to the conclusions reached. <the two women speculated with deep anxiety on whether or not little Pamela had died of exposure—Cheever> it is interesting to speculate whether it is not a misfortune that two of the greatest masters of diction in our language, Milton and Dryden, triumph with a dazzling disregard of the soul—T. S. Eliot. Deliberate suggests slow and careful thought or reasoning and fair consideration of various aspects in an attempt to reach a conclusion often on a matter of public interest <lawmakers ... can—and do—spend huge amounts of time deliberating matters of absolute insignificance—Armbrister> please you, deliberate a day or two—Shak. <the future relations of the two countries could now be deliberated on with a hope of settlement—Froude> Ana *ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate: *infer, deduce, conclude, judge

thirst vb hunger, pine, yearn, *long, hanker
Ana covet, crave, *desire, wish, want

though, although, albeit introduce subordinate clauses stating something that is or may be true in spite of what is asserted in the main clause. Though, the most widely used of these words, can introduce a clause that states an established fact or one that offers only a supposition, either a hypothesis or an admission of possibility or probability. <though philosophy was Bede's chief interest and concern, he by no means stopped there—Malone> remembered a great deal of classical literature, badly taught though it was—Higher. <let us not defer our trip, though it rain tomorrow> Although, which is freely interchangeable with though, is often preferred when it introduces an assertion of fact and when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. <although they worked hard ... their movements seemed painfully slow—Forester> although the war was still on, the diamond trade began to show signs of recovery—Hahn. Albeit is especially appropriate when the idea of admitting something that seems a contradiction is stressed (a worthy fellow, albeit he comes on angry purpose now—Shak.) <passages of moving, albeit restrained, eloquence—N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Rev.>

thought *idea, concept, conception, notion, impression
Ana *opinion, view, sentiment, belief, conviction, persuasion

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
thoughtful

1 Thoughtful, reflective, speculative, contemplative, meditative, pensive can be applied to persons or their moods, attitudes, expressions, and utterances as meaning characterized by or showing the power to engage in thought, especially in concentrated thinking. Thoughtful may imply either the act of thinking concentratedly or the disposition to apply oneself to the careful and serious consideration of problems or questions at issue (he has a shrewd rather than a thoughtful face) (Marlowe—not excepting Shakespeare or Chapman, the most thoughtful and philosophical mind, though immature, among the Elizabethan dramatists—T. S. Eliot) (a thoughtful book on a serious subject—Selzer) Reflective differs from thoughtful in its stronger implication of orderly processes of thought, such as analysis and logical reasoning, and in its suggestion of a definite aim, such as the understanding of a thing’s nature or of its relation to other things or the reaching of a definite conclusion (men of reflective and analytical habit, eager to rationalize its [plutocracy’s] instincts and to bring it into some sort of relationship to the main streams of human thought—Mencken) Speculative implies a tendency or inclination to think about things of which direct knowledge is either impossible or so limited that any conclusions are bound to be uncertain (economics is regarded by many persons as a speculative science) (speculative writing about the state—Frankfurter) Hence the term often implies theorizing or conjecturing without consideration of the evidence or with little attention to the evidence (about a thousand practical and positive topics the Frenchman, who speaks from experience and examination, finds our views speculative and immature—Brownell) (the philosophical background of Chinese culture has always tended to create reflective rather than speculative thinkers—Hart) Contemplative carries a stronger implication than the other words of an attention fixed on the object of one’s thoughts; it may imply as its object something perceivable by the senses or something abstract yet comprehensible by the mind, or it may suggest a habit of mind (a contemplative thinker, withdrawn from active life—Theodore Spencer) (practical curiosity becomes contemplative and examines things for their own sake when . . . man . . . having arrived at the stage of ideas and thought, applies them to the data presented by sensible experience—Alexander) (the contemplative life which is concerned with human feeling and thought and beauty—Ruskin) (Meditative, except in religious use, where it comes very close to contemplative, usually implies a tendency to ponder or muse over something without necessarily implying any such intellectual purpose as understanding a thing or reaching a conclusion regarding it. The term therefore often comes close to thoughtful, though it usually implies some consecutive reasoning and sometimes suggests pleasure rather than seriousness in the exercise of thought (indulge in many a meditative walk) (a meditative temperament) (sympathies . . . that steal upon the contemplative mind, and grow with thought—Wordsworth) Pensive is not always clearly distinguishable from meditative, though at times it carries a stronger suggestion of dreaminess, of wistfulness, or of melancholy (for oft, when on my couch I lie in vacant or in pensive mood—Wordsworth) (silent and pensive, idle, restless, slow—Byron) 

Analogous words: thoughtful, thoughtful, attentive, considerate

Antonyms: careless, heedless, indifferent, careless

Contrasted words: thoughtful, reflective, speculative, meditative, pensive

2 Thoughtful, considerate, attentive are applied to persons and their acts in the sense of being mindful of the comfort or happiness of others. Thoughtful usually implies unselfish concern for others or the capacity for anticipating another’s needs (in his thoughtful wish of escorting them through the streets of the rough, riotous town—Gaskell) Considerate stresses concern for the feelings of others or thoughtfulness in preventing or in relieving pain, suffering, or distress (the French poor people are very considerate where they see suffering—Meredith) (too courteous and considerate to make stubborn subordinates bend properly to his will—Nevins & Commager) Attentive emphasizes continuous thoughtfulness or implies repeated acts of kindness or courtesy (Emmy had always been good and attentive to him. It was she who ministered to his comfort—Thackeray) (I was never more surprised than by his behavior to us. It was more than civil; it was really attentive—Austen)

Antonyms: solicitous, concerned, careful, anxious (see under CARE): courteous, polite, gallant, chivalrous (see CIVIL)

contrasted words: thoughtful, considerate, attentive

3 Another’s needs <in his...
thrive and mentally or to be stirred by such emotions. Thrill suggests pervasion by emotions that set one atingle or aquiver (as with pleasure, horror, or excitement); commonly it implies an agreeable sensation even when the exciting cause is potentially distressing or painful (a thrilling detective story) by carefully copying what other people did, she would manage to get through . . . this thrilling, agonizing, exquisite ordeal—Sackville-West)

why should not mind be able to pass on to mind its thrilled sense of a storm or a flower . . . ?—Montague

Electrify differs from thrill in suggesting effects comparable to those produced by an electric current that shocks rather than stuns; it implies a sudden, startling, and violent stimulation by a power that for the time being holds one obedient to its will or under its sway (the blue-eyed girl whose silvery tones and immense vitality had electrified audiences—Tomkins) she was not eating anything, she was using up all her vitality to electrify these heavy lads into speech—Cather

Enthuse can be used effectively in respect to an arousing of enthusiasm in someone or an experiencing of enthusiasm about something (Lubichov, enthused by the music of his native land, beat his baton with more and more zest—Brambrick) as a dogmatic theologian, the Bishop did not enthuse himself and he did not understand other people’s enthusiasms—Frank O’Connor

the War Dance [among Indians] was a ceremony to arouse the community and enthuse the warriors—Wissler

Ana excite, stimulate, galvanize, quicken (see PROVOKE)

*stir, arouse, rouse, rally: penetrate, penetrate, probe (see ENTER).

Enthrall *reversion, atavism

*please, regale, gratify, delight, rejoice, gladden

thump

*mark, brand, stamp, label, tag (see under MARK)

thump, knock, rap, *tap

* hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar: defeat, over-
tier

825
tirade

ankle) <a fillet binds her hair—Pope> <bind a person hand and foot> In extended use, especially when what is tied or bound is a person, both terms imply a deprivation of liberty and an imposed restraint. Tie, however, specifically suggests a being held down by something stronger than oneself and an inability to get away or free oneself <tied to a job> <tied to an unsympathetic wife> Bind, on the other hand, either suggests a being held together in a close union, for the sake of strength or mutual support <the common danger bound all classes together> <and vows of faith each to the other bind—Shelley> or a being held down by such a bond, as a pledge, a compact, a duty, or an obligation, or by a bond of blood, marriage, or friendship <and vows, that bind the will, in silence made—Wordsworth> "Are you engaged?" . . . "There's someone . . . We don't want to spoil things by having anything definite and binding" —Gibbons

Ana *fasten, attach: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor: *join, connect, link

Ant *untie

tier n *line, row, rank, file, echelon
tiff vb spat, bicker, quarrel, squabble, wrangle, altercate (see under QUARREL n)

Ana dispute, argue (see DISCUSS): *differ, disagree: *contend, fight
tight 1 Tight, taut, tense are comparable chiefly in their basic senses in which they mean drawn or stretched to the point where there is no looseness or slackness. Tight implies a drawing around or about something in a way that constricts or binds it or a drawing of the edges of something firmly together <a tight belt> <a tight coat> <Tom has eaten . . . till his little skin is as tight as a drum—Hughes> When applied to a structure, tight more often suggests a drawing together of all parts so that nothing can enter or escape <a tightly built house> <if the granary can enter or escape <a tightly

When there is an implication of tightness or tauntness that involves severe physical or, more often, nervous strain or that manifests itself in signs of such strain, tense may be preferred <a cat crouched for a spring, with muscles tense> <help him to unbend his too tense thought—Arnold> <just as a bicycle chain may be too tight, so may one's carefulness and conscientiousness be so tense as to hinder the running of one's mind—James> <the rat was crouching, very tense, sensing extreme danger, but not yet frightened—Dahl>

Ana strict, stringent (see RIGID): *close, compact: contracted, compressed, condensed, shrunken (see CONTRACT vb): snug, shipshape (see NEAT)

Ant loose

2 also tightfisted *stingy, close, closefisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheese-parring, penny-pinching

Ana *mean, ignoble, sordid, abject

3 tipsy, intoxicated, *drunk, drunken, inebriated

tight-lipped *silent, uncommunicative, taciturn, close, close-lipped, closed-mouthed, reticent, reserved, secretive
time n *opportunity, occasion, chance, break

Ana *juncture, contingency, emergency, exigency
timely well-timed, opportune, *seasonable, pat

Ana appropriate, fitting, meet, proper, suitable (see FIT): fortunate, *lucky, happy, providential

Ant untimely
timetable *program, schedule, agenda
timid, timorous both mean so fearful and apprehensive as to hesitate or hold back. Timid stresses lack of courage and daring and usually implies extreme cautiousness and fearfulness of change or of venturing into the unknown or uncertain <a timid investor> <a timid as a deer> <timid about making decisions> <a timid person would rather remain miserable than do anything unusual—Russell> Timorous stresses domination by fears and apprehensions; it implies a temporary or habitual frame of mind which causes one to shrink from an action or activity which requires independence, decision, or self-assertiveness and suggests terror rather than extreme caution <Murray, the most timorous, as Byron called him, of all God's booksellers—Scott> <in another moment she seemed to have descended from her womanly eminence to helpless and timorous girlhood—Wharton> <timorous and fearful of challenge—Mencken>

Ana *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: *cautious, circumspect, calculating, wary, chary

Con *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, bold, audacious

timorous *timid

Ana *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: recoiling, shrinking, quailing, blenching (see RECOIL): trembling, quivering, shivering, shuddering (see SHAKE)

Ant assumed
tincture n *touch, suggestion, tinge, suspicion, soupçon, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak
tinge n 1 tint, shade, hue, *color, tone

2 tincture, *touch, suggestion, shade, suspicion, soupçon, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak
tint n hue, shade, *color, tinge, tone

tiny minute, miniature, diminutive, wee, *small, little, teeny, weeny

tippler *drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tosspot

tipsy intoxicated, inebriated, *drunk, drunken, tight

tirade, diatribe, jeremiad, philippic can all mean a violent, often long-winded, and usually denunciatory speech or writing. Tirade implies a swift emission of heated language, sometimes critical, sometimes abusive, but usually long-continued and directed against persons or things that the speaker or writer believes worthy of castigation <screaming a tirade of protest and rage—Davenport> <the King . . . had . . . to impose silence on the tirades which were delivered from the University pulpit—J. R. Green> Diatribe carries a stronger implica-

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
tion of bitterness and, often, of long-windedness than
tired (a rambling, bitter diatribe on the wrongs and
sufferings of the laborers—Kingsley) (a diatribe in some
... paper which neglected to mention what I had said, it
merely indicated that it had been awful—Mailer)
Jere-
miad stresses the implication of dolefulness or lugubri-
ousness, but it usually applies to a diatribe in that strain
(a jeremiad against a civilization that values knowledge
above wisdom—Durrell) Philippic applies to an oration
or harangue that constitutes a denunciatory attack filled
with acrimonious invective and often directed against a
public person, a way of life, an aggressive power, or some
dictatorial assumption (gave full rein to his mingled
exasperation and boredom in a philippic so withering
that it roused a lethargic Senate—S. H. Adams) (de-
ivered a violent philippic against democracy—S. R. L.)
Ana harangue, oration, *speech: invective, vituperation,
*abuse: denunciation, censure, condemnation (see corre-
sponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

Ant eulogy
tire vb Tire, weary, fatigued, exhaust, jade, tucker can
all mean to make or in some cases to become disinclined
or unable to continue because of loss of strength or en-
durance. Tire is the general and ordinary word and usually
implies the draining of one's strength or patience; it may
suggest such causes as overexertion, long continuance at
a task, boredom, or a sense of futility and usually it re-
quires textual amplification to indicate the cause and the
degree of the effect (it tires me to death to read how many
ways the warrior is like the moon, or the sun, or a rock,
or a lion, or the ocean—Walpole) (music that gentler
on the spirit lies, than tired eyelids upon tired eyes—
Tennyson) (spoke exclusively from the larynx, as if he
were altogether too tired to put any diaphragm breath
into his words—Salinger) (we shall not fail or falter; we shall
not weaken or tire—Sir Winston Churchill) Weary as
often suggests an incapacity for enduring more of the same
thing or an unwillingness to continue one's effort or one's
interest as a depletion of that strength or that interest
the others would never even raise their eyes when this
happened, as men too well aware of the futility of their
fellows' attempts and wearied with their useless repetition
—Kipling) (ah, I am worn out—I am wearied out— it is
too much—I am but flesh and blood, and I must sleep—
Milroy) (I have only one prayer—that I weary of you
before you tire of me—Mailer) (wearied of her husband's
infidelities, and could not bear them any more—Rose
Macaulay) Fatigue is stronger than tire and implies
great lassitude brought on by overstrain or undue effort.
It usually implies an incapacity for further strain or effort
without damaging effects (I rested ... in a shrubbery,
being, in my enfeebled condition, too fatigued to push on
—H. G. Wells) (she flung herself upon a sofa, protesting
... that she was fatigued to death—Burney) Exhaust
(see also DEPLETE) heightens fatigue's implications of
drained strength or a worn-out condition of mind or of
body (she is too exhausted to sleep) (exhausted and
added by the frustration of their failures—Mailer) Jade
implies weariness or fatigue that makes one lose all
freshness, spirit, animation, or interest and become dull
and languid. The term seldom carries as clear a suggestion
of physical or mental overexertion as fatigue and often
implies sateyn even more clearly than weary; it is es-
specially useful when the implication of overindulgence in
something or the overworking of a particular sense or
faculty is to be conveyed (to minds jaded with debauches
of overemphasis it does contrive to give a thrill—Monta-
gue) (to the jaded... eye it is all dead and common...
flatness and disgust—James) Fag implies work until
one droops with weariness or fatigue (I worked ... at
correcting manuscript, which fags me excessively—Scott)
(with a gasp for breath said, "Lord, what a run. I'm
fagged to death")—Masefield) Tucker closely approaches
fatigue or exhaust in meaning but sometimes carries the
additional suggestion of loss of breath (too tuckered
to finish a job—Leavitt) (seemed tuckered out from listening
to long speeches—Dorothy Canfield)

Ana irk, vex, *annooy, bother: *deplete, drain, exhaust,
impoverish, bankrupt
tireless *indefeatable, wearless, untiring, unwearied,
unwearied, unflagging
Ana assiduous, sedulous, diligent, industrious, *busy:
energetic, strenuous. *vigorous
tiresome *irksome, earsomeseme, tedious, boring
Ana oppressive, burdensome, *onerous, exacting: fa-
tiguing, exhausting, jading, faging (see TIRE vb): arduous,
*hard, difficult
titanic *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine,
mammoth, giant, gigantic, giganticol, colossal, garguantan,
Herculean, cyclopean, Brobdingnagian
title n 1 *claim, pretension, pretense
Ana *right, privilege, prerogative, birthright: *reason,
ground, argument, proof; *due, desert, merit. 2 *name, designation, denomination, appellation, style
titre *particle, bit, mime, smidgen, whit, atom, iota, jot
牢固 n *parasite, syphonic, favorite, licksiptte, boot-
licker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, sponger
toady vb *fawn, truckle, cringe, cower
Ana *follow, tag, trail, trail bllandish, cajole, wheedle
(see COAX)
toboggan vb coast, *slide, slip, glide, skid, glissade, slither
tocsin *alarm, alert
Ana signal, *sign
toll n labor, *work, travail, drudgery, grind
Ana *effort, exertion, pains, trouble: employment, occu-
pation, calling, pursuit, business (see WORK)
Ant leisure
token 1 *sign, mark, symptom, badge, note
Ana *symbol, emblem, attribute: *evidence, testimony:
indication, proving or proof, betokening (see corre-
sponding verbs at INDICATE)

2 *pledge, earnest, pawn, hostage
Ana *guarantee, guaranty, security, surety
3 *remembrance, remembrance, reminder, memorial,
memento, keepsake, souvenir
Ana *gift, present, favor

tolerance forbearance, leniency, indulgence, clemency,
mercifulness (see under FORBEARING)
Ana *mercy, charity, grace, lenity: *patience, long-
suffering, longanimity
Ant intolerance: loathing
tolerant *forbearing, lenient, indulgent, clement, merciful
Ana *charitable, benevolent, humane: forgiving, ex-
cusing, condoning (see EXCUSE vb)
Ant intolerant: severe
tolerantly forbearingly, clemently, mercifully, leniently,
indulgently (see under FORBEARING)
tolerate endure, abide, *bear, suffer, stand, brook
Ana accept, *receive: submit, *yield, bow, succumb

tone *color, hue, shade, tint, tinge
tongue *language, dialect, speech, idiom
tongue-lash vb upbraid, rate, berate, *scold, jaw, bawl,
cheek out, wig, rail, revile, vituperate

too *also, likewise, besides, moreover, furthermore
Ant *implement, instrument, appliance, utensil
Ana *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget: *machine,
mechanism, apparatus: *mean, instrument, instrumental-
ity, agent, agency
toothsome *palatable, appetizing, savory, sapid, tasty, flavorsome, relishing
topper *drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, tosspot, tippler
topic *subject, matter, subject matter, argument, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv
torrent vb torture, rack, *afflict, try
ana *worry, annoy, harry, harass, plague, pester: distress, *trouble; *bait, badger, hector: agonize, *writhen
tornado *whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, water-spout, twister
torpid *lethargic, sluggish, comatose
ana inert, *inactive, idle, passive: phlegmatic, *impassive, stolid
ant agile
torpidity torpor, stupor, *lethargy, languor, lassitude
ana inertia, inactivity, idleness, passiveness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive)
torpor*torpor, stupor, *lethargy, languor, lassitude
ana apathy, phlegm, impassivity, stolidity (see under IMPASSIVE): inertia or inertia, passiveness, inactivity (see corresponding adjectives at inactive)
ant animation
torrent n *flood, deluge, inundation, spate, cataract
tortuous *winding, sinuous, serpentine, flexuous
ana *crooked, devious: roundabout, circuitous, *indirect
torture vb rack, torment, *afflict, try
ana *writh, agonize: persecute, oppress, *wrong: *distress, trouble; *worry, annoy, harry, harass: *maim, mutilate, mangle
toss vb pitch, sling, *throw, cast, fling, hurl
ana impel, drive (see MOVE vb): thrust, propel (see PUSH vb)
tosspot*drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tippler
tot vb total, *add, sum, cast, figure, root
total adj *whole, entire, all, gross
ana complete, *full, plenary: including or inclusive, comprehending or comprehensive (see corresponding verbs at inclusive)
total n *sum, aggregate, whole, amount, number, quantity
total vb tot, *add, sum, figure, cast, foot
totalitarian adj Totalitarian, authoritarian, as applied to a government or state, require discrimination, for, although applicable to the same states, they actually carry a different emphasis. Totalitarian implies as an objective an undivided state in which all power, whether political, economic, commercial, cultural, or religious, is vested in the government and in which the people as a unit sanction and support this government and obey its orders. Practically, it implies toleration of but one political party, the one which supports the government, and the concentration of authority in the hands of one person or group, theoretically the mouthpiece of the people. Authoritarian implies a type of governmental organization in which professedly as well as actually all political power is ultimately concentrated in the hands of an individual head (as a sovereign, a leader, or a dictator) and not (as in democratic countries) in the people or in a representative body. No matter how the various powers vested in the government may be distributed for practical purposes, an authoritarian state is so organized that the final and determining authority is its head. Practically an authoritarian government, though professing political power, often extends its control over the economic and cultural life of the people; thus, Italy, with the rise of Mussolini and the Fascists to power in 1922, became an authoritarian state; Germany, with the election of Hitler as Chancellor in 1933, became a totalitarian state.
contact with another, but in general it implies little more than an appreciable trace (in the air was a touch of frost—Galsworthy) (he was a very active lad, fair-haired, with a touch of the Dane or Norwegian about him—D. H. Lawrence) (occasionally the wrinkled serenity of her face became a touch grim—Styron) Suggestion implies an outward sign that is just enough to give one a hint or an inkling of the presence or existence of something (his voice conveyed a suggestion of fear) (the taste of the fowl delicately dominant over the tart suggestion of Burgundy—Wouk) Suspicion and soupçon differ little from suggestion, but they tend to imply a fainter trace requiring more delicate perception or evoking less certainty (tea with a suspicion of brandy) (add a soupçon of red pepper) (just a suspicion . . . of saturnine or sarcastic humor—A. W. Ward) (a soupçon of army rank had slipped . . . insidiously into his voice—Salinger) Tincture, tinge, and shade are terms used primarily in describing color. Tincture and tinge usually imply an admixture with something that gives the thing affected a faint or an appearance suggestive of a slightly suffused coloring (what he said had plausibility and perhaps a tincture of sincerity—Hackett) (both young men were Whigs of a radical tincture—Current History) (a subjective tinge entered into the nineteen-century description of nature—Jean) (eyes that . . . had some tinge of the oriental—Edmund Wilson) Shade implies enough of a trace to suggest the smallest possible degree of some quality; it usually derives its implications from the meaning of shade as a gradation in the darkening of a color (he smiled; in that smile there was a shade of patronage—Galsworthy) (eyes that were too small and a shade too close together—Dahl) (the distinction between French plums and stewed prunes is . . . not to be overlooked by those sensitive to these nice shades—Sackville-West) Smack, spice, and dash are used primarily in relation to the stimulation of the sense of taste. Smack suggests a trace which is pronounced enough or decided enough for one to savor it (the Saxon names of places, with the pleasant, wholesome smack of the soil in them—Arnold) Spice and dash suggest a slight admixture or infusion, especially such as gives zest, relish, or pungency (there was a spice of obstinacy about Miss of obstinacy about Miss George Elioty) (a king of England should have a spice of the devil in his composition—Smollett) (he is a man with a dash of genius in him—Arnold) (his ancestry was chiefly English, with some Scotch and a dash of both French and Dutch—Kellogg) Vein, strain, and streak all suggest linearity and imply continuity though not necessarily evident continuity to the thing, usually a quality or condition, so designated. Vein applies to a trace that runs through a personality, a work, or a movement in the manner of a vein so that it lies below or within the substance or character of the thing as a whole and occasionally shows on the surface or crops out (in Swift he discovered an inimitable vein of irony—Johnson) (he had always had a vein of childish obstinacy—M. E. Freeman) Strain and streak can both denote a distinctive characteristic that runs through and modifies the whole of which it is a part (throughout the speech . . . ran a curious strain, as though he himself were dazed at the fix he had got himself into—Shirley) They are used especially of a personal characteristic that is clearly distinguishable from or even contrasts sharply with the rest of one's qualities (a strain of eccentricity, amounting in some cases almost to insanity—L. P. Smith) (the streak of extreme stubbornness . . . was both his strength and his misfortune—Galsworthy) (a streak of Indian blood in him—Long) Ana *trace, vestige: contamination, pollution, defilement, tainting (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE): *impression, impress, imprint, stamp, print touching affecting, *moving, impressive, poignant, pathetic Ana *tender, responsive, sympathetic, compassionate: *pitiful, pitious, pitiable touchstone criterion, *standard, gauge, yardstick Ana test, proof, trial, demonstration (see under PROVE) touchy *irascible, choleric, splenetic, testy, cranky, cross Ana *irritable, fractious, snappish, wapish, peevish: captious, cauliving, faultfinding, carping (see CRITICAL) Ant imperturbable tough tenacious, stout, sturdy, *strong, stalwart Ana resisting or resistant, withstanding, opposing (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): *firm, hard: intrac- table, refractory, recalcitrant, headstrong (see UNRULY): dogged, pertinacious, *obstinate, stubborn Ant fragile tour n 1 shift, trick, turn, *spell, stint, bout, go 2 *journey, voyage, trip, cruise, expedition, jaunt, excursion, pilgrimage tow vb tug, haul, hale, *pull, draw, drag tower vb mount, ascend, soar, rocket, *rise, arise, levitate, surge toxic *poisonous, venomous, virulent, mephitic, pestilent, pestential, misamiasic, miastic, misamial toxin *poison, venom, virus, bane toy vb *trifle, dally, flirt, coquet Ana *play, sport, disport, frolic: fondle, *caress, pet, cosset, cuddle, dandle trace n Trace, vestige, track can all mean a visible or otherwise sensible sign left by something that has passed or has taken place. Trace basically applies to a line (as of footprints) or a rut made by someone or something that has passed (follow the traces of a deer through the snow) (the clear trace of a sleigh) (when the hounds of spring are on winter's traces—Swinburne) The term is often extended to suggest a mark, whether material or immaterial, that is evidence of something that has happened or has influenced a person or thing (the child carefully removed the traces of jam from his mouth) (would tell him they had detected in the book some slight traces of a talent which . . . could be schooled to produce, in time, a publishable book—Wolfe) (the stimulation of violent emotions may leave permanent traces on the mind—Inge) Vestige may be preferred to trace when the reference is to something that remains or still exists to give evidence of or testimony to the existence of something in the past; it often applies to remains (as a fragment, a remnant, or a relic) that constitutes a tangible or sensible reminder of what has gone before (of this ancient custom no vestige remained—Gibbon) (the vestiges of some knowledge of Latin still appear . . . in his sentences—The Nation) (some embryonic organs neither disappear nor take on permanent function, but rather persist throughout life as vestiges—Arey) (a remote outpost, with only a vestige of its former commerce in livestock—P. E. James) Track has come to be used more often than trace in the sense of a line of perceptible marks, especially in hunting, where it also may mean the scent followed by the hounds, and in geology, where it usually means a line of fossilized footprints (the hounds are on the track of the fox) (the track of a dinosaur) (he could just discern the marks made by the little feet on the virgin snow, and he followed their track to the furze bushes—George Eliot) Ana *sign, mark, token trace vb *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate, draft, plot, blueprint Ana copy, duplicate, reproduce (see corresponding nouns at REPRODUCTION): map, chart, graph (see under CHART n)
tracing n sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, plot, blueprint (see under sketch vb)
Ana *reproduction, copy, duplicate: *plan, project, scheme, plot, design

track n *trace, vestige
Ana print, stamp, imprint (see IMPRESSION): *sign, mark, token

tract n *area, region, zone, belt
Ana *expanses, stretch, spread, amplitude: *locality, district, vicinity: section, sector, *part, portion

tractable amenable, biddable, docile, *obedient
Ana pliable, *plastic: submissive, subdued (see TAME): *compliant, acquiescent

Ant intractable: unruly —Con un governable, refractory, headstrong, willful (see UNRULY): stubborn, *obstinate

trade n 1 Trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession are general terms which designate a pursuit followed as an occupation or means of livelihood and requiring technical knowledge and skill. Trade is applied chiefly to pursuits involving skilled manual or mechanical labor and the management of machinery or tools (the trade of a carpenter) (a blacksmith’s trade) (he is a plumber by trade) Craft is not always clearly distinguished from trade, but it tends to be used of those pursuits that involve not only manual or mechanical labor but allow more or less freedom for the exercise of taste, skill, and ingenuity; many of the crafts were once or are still carried on independently in the small shop or home; thus, weaving, tailoring, and goldsmithing are often spoken of as crafts; the village shoemaker practised a craft, but the later in a modern shoe factory follows a trade. Handicraft implies handwork or usually suggests dexterity in manipulation of instruments or of materials; in comparison with craft it tends to imply more definite independence from machinery and it more often applies to an activity carried on for other than purely economic reasons; thus, basketmaking, embroidery, lacemaking, and bookbinding are handicrafts when carried out with the use of simple hand tools whether the products are primarily a source of livelihood or not. Art as applied to an occupation (compare ART 1) implies the use of knowledge and skill by the practitioner and often comes very close to craft in such phrases as the manual arts, industrial arts, household arts, practical arts. But art, when unqualified, usually designates one of the creative pursuits (as painting or sculpture) that, whether practised as an occupation or an avocation, involve an elaborate technique, great skill, definite ends to be achieved, and the possession and exercise of highly personal creative judgment and taste. Further, art is so freely applicable to the general principles or underlying system of rules, methods, and procedures on which a trade or craft, or a creative pursuit, or a branch of learning or doing, or an aspect of human affairs is based, that it is often difficult, apart from the context, to determine whether the word denotes a pursuit or a technique (the art of navigation) (the art of interior decorating) (dancing as an art, a profession, an amusement—Ellis) (proficient in the art of self-defense—Shaw) (literature is an art and therefore not to be pondered only, but practiced—Quiller-Couch) Profession is, in general, applied only to a pursuit that requires prolonged study and training before one is ready to follow it as a means of livelihood; the term also often implies that one has undergone tests of one’s fitness and has won a degree or has given proof of one’s qualifications and has been licensed to practice; it often also implies devotion to an end other than that of personal profit or the earning of a livelihood (law, medicine, architecture, and teaching are professional)

tracing n sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, plot, blueprint (see under sketch vb)
Ana *reproduction, copy, duplicate: *plan, project, scheme, plot, design

track n *trace, vestige
Ana print, stamp, imprint (see IMPRESSION): *sign, mark, token

tract n *area, region, zone, belt
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transfiguration

transient

writing or deed plays an essential part in the transfer and is used chiefly of the transfer of real property and of ships. 

Alienate is not always clearly distinguished from transfer or convey; in precise legal use, however, it implies the passing of a title by the act of the owner as distinguished from its passing by the operation of the law (as in the case of inheritance by descent) (entailed property cannot be alienated) Alienate, however, may be used when the sale of property is not voluntary but is ordered or enforced by a court (as in foreclosure or in condemnation proceedings). In ordinary nonlegal use alienate often implies diversion (as by force or by a sovereign power or an imperative need) (he pleaded for the resumption by clerics of Church revenues alienated into lay hands—Bellow) Deed, a popular rather than a technical legal term, is equivalent to convey.
	ransfiguration transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification (see under transform)

An exaltation, magnification (see corresponding verbs at exalt): enhancing, heightening, intensifying (see intensify)

transfigure *transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify

Ana *exalt, magnify: heighten, enhance, *intensify

transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify can all mean to turn or change one thing into another or a different thing or from one form into another and different form. In general, the same differences in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration. Transform may imply a mere changing of outward form or appearance (a Hunter senior transformed into a bride floating in a white brilliant mist, on the arm of an awkward trapped-looking young man—Wouk) (the placid sunshine ... seems to have been transformed in a moment into impetuous angry fire—Pater) or it may imply a basic changing of character, nature, or function (transform electrical energy into light) (to Samarcand ... we owe the art of transforming linen into paper—Newman) (the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell) (too much organization transforms men and women into automatata—Huxley) Metamorphose may add implications not often present in transform such as that of a supernaturally or magically induced change (men were by the force of that herb metamorphosed into swine—Steele) or of a fundamental change in structure and habits that characterizes the development of some forms of animal life (the caterpillar is a larva which finally metamorphoses into a butterfly or moth) or of a transformation specifically induced by chemical or physical agencies (rocks metamorphosed by heat) In more general use the term carries a much stronger implication than transform of an abrupt, startling, or violent change (the little song ... later metamorphosed into one of the noblest chorales—P. L. Miller) (a convention of maidenly modesty has metamorphosed many a fine woman into an embittered, disillusioned old maid—Kyne) (if you deny man his intelligence, you metamorphose him into a machine) Transmute usually suggests a fundamental change, especially one involving a metamorphosis of a lower element or thing into a higher one (a simple romantic narrative transmuted by sheer glow or beauty into a prose poem—Galsworthy) (Shakespeare, too, was occupied with the struggle—which alone constitutes life for a poet—to transmute his personal and private agonies into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal—T. S. Eliot) (in order to transmute energy to higher and more subtle levels one must first conserve it—Henry Miller) Convert carries a slighter suggestion of change in kind, nature, or structure than the preceding terms but a stronger one of such changes in details or properties as fit something for a given use or function or for a new use or function (convert iron into steel) (nature converts the fallen trunks of trees into coal) (having conducted their lame guest to a room in the Georgian corridor hastily converted to a bedroom—Galsworthy) (every possible industry was converted to produce war goods—Morris Sayre) (that a new seam of richest material has been opened up and that poets are learning how to convert that raw material to their own uses—Day Lewis) Transmogrify implies a thorough-going metamorphosism that is often grotesque, bewildering, or even preposterous (see Social life and Glee sit down, all joyous and unthinking, till, quite transmogrified, they're grown Debauchery and Drinking—Burns) (wondering how the caricatured capitalism of his forebears can be transmogrified into a harmonious ... way of life—Current Biog.) (the classical heroes and heroines were transmogrified into medieval knights and ladies—Lowes) Transfigure is often interchangeable with transform or metamorphose (her face was transfigured by uncontrollable passion—Bennett) but more typically it suggests an exaltation or glorification of the outward appearance (Jesus ... was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun—Mr 17:1-2) (if she be guilty, 'twill transform her to manifest deformity ... if innocent, she will become transfigured into an angel—Shelley) (the moment when good verse ... is transfigured into a thing that takes the breath away—Day Lewis)

Ana *change, alter, modify, vary

transformation metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration (see under transform)

Ana change, alteration, modification, variation (see under change vb): evolution, *development

transgression trespass, violation, infraction, *breach, infringement, contravention

Ana encroachment, invasion, entrenchment (see corresponding verbs at trespass): slip, lapse, *error: *offense, sin, vice, crime

transient adj Transient, transitory, passing, ephemeral, momentary, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived are comparable when they mean lasting or staying only for a short time. Transient and transitory are often used as if they were interchangeable; but transient more frequently applies to what is actually short in its duration or stay (the summer hotel does not take transient guests) (transient sorrows—Wordsworth) (an ancient folk tradition whose resting-place was the Bronx—Geismar) and transitory, like its close synonym passing, to what is by its nature or essence bound to change, pass, or come to an end sooner or later (objects of sense ... are transitory and ephemeral—Thilly) (wise men will apply their remedies to ... the causes of evil which are permanent, not to ... the transitory modes in which they appear—Burke) (a passing fancy) (the confounding of the Passing with the Permanent—Austin) Ephemeral may imply existence for only a day (ephemeral insects) (ephemeral flowers) In extended use, it implies marked shortness of life or of duration (as of influence or appeal) (jazz is perishable, ephemeral, elusive—Balliett) Momentary implies duration for a moment or a similar very short time (a momentary irritation—Hardy) Fugitive and fleeting apply to what passes swiftly, and is gone; but fugitive carries a stronger implication of the difficulty of catching or fixing (oh joy! ... that nature yet remembers what was so fu—

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
transitory 831 trap
gitive!—Wordsworth) "both crucifix and river . . . offered contentment and poignant, fugitive hints of another world—Styron) and fleeting, of the impossibility of holding back or restraining from flight (a calm and studious expression, but touched with a curious, fleeting light of triumph—Styron) (a fleeting wisdom told her that . . . one does not love another for his good character—Hervey) Evansen
t implies momentariness, but it stresses quick and complete vanishing, and it usually connotes a delicate, fragile, or airy quality (evanescent visitations of thought and feeling . . . arising unforeseen and departing unbidden—Shelley) (all was unstable; quivering as leaves, evanescent as lightning—Hardy) "it is poetry of the most evanescent type, so tenuous in thought and feeling that only the most exquisite dictionary can justify its perpetuation in cold print—Grandgent) Short-lived implies extreme brevity of life or existence often of what might be expected to last or live longer (short-lived fame) (their satisfaction was short-lived) (trade unions have pressed their demands regardless of the fact that sellers' market conditions would be short-lived—The Scotsman)
Ant perpetual —Con *lasting, permanent, perdurable, stable, durable
transitory *transient, passing, ephemeral, momentary, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived
Ant everlasting: perpetual

translation, version, paraphrase, metathesis can all denote a restating in intelligible language of the meaning or sense of a passage or work or the passage or work that is the product of such a restatement. Translation implies a turning from one language into another (English translations of the Bible) (a literal translation) (translation is an art that involves the re-creation of a work in another language, for readers with a different background—Malcolm Cowley) Version (see also ACCOUNT 2) may be used in place of translation especially to imply a rendering that adheres rather to the spirit than to a literal translating of the original (the year 1632 saw a complete version of the Aeneid by Vicars—Conington) but often it is used to denote one of the translations of a given work, and especially of the Bible (the Authorized or King James Version) (the Douay Version is used by English-speaking Roman Catholics) Paraphrase may apply to a very free translation the purpose of which is to present the meaning rather than the phrasing of a passage or work (a translation must be a paraphrase to be readable—FitzGerald) It may apply also to an imitation with enough changes to obscure its indebtedness to an original in another tongue (L'atome) plays which were not paraphrases from the Greek—Buchan) Commonly, however, the term denotes a free, amplified, and often, interpretative rendering of the sense of a difficult passage in the same language (write a paraphrase of Milton's Lycidas) (paraphrases of the Psalms in the Authorized Version) Metaphrase is occasionally used by learned writers to denote a translation that is almost slavishly faithful to the original (what is often called a literal translation) to distinguish it from a paraphrase or free translation (the way I have taken [in a translation of the Aeneid] is not so straight as metaphrase, nor so loose as paraphrase—Dryden)
lucent lucid, pellucid, diaphanous, limpid, *clear, transparent
Ana luminous, radiant, brilliant, effulgent, *bright: iridescent, opalescent, *prismatic
transmit 1 forward, remit, route, ship, *send, dispatch 2 *carry, bear, convey, transport
Ana *move, remove, shift, transfer: *communicate, impart: propagate, breed, engender, *generate
transmogrification transformation, metamorphosis, trans-
mutation, conversion, transfiguration (see under TRANS-
FORM)
transmogrify *transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transfigure
transmutation transformation, metamorphosis, conversion, transfiguration, transfiguration (see under TRANS-
FORM)
transmute *transform, metamorphose, convert, trans-
mogrify, transfigure
transparent *clear, lucid, pellucid, diaphanous, translucent, limpid
Ant opaque —Con *turbid, muddy, roily
transpire *happen, occur, chance, befall, betide
transport vb 1 *carry, bear, convey, transmit
Ana *move, remove, shift, transfer: *bring, fetch, take 2 Transport, ravish, enrapture, entrance can all mean to carry away by strong and usually pleasurable emotion. Transport need not suggest that the transporting emotion is joy or delight; it may be an emotion (as rage, amaze-
ment, fear, or wonder) strong enough to exceed ordinary limits; usually, the term implies excessive agitation or excitement (the test of greatness in a work of art is . . . that it transports us—Read) (transported with rage)
Ravish can imply a seizure by emotion and in this use is typically an emphatic term for a being filled with joy or delight (his eye was ravished by a thin sunshine of daffodils spread over a meadow—Clementine Dane) (a sound of angelic chimes infinitely ravishing to my senses—Sabatini) (I was given my first taste of music in the high sense, and never, surely, could a youth from a small country town have been more ravished by such an experience—Hall) Enrapture basically implies a putting into a state of rapture and typically suggests an intense, even ecstatic, delight, often in one of the arts (he is enrapturing us with his extraordinary powers to make us see and feel beauty—Weldy) (he may never achieve a full understanding of the middle of the art that enraptures him—Tassovin) But sometimes enrapture stresses the bemping aspect of rapture and then tends to suggest a bedazzling and often a suppressing of the powers of clear thinking (gives him a weary skepticism before the enraptured claims—Schlesinger b. 1917) (his} personality simply has not enraptured the voters—Rowland Evans & Robert Novak) Entrance implies a throwing into a state of mind resembling a trance; it usually suggests a being held spellbound by something that awakens an overwhelming emotion (as joy, fear, or wonder) (entranced with this reverent gesture . . . her tentative approval of her cousin settled into awed respect—Hervey) (he felt his head whirl. Her complete abandon was entrancing—Buck) (the beauty of the land entranced them—Baily)
Ana quicken, stimulate, excite, *provoke: agitate, upset, perturb (see DISCOMPOSE): *lift, elevate 3 deport, *banish, exile, expatriate, extradite
Ana expel, *eject, oust
transport n *ecstasy, rapture
transpose *reverse, invert
Ana *exchange, interchange: transfer, shift (see MOVE)
trap n *lure, bait, decoy, snare
Ana stratagem, ruse, *trick, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, wile, feint; *ambush, ambushade: intrigue, machi-
nation, *plot, conspiracy
trap vb entrap, snare, ensnare, bag, *catch, capture
Ana seize, *take, clutch, grasp: betray, beguile, delude (see DECEIVE)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
treatise

disquisition, dissertation, thesis, monograph,
parley, negotiate, * confer, commune, consult,
treat

prize, value, *appreciate, cherish
vb
treasure

* sedition
treason

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb

vb
she calls their privacy—Basso
Ana intrusive, obtrude, interloge, butt in: interfere, interfere, interfere, interpose
trial 1 test, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE)
Ana inspection, examination, scanning, scrutiny (see under SCRUTINIZE): *process, proceeding, procedure
2 Trial, tribulation, affliction, visitation, cross are comparable when they denote suffering, misery, or unhappiness regarded as an infliction which cannot be escaped or avoided. Trial implies a trying (as of one's endurance, patience, self-control, courage, or power to resist temptation). The word is applicable not only to distressing situations or conditions but to persons or things that cause distress or annoyance (<the trials and tribulations of traveling over desert—T. D. Clark) he has always been a trial to his parents) <hotels are a trial of both spirit and flesh—Peffer> Tribulation, when not completely interchangeable with trial, heightens the emphasis on the suffering or anguish involved in trial (<out of this time of trial and tribulation will be born a new freedom and glory for all mankind—Sir Winston Churchill>) and often connotes divinely permitted suffering as a test of virtue (<the just shall . . . after all their tribulations long, see golden days—Milton>) Affliction stresses the implication of imposed suffering that challenges one's powers of endurance; the term need not suggest a relation between suffering and deserts (<if severe afflictions borne with patience merit the reward of peace, peace ye desire—Wordsworth>) <the dark and senseless afflictions of a night—Kenneth Roberts> Visitation heightens the implications of affliction by stressing the severity of suffering and by suggesting an ordeal; distinctively it often connotes retribution or retributive justice (<many people regarded the disastrous flood as a visitation> woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visiting—Jer 1:27) Cross in its applications closely parallels trial and tribulation but it may differ from them in its implications of suffering accepted and borne for the sake of a larger, unselfish good rather than as a test of character (<leaving her . . . solemnly elate at the recognition of the cross on which she must agonize for the happiness of some other soul—Deland>) The word often directly alludes to the words of Jesus to the rich young man: “Come, take up the cross, and follow me” as recorded in the Gospel according to Mark, or to his own carrying of the cross to the place of his crucifixion.
Ana *distress, suffering, misery, agony: *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, heartbreak: *misfortune, adversity: *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude, rigor
tribulation *trial, affliction, visitation, cross
Ana oppression, persecution, wrongdoing or wrong (<see corresponding verbs at WRONG>): *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe: *distress, suffering, misery, agony
Ant consolation
tributary adj *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, collateral
Ana conquered, vanquished, subjugated, subdued (see CONQUER): *auxiliary, subsidiary, ancillary, adjuvant, contributory
tribute n *encomium, eulogy, panegyric, citation
trick n 1 Trick, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, wile, deceit are comparable when they mean an act or an expedient whereby one seeks to gain one's ends by indirectness, craftiness, and cunning. Trick implies cheating or deceiving and often evil intention (<tricks and devices to conceal evasions and violations of ethical principles—Wagner> <she could not be entirely sure that . . . he was not after all merely using a trick to get rid of her—Bennett>) The word may, however, imply nothing more than roguishness or playfulness and be used to designate an antic, a prank, a practical joke, or a harmless hoax (the brothers surprised their sisters with a few play tricks on their sisters) <the tricks of the clowns in the circus> It may also be applied to a dexterous device or contrivance that pleases, persuades, deludes, or evokes surprise or wonder (<an auctioneer who knows all the tricks of his trade> <illusion in the theater is often accomplished by tricks of lighting> <that idle trick of making words jingle which men of Nufo's class in my country so greatly admire—Hudson>) Ruse implies an attempt to give a false impression (as by diverting others' attention from one's real purposes or by making what is untrue seem true) (<her "falling" through the glass sunlight . . . must be construed by him as a form of reckless intrepidity, the hardened ruse of a dyed-in-the-wool newspaper woman—Purdy>) <a favorite ruse of the opium smugglers was to insert a hypodermic needle into an egg, withdraw carefully all the albumen and then refill the cavity with opium—Heiser> Stratagem, though commonly applied to a ruse by which an advantage is gained over an enemy (as by outwitting or surprising him), is not restricted to military operations; in extended use it implies a clear objective such as entrapping or circumventing and a more or less elaborate plan for achieving one's end (<on our guard against the stratagems of evil rhetoric—R. M. Weaver>) <some women . . . are driven to every possible trick and stratagem to entrap some man into marriage—Shaw>) Maneuver usually suggests tactics or handling and moving of troops or ships for the accomplishment of definite ends. In extended use it commonly implies adroit or dexterous manipulation of persons or things (<the Longbourn party were the last of all the company to depart, and, by a maneuver of Mrs. Bennet, had to wait for their carriage a quarter of an hour after everybody else was gone—Austen>) It may, however, be applied to a single strategic move comparable to one in a game of chess (unless indeed, all her talk of flight had been a blind, and her departure no more than a maneuver—Wharton>) Gambit in chess denotes an opening that risks a pawn or minor piece to gain an advantage in position; in extended use it can apply to a device that is intended or serves to launch a conversation (<opened, safely as I thought, with the gambit of inquiring whether present conditions were satisfactory—Jeremy Potter>) <he could not, if he had pondered conversational gambits for an hour, have hit on a more successful one—Day Lewis>) <always carried turtle eggs in his pockets and bounced them on bars as a conversational gambit—Bergen Evans>) Perhaps more often the advantage-gaining aspect of the basic meaning of gambit is stressed, and the term is applied to a trick or tactic designed to gain its user a competitive advantage often by harassing or embarrassing an opponent (<from the Russian point of view it is no mere diplomatic gambit to keep Germany weak and disunited: it is a doctrine of self-preservation—Harold Nicolson>) (<if a stranger just ahead drops a rosemary, don't be opening gambit of the oldest trick in the world—Aldor>) <to avoid the multitude of taxes and assessments, the standard gambit of the peasant was to "dress poor" and "talk poor"—Idzerda>) Nobody could be sure whether his anti-market talk was real, or simply a Gaullist gambit designed to enhance the French bargaining position—Scheingold Ploy carries a suggestion of finesse and often of roguishness and can very close to come the last-mentioned value of gambit (<this summer's ploy in the game of onepalmanship, is to holiday in Europe without doing the great museums. . . little out-of-the-way museums and provincial churches are admissible. But to

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
score special points one must visit really distinguished col-
lections in private houses—Genaue < (perhaps the most
common play of stockholders at annual meetings is im-
portant ideas on how the business should be run—Wall
Street Jour.) or it can be used of an individual maneu-
ver in the development of a gambit <subplays or in-
dividual maneuvers of a gambit are usually referred to as
ploys—Stephen Potter> However in their common con-
joined use gambit and ploy are seldom distinguishable
<demonstrates his Gamesmanship technique for inducing
embarrassment and discomfort, and offers ploys and
gambits for use against such rivals as fishing companions,
wine experts, and fellow club members—New Yorker>
<among the ploy and gambits the President may have used
in the process were the White House breakfast . . . the
fireside chat . . . the press conference . . . the dangled
patronage—Rossiter> Artifice suggests the employment
of devices or contrivances; it usually connotes ingenuity,
but it need not connotate an intent to deceive or overreach
<the artifices by which friends endeavor to spare one
another’s feelings—Shaw> <he was witnessing a remark-
able performance? No! Not a show of artifice . . . but a genuine
creative effort—Hervey> Wile usually suggests an attempt
to entrap or ensnare by allurements or by false and
deceptive appearances; it may connote slyness and im-
posture, but it often suggests coquetry or an attempt to
charm <the Devil was helping him and made him sly and
foxyer than the fox with all the wiles, and the cunning,
and the craftiness—Farelly> <he was no longer a mild old man
to be worked on by the wiles of engaging youth, but a stern-
spoken person in high authority—Archibald Mar-
shall> Feint basically applies to a thrust (as of a rapier
or a fist) seemingly directed at one part of an opponent’s
body but actually designed to divert his attention and his
guards away from the part at which it is really aimed. In
extended use the term commonly implies the employment
of a stratagem or maneuver which distracts attention from
one’s actual intention until it is accomplished <I love to
think the leaving us was just a feint—Brown> <smiled
a little embarrassedly at his colleague who, whether in
feint or truth, was too occupied to take a part—Terry
Southern> <believed the dropping of parachutists was
merely an Allied feint to cover their main landings—
Shirer> 

Ana: *imposture, deceit, deception, counterfeit, humbug, fake,
cheat, fraud; *fun, jest, sport, game, play
2 turn, tour, shift; *spell, stint, bout, go

trick vb gulf, befool, hoax, *dupe, hoodwink, bamboozle
Ana: *deceive, delude, beguile, mislead; outwit, circum-
vent (see FRUSTRATE); cajole, wheedle, blandish, *coax

trickery *deception, double-dealing, chicanery, chicanery, fraud
Ana: *deceit, dissimulation, guile, cunning, duplicity;
imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, counterfeit

tricky *crafty, foxy, insidious, cunning, *sly, wily, guileful, artful
Ana: *crooked, devious, oblique; deceptive, delusive,
*misleading, delusory: deceitful; *dishonest

tried: *liable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty
Ana: staunch, steadfast, constant, *faithful; proved,
demonstrated, tested (see PROVE)

trifile, toy, daily, flirt, coquet can all mean to deal with a
person or thing without seriousness, earnestness, close
attention, or purpose. Trifle, the most comprehensive
term of the group, may be used interchangeably with any of
the others implying any of such varied attitudes as
playfulness, unconcern, indulgent contempt, or light
amourousness <dabbled in poetry, delivered ironical ora-
tions, . . . trifled with some of the radical doctrines then
current—Lerner> <knows when to be serious and when to
trike, and he has a sure tact which enables him to trifle
with gracefulness and to be serious with effect—Newman>
<she began to trifle with plans of retirement, of playing
in Paris, of taking a theatre in London, and other whims
—Shaw> Toy implies a dealing with a person or thing in
a way that keeps one pleasantly occupied but does not
engage one’s full attention or evoke serious intention
<since Plutarch, innumerable hands have toyed with his-
torical biography, but not until our time has it become
perfected as an art form—Mandel> <he lapsed into be-
coming an observer of life, toying on the margin of women
and politics—Lowenthal> <there is evidence that Au-
gustus, like Julius, toyed with the idea of giving the
Assemblies greater power and making them representa-
tive of the whole body of citizens in Italy—Buchan>
Daily stresses indulgence in something (as thoughts or
plans) as a pastime or amusement rather than as leading
to something definite or serious; it usually retains some
hint of deliberate dawdling, the notion predominant in another
of its senses <dallied with him, and liked him well enough,
but there was a hollow, glittering catch on her horizon—
Kathleen Fitzpatrick> Poetry . . . is not a mere exercise in
fancy, not a dallying with pretty little nothings—
Kibby> <for so, to interpose a little ease, let our frail
thoughts daily with false surmise—Milton>

Flirt, which in several of its senses implies quick jery movement,
in this extended use stresses vagrancy and superficiality of
interest, attention, or liking and often a tendency to
pass heedlessly from one person or concern to another
<German leaders were flirting with the idea of a deal
with Russia—Time> <the bright young people flirting
with new isms—O’Hearn> <afraid to have either war or
peace with the enemy, we flirt with both prospects—
Ascoli> Coquet primarily refers to a trifling in love,
such as is characteristic of a flirtatious woman <she
coquetted with the solid husbands of her friends, and with
the two or three bachelors of the town—Dorothy Parker>
but it is also used in reference to things which catch one’s
interest but with which one will not come fairly to terms
<there were none of those external indications of Christ-
mas which are so frequent at “good” Jewish houses . . .
Mrs. Henry Goldsmith did not countenance these coquet-
tings with Christianity—Sangwill>

Ana: palter, fib, equivocate, prevaricate; *lie; waver,
vaccillate, falter, *hesitate; dawdle (see DELAY)

trilling trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
once effective idea or expression in writing or art or a dramatic plot, lacking the power to evoke attention or interest because it lacks freshness. Tromp applies to something spoiled by too long familiarity with it and suggests commonplace or total lack of power to impress (theforegoing remarks doubtful sound tromp and commonplace—Cohen) (<t is as true as it is tromp to liken the desert to a sea and the camel to a ship—Coon) (<one could wish however that he had found a less tromp and commonplace way of ending his chapters—Geographical Jour.>)

Hackneyed, often interchangeable with tromp, stresses the idea of such constant use that all significance or force is dulled or destroyed (the hackneyed pictures we have seen again and again—C. M. Smith) (<used the hackneyed old theme of the vanity of earthly power for one of his best poems—Langer) (<a hackneyed and cheap melodrama> Stereotyped stresses an imitative quality and a usually total lack of originality or creativity (<most advertising today is stereotyped—using the same words, the same ideas that we have had for more than 50 years—Printers' Ink>)

A stereotyped novel about a young girl growing to womanhood—Threadbare applies to what has been used or exploited so much that its possibilities of interest have been totally exhausted (<when one writer hit upon a good phrase the others took it up and used it until it became threadbare—Walker>) (<this charge is becoming threadbare with repetition—Pollack>) (<our self-deceptive pretence of jollity at a threadbare joke—Howthorne>) Shopworn suggests a loss, from constant use, of some or most of the qualities that appeal or arouse interest (<there hardly exists a more shopworn plot than the one about the show that during its preparation has to battle against all sorts of obstacles to emerge in the end a sensational success—Baum>) (<when a book as unusual as this appears the old theme spoiled by too long familiarity with it and suggests commonplace or total lack of power to impress (<theoreofering remarks doubtless sound true as it is tromp to liken the desert to a sea and the camel to a ship—Collier's Yr. Bk.)>)

<their present chilly marital truce—Woolf>) (<putting <a volume of essays . . . where the parts of his complex and tortured spirit come together in a truce—Collier's Yr. Bk.>) (<wants a two or three year truce on tariffs—Vernon>)<truce also is appropriately used when the agreement is local rather than general <agree to a truce to bury the dead> or when there is a clear indication that no general or permanent termination of hostilities is proposed (<in international law, [truce is] an agreement between belligerent parties by which they mutually engage to forbear all acts of hostility against each other for some time, the war still continuing—Collegiate Law Dict.>)

Cease-fire is the most recent of these terms and is rarely used except in relation to actual military engagement. Basingly it applies to a literal order to desist from firing on an enemy <efforts to secure full observance of a cease-fire—Lie> As applied to a suspension of hostilities it may imply <an intermitting of acts of active hostility for the duration of a period of negotiation the cease-fire was over; the peace talks had failed—Newsweek> or as a preliminary step to -

<tediousness to find out what was the truce—Nation's Business>)

<that . . . . was what ailed the Jews: they never knew when they were whipped—Douglas>

Aana *dissolve, disquiet, disturb, perturb, upset, agitate: vex, irk, *annoy, bother

<inconvenience, incommodc, commodine Aana *emarrass, disconnect, disconnect, abash: *worry, annoy, plague, pester: perplex, *puzzle, distract

Trouble n *effort, exertion, pains Aana furry, fuss, ado, *stir, bustle, pother: labor, toil, *work: *difficulty, rigor, vicissitude, hardship

Trouper *actor, player, performer, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator

Truant n *vagabond, vagrant, tramp, hob, bum

Truce, cease-fire, armistice, peace are comparable when they mean a state of suspension of hostilities or an agreement for suspending hostilities. The first three terms are commonly interchangeable and each of them can sometimes replace peace, yet all four terms can so differ in emphasis and in connotation as to permit them to be used distinctively and with a degree of precision. Truce is the most general term and can apply to an understanding or agreement for the suspension of hostilities or to a resulting suspension, not only on the part of military forces and nations but equally in the case of disputes (as between labor and management) and of individuals engaged in disputing (<a volume of essays . . . where the parts of his complex and tortured spirit come together in a truce—F. H. Bullock>) Historically truce denotes an interruption of hostilities for a predetermined and specified period, and it remains the most appropriate term when this notion is prominent (<on Christmas Eve the Communist high command called a truce for the holidays—Collier's Yr. Bk.>) (<wants a two or three year truce on tariffs—Vernon>) Truce also is appropriately used when the agreement is local rather than general (<agree to a truce to bury the dead>) or when there is a clear indication that no general or permanent termination of hostilities is proposed (<in international law, [truce is] an agreement between belligerent parties by which they mutually engage to forbear all acts of hostility against each other for some time, the war still continuing—Collegiate Law Dict.>)

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<tediousness to find out what was the truce—Nation's Business>)

<that . . . . was what ailed the Jews: they never knew when they were whipped—Douglas>
cease-fire permanent—U. N. Bulletin) but more often it implies a cessation of hostilities for an indefinite period of time with the warring parties, typically in a state of military readiness, remaining in the positions they held at the time hostilities ceased or withdrawing a short distance to create a demilitarized zone and without the implication of a permanent peaceful settlement (the fighting should be stopped by an armistice agreement. A cease-fire leaving opposing forces where they now are would be unsatisfactory—Tillman Durdin) <press for a reduction in the military strength of the parties holding the cease-fire line—U. N. Background Papers> Cease-fire may additionally suggest the intercession of a neutral party in securing the cessation of hostilities <had two weeks in which to persuade Nationalists and Communists to quit shooting at each other before sitting down together; he arranged a cease-fire just 30 minutes before the conference began—Time> <cease-fire arrangements by the United Nations—Landis> and in supervising its observance <contribute contingents to the United Nations for . . . the supervision of agreed cease-fires—Munro> Armistice (in full, general armistice) basically applies to a formal agreement at the highest level for the laying down of arms and a suspension of military operations; though it does not ordinarily suggest a permanent state, it does commonly imply one that persists either indefinitely or until termination of hostilities by a peace treaty (an armistice is a written agreement, usually between the highest authorities of the warring powers, which suspends military operations for a definite or indefinite period of time. . . . A General Armistice is broader in scope, embodying both military and political principles and usually precedes peace negotiations—Coast Artillery Jour.) <no treaty followed the armistice, which was never more than an imperfect cease-fire—Liebling> But sometimes armistice (in full, local armistice) applies to a merely local or temporary suspension and is then indistinguishable from truce in a similar sense (an armistice is an agreement for the general cessation of active hostilities between two or more belligerents. Distinguished from general armistices are arrangements for a short-term or partial suspension of arms called local armistice or truce which may be made between commanders in the field, for a variety of purposes such as burying the dead. General armistices are made by commanders in chief, usually pursuant to political decision of the governments concerned. An armistice does not put an end to the state of war—Gross) In its occasional extended use armistice usually stresses the temporariness and uncertainty of the state (he had learned to live in the land and had established an uneasy armistice between himself and the hostility of rocks and elements—Mowat> Peace (compare peaceable and peaceful under Pacific) can denote a state of mutual concord between governments or more specifically the state resulting from the termination of hostilities (if ever there is to be a peace which is not an armistice, men must learn to live at least as well as they now know how to die—J. M. Brown) <today there is a truce in Korea. After 3 years of hostilities, we are now in the first year of an armed peace—Eisenhower> or it can apply to an agreement by which such a state is attained <the purpose of some overtures, it could be foreseen, would be to test out Allied solidarity by offering a tempting separate peace to one or the other—Feis> (the severely punitive peace ... which the Allies attempted to impose upon Turkey—Kennan) Unlike the other terms to truce imputes permanence or an intention of permanence to the state of or the agreement for suspension of hostilities <Adler says flatterly that there can be no peace between sovereign states; at best there can be nothing more than an uneasy "truce," a period of jockeying and diplomatic cheating preliminary to the next outbreak of armed conflict—Time> truckle *fawn, toady, cringe, cower Ana defer, succumb, bow, cave, *yield, submit: *follow, tag, trail, tail truculent *fierce, ferocious, barbarous, savage, inhuman, cruel, fell Ana intimidating, cowing, bulldozing, browbeating, bullying—(see INTIMIDATE): terrorizing, terrifying, frightening (see FRIGHTEN): threatening, menacing (see THREATEN) true 1 *faithful, loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute Ana *reliable, dependable, trustworthy, tried: persevering, persisting (see PERSEVERE): *sincere, whole-hearted, whole-souled, unfeigned Ant false (sense 2): fickle 2 *real, actual Ana genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide: exact, precise, *correct, right: typical, natural, *regular Ant false truism *commonspeak, platitudinous, bromide, cliché Ana triteness, threadbareness (see corresponding adjectives at TRITE): banality, jejune, inanity (see corresponding adjectives at INSIPID) trust n 1 Trust, confidence, reliance, dependence, faith can all mean the fact of feeling sure or the state of mind of one who feels sure that a person or thing will not fail him. Trust implies an absolute and assured resting on something or someone; it often suggests a basis upon other grounds than experience or sensible proofs. It is the most frequent term in religious use <O God . . . in thee is my trust—Ps 141:8> but it occurs also in secular use, especially when an intimate knowledge of or a deep affection for someone is implied <he was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust—Shak.> or when there has been no cause for changing an instinctive or intuitive judgment respecting a person's or thing's reliability <the ways in which some of the most highly placed and powerful figures in the state have betrayed the public trust—Armbrister> Confidence need not imply such definite grounds for one's assurances as the support of experience or of convincing evidence; when it does, it carries less suggestion of emotional factors than trust and a stronger implication of an assurance based upon the evidence of one's senses (those in whom we had no confidence, and who reposed no confidence in us—Burke) When it does not imply such grounds, it usually suggests less reliable grounds for that feeling than does trust <he had a . . . an unquenchable confidence in himself and a deep, burning sense of mission—Shirer> Reliance implies not only an attitude or feeling but also an objective expression of it in act or action <he had such reliance on the doctor's skill that he allowed himself to be operated upon at once> <his diffidence had prevented his depending on his own judgment in so anxious a case, but his reliance on mine made everything easy—Austen> <Mark had written out his Christmas sermon with a good deal of care and an excessive reliance on what other preachers had said before him—Mackenzie> Dependence differs from reliance chiefly in suggesting greater subordination of self <affectionate dependence on the Creator—Thomas Erskine> (he had a . . . mixture of conceit and terrible self-doubt, and . . . he shifted between extremes of emotional dependence and independence—Wouk> Faith (see also BELIEF 1) implies confidence, but it often suggests a degree of credulity or an unquestioning acceptance of something capable of being objectively tested and proved or disproved; it is often used when the person or thing in which one has faith is open to question or suspicion <he has great faith in a popular patent medi-
trust

cine) <my faith in Germanism had not wavered—H. S. Chamberlain>

An assurance, conviction, certitude, *certainty: *belief, faith, credence, credit

Ant mistrust

2 *monopoly, corner, pool, syndicate, cartel

trust vb *rely, depend, count, reckon, bank
An confide, entrust, *commit, consign: hope, *expect, look

trustworthy *reliable, dependable, trusty, tried
An *safe, secure: veracious, truthful (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH): staunch, constant, steadfast, *faithful: honest, *upright, scrupulous
Ant deceitful: dubious

trustly trustworthy, tried, *reliable, dependable
An *faithful, staunch, steadfast, constant

truth, veracity, verity, verisimilitude are comparable when they mean the quality or property of keeping close to the facts or to things as they are and avoiding such distortions as lies, fictions, or misrepresentations. Truth is a general term ranging in meaning from a transcendent idea to an indication of conformity with fact and of avoidance of error, misrepresentation, or falsehood (the truths of religion are more like the truths of poetry than like the truths of science: that is, they are vision and insight, apprehended by the whole man, and not merely by the analyzing mind—Times Lit. Sup.) (truth as the opposite of error and of falsehood—Eliot) Veracity usually implies rigid and unfailing adherence to, observance of, or respect for truth (question an opponent's veracity) his passion for veracity always kept him from taking any unfair rhetorical advantages of an opponent—Huxley) (I cannot, indeed, guarantee the absolute veracity of any of my apparently authentic law reports—Sutherland) Verity typically designates the quality of a state or thing in being true or entirely in accordance with factual reality or with what should be so regarded; sometimes the word designates what is marked by lasting, ultimate, or transcendent value (most primitive and national religions have also started out, naturally enough, with the assumption of their own verity and importance—Kroeger) (the old verities and truths of the heart, the old universal truths lacking which any story is ephemeral and doomed—love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice—Faulkner)

Verisimilitude describes the quality of a representation that causes one to accept it as true (to convey human nature in fiction requires the highest degree of verisimilitude: events that seem just like those of life as the reader's experience has led him to conceive of life must happen to people who seem just like human beings in a succession which seems just like the course of human affairs—E. K. Brown) (the mathematical picture . . . so far as we know . . . depicts the phenomena of nature with complete verisimilitude—Jeans)

An exactness, precision, correctness, rightness (see corresponding adjectives at CORRECT): authenticity, genuineness, veritableness (see corresponding adjectives at AUTHENTIC)
Ant untruths: lie, falsehood

try vb 1 test, *prove, demonstrate
An *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: inspect, examine, *scrutinize
2 *afflict, torment, torture, rack
An *worry, harass, harry, plague, pester; *trouble, distress: irk, vex, bother, *annoy
3 *attempt, endeavor, essay, strive, struggle
An *aim, aspire: *intend, mean, propose, purpose, design

try n attempt, endeavor, essay, striving, struggle (see under ATTEMPT vb)

An *effort, exertion, trouble, pains: test, trial, proof (see under PROVE)

tryst rendezvous, assignation, *engagement, appointment, date

tucker fatigue, exhausted, jade, fag, *tire, weary

An *deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt

tug vb tow, hale, haul, drag, *pull, draw

tumid *inflated, flatulent, turgid

An expanded, distended, swollen, dilated (see EXPAND): pretentious, *showy, ostentatious: bombastic, grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical

tumor, neoplasm, malignancy, cancer can all denote an abnormal growth or mass of tissue. Tumor, the most general term, is applicable to any such growth or mass in or on the surface of the body of a human being, animal, or plant (the term tumor literally means a swelling, and thus has been applied to the prominence caused by an overdistended bladder, to the enlargement of pregnancy, to the swelling produced by an abscess, to the overgrowth of tissue (hyperplasia) associated with injury and consequent inflammation, and to numerous other phases of true enlargement directly connected with recognized disease processes—Mohler) Neoplasm often replaces tumor in technical use when the reference is specifically to a more or less unrestrained new growth of cells that serves no physiological purpose or to a mass formed by such growth (a neoplasm is an uncontrolled new growth of tissue—Shields Warren) Malignancy in application to a neoplasm denotes a growth that because of unrestrained proliferation and tendency to spread and invade other tissues constitutes a danger to life. This use, though deplored by some purists, is common in technical literature and often used euphemistically in discussion with a patient or his associates. Cancer is the usual popular and technical term for a malignant neoplasm, though sometimes it is applied specifically to such neoplasms arising in epithelial tissues (as skin or membrane) which are more often distinguished as carcinomas from the other great class of cancers, the sarcomas, that originate in non-epithelial tissues (as bone, muscle, or connective tissue).

tumult *commotion, agitation, turmoil, turbulence, confusion, convulsion, upheaval

An agitation, perturbation, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): uprising, insurrection, *rebellion, revolt, mutiny: disorder, unsettlement (see corresponding verbs at DISORDER): *din, uproar, pandemonium

tune n *melody, air

tune vb *harmonize, attune
An *adjust, regulate, fix: *adapt, accommodate, reconcile, conform

turbid, muddy, roily are comparable when they mean not clear or translucent but clouded with or as if with sediment. Turbid describes something (as a liquid or, in extended use, an idea, affair, or feeling) which is stirred up and disturbed so that it is made opaque or becomes obscured or confused (the turbid water of a river in flood) (careless handling of a bottle makes wine turbid) (the turbid ebb and flow of human misery—Arnold) (the air without had the turbid yellow light of sandstorms—Cather) (turbid feelings, arising from ideas not fully mastered, had to clarify . . . themselves—H. O. Taylor)

Muddy describes something which is turbid or opaque as a result of being mixed with mud or with something suggestive of mud or which is merely mud-colored (muddy coffee) (a muddy pond) In extended use the term carries a stronger suggestion than turbid of a dull, heavy, or muddled character (a muddy complexion) (a muddy

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
turbulence  

thinker, but a superb artist—J. D. Adams> [the muddy and slow-moving plot has something to do with spying and countering—H. H. Holmes] Rolly describes something which is turbid and agitated [where the roily Monongahela meets the clear Allegheny—Weed] [the human rubble . . . washed up by the roily wake of the war—Woodburn]  

Ana obscure, *dark, murky: *dirty, foul, nasty  

Avt clear: limpid  

turbulence *commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, confusion, convulsion, upheaval  

Ana *din, uproar, babel, pandemonium: agitation, perturbation, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)  

turgid tumid, *inflated, flatulent  

vb turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, eddy, swirl, pirouette can all mean to go or move or cause to go or move in a circle. Turn is a general rather colorless word implying movement in circle after circle or in a single full circle or through an arc of a circle. It is interchangeable with most of the other terms in their less specific uses [a wheel turning on its axle] [turned to speak to his friend] Revolve may suggest regular circular motion on an orbit around something exterior to the item in question [the earth revolves around the sun] It may refer to the dependence of the less important, the secondary, on something cardinal or pivotal which resolves or determines [though local questions, such as the State Bank and state aid to railroads, gave rise to sharp contests, politics usually revolved around national questions—A. B. Moore] [everything in that house revolved upon Aunt Mary—Deland] Rotate is likely to suggest a circular motion on an interior axis within the thing under consideration which may be not moving otherwise [the earth rotates on its axis while it revolves in its orbit] Gyrate may suggest the regularity of revolve, but it is more likely to be used to indicate a fluctuating or swinging back and forth which describes circular or spiral patterns [stocks gyrated dizzyly on uncertainty over the foreign situation—Wall Street Jour.] [a low cloud of dust raised by the dog gyrating madly about—Conrad] Circle basically applies to a movement around in a more or less circular pattern, but it can also be used with reference to a lack of straight directness in a winding course [a flock of black ibises circled high overhead wheeling endlessly on the ascending air currents—Dillon Ripley] [the essayist's license to circle and meander—Wooll] or, specifically, to a curved or arched course followed in avoiding something [the soldiers were circling homewards in high spirits at a safe distance from the war area—Walt]  

Spin implies rapid sustained rotation on an inner axis or fast circling around an exterior point [he who but ventures into the outer circle of the whirlpool is spinning, ere he has time for thought, in its dizzy vortex—Bayard Taylor] Twirl can add to the ideas of spin those of dexterity, lightness, or easy grace [this . . . book . . . I toss i t the air, and catch again, and twirl about—Browning] Whirl stresses force, power, speed, and impetus of rotary or circular motion [and collections of opaque particles whirled to shore by the eddies—Bartram] [the withered leaves had gathered violence in pursuit, and were whirling after her like a bevy of witches—Glasgow] Wheel may suggest either going in a circular or twisted course or turning on an arc or curve to a new course [a familiar sight is the turkey vulture wheeling against the skies to the north—Amer. Guide Series: Ariz.] [she had crossed the threshold to the porch, when, wheeling abruptly, she went back into the hall—Glasgow] Eddy suggests the circular movement, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, of an eddy; it may be used in situations involving indirectness, futility, or isolation from main currents [as the smoke slowly eddied away—Crane] [the dead leaves which eddied slowly down through the windless calm—West] [waves of friends and reporters eddied through the . . . apartment—Time] Swirl suggests more rapidity, flow, or graceful attractiveness than eddy [further than ever comet flared or vaprant star dust swirled—Kipling] [the black water was running like a millicre and raising a turbulent coil as it swirled and tossed over the ugly heads of jutting rocks—Costain] [her dark hair swirled about her face—Helen Howe] Pirouette suggests the light graceful turning of a ballet dancer [ashes pirouetted down, coquetting with young beeches—Tennyson]  

Ana *swing, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate, undulate  

2 Turn, divert, deflect, avert, shee are comparable when they mean to change or cause to change course or direction. Turn is the most comprehensive of these words and the widest in its range of application. It may be used in reference to any change in course or direction of something movable, no matter how small or how large an arc is traversed, but it usually requires qualification [here the river turns slightly to the north] [the turn of the car just in time to avoid a collision] the force of the impact turned the boat completely around] It may also be used in reference to something (as things that show a drift, a bent, or a tendency or persons or things that can respond to an influence) which follows a figurative course or proceeds in a definite direction [turn the conversation to livelier topics] [turn public opinion against a person] [turn an enemy into a friend] [even the younger men had turned against me—Yeats] [in his need his thoughts turned to the sea which had given him so much . . . congenial solitude—Conrad] Divert may be preferred to turn when there is an implication of an imposed change in an existing or a natural course or direction [divert a river by providing a new channel] [the unfounded belief that a lightning rod is capable of diverting lightning from a building it is about to strike] [the machinery of our economic life has been diverted from peace to war—Attlee]  

When used in reference to a person's concerns (as thoughts, interests, attention, or intentions) it often presupposes mental concentration, fixation of attention, or resoluteness of purpose; therefore, when an attempt to alter the situation (as by distracting, dissuading, or sidetracking) is to be suggested, divert is the appropriate word [hard to divert his attention when he is engrossed in study] [had I spoke with her, I could have well diverted her intent—Shak.] [could France or Rome divert our brave designs, with all their brandies or with all their wines?—Pope] Deflect, in contrast to divert, implies a turning (as by bouncing, refracting, or ricocheting) from a straight course or a fixed direction [deflect a ray of light by passing it through a prism] [deflect a magnetic needle] In its technical use, deflect is used to suggest purpose or interests that pursue a rigid or clearly defined course or direction; consequently the word sometimes connotes deviation or aberration ( he underwent all those things— but none of them deflected his purpose—Bello] [after
all, she had perhaps purposely deflected the conversation away from her own affairs—Wharton. Avert implies a turning away from what is before one physically or mentally; it is used chiefly in reference to something at which one has been looking or of which one has been thinking and carries commonly a strong implication of avoidance and, often, a further suggestion of repugnance (tried to avert her eyes; but like a child irresistibly drawn to peek at the monster in a horror movie... kept glancing at Mr. Greech—Wouk).

Sheer is used basically in reference to the turning of a boat or ship from its course especially in an emergency (the yachts sheered to so that their captains could speak to each other) (sheer off the boat just in time to avoid collision with a rock). In its extended use the word commonly implies a sudden or conspicuous turning aside from a path or course that has been followed (an age when the interests of popular liberty and of intellectual freedom had sheered off from the church—J. R. Green).

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ultimote 1 last, latest, final, terminal, concluding, eventual

ultimate 1 last, latest, final, terminal, concluding, eventual

ultimate 2 Ultimate, absolute, categorical, despite great differences in implications, mean in common so fundamental as to represent the extreme limit of actual or possible knowledge. Something ultimate represents the utmost limit of actual or possible knowledge. It may be considered the utmost limit of actual or possible knowledge. Something ultimate represents the utmost limit of actual or possible knowledge.
unbeliever
crudely—Terry Southern
Ana *uncertainty, doubt, dubity, dubiosity, skepticism
Ant belief
unbeliever freethinker, *atheist, agnostic, infidel, deist
unbiased impartial, dispassionate, *fair, just, equitable, uncolored, objective
Ana uninterested, disinterested, detached, aloof (see indifferent)
Ant biased
unburden *rid, clear, disabuse, purge
Ana disencumber, unload, discharge (see base words at BURDEN vb): *free, release, liberate
Ant burden —Con encumber, load, lade, weight, tax, saddle (see BURDEN)
uncalled-for gratuituous, wanton, *supererogatory
Ana *impartient, intrusive, officious: *foolish, silly, absurd, preposterous
uncanny *weird, eerie
Ana uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosity, skepticism, suspicion, mistrust can all mean a feeling of uncer- tainty about someone or something. Uncertainty stresses the lack of certainty or certitude that may range from a mere falling short of these to an almost complete lack of knowledge or conviction especially about the result or outcome of something <suffered an agonizing uncertainty concerning his son’s fate> <she drove without any uncertainty or hesitation as to her route—Deland> <if you are really in love, there is no uncertainty: there must not be, or else your marriage would always be... a gamble—MacInnes>
<waited in eagerness and impatience, and then in uncertainty, in anxiety, in hurt pride, in anger—Farrell>
Doubt implies both an uncertainty about the truth or reality or status of something and an inability to make a decision, often even after study or investigation; frequently the term implies such a feeling or state of mind in respect to religious beliefs or doctrines <he never felt a doubt of God’s existence> <there crept into the diary... signs of doubt and then of despair—Shirer> <longed for some reassurance in the midst of the dismay and doubt which possessed her—Gibbons>
<no man likes to have his intelligence or good faith questioned, especially if he has doubts about it himself—Henry Adams>
Dubity (compare dubious under DUBTFUL) comes closer to uncertainty than to doubt, for it stresses a lack of sureness rather than an inability to reach a decision as to where the truth lies. But it regularly carries, as uncertainty does not, a strong implication of wavering or of fluctuations between one conclusion and another <faith free from all dubity> <the twilight of dubity never falls upon him—Lamb> <cannot escape the dubieties and problems of his day... finds himself swerved from his certainties and confronted with the tenuousness of his preconceptions—Sat. Review>
Dubiosity is not always distinguishable from dubity <men... swallow falsities for truths, dubiosities for certainties—Bowrce>
Sometimes, however, it suggests not uncertainty, but vagueness, indistinctness, or mental confusion <had not cogitated long ere she pronounced distinctly and without a shadow of dubiosity: "My opinion is...”—Meredith>
Skepticism suggests in this, its general sense, an unwillingness to believe without demonstration or an incredulity while any plausible evidence to the contrary exists; it usually refers to a habitual or temperamental state of mind or to a customary reaction to something proposed for belief <an easy and elegant skepticism was the attitude expected of an educated adult; anything might be discussed, but it was a trifle vulgar to reach very positive conclusions—Russell> <has found that skepticism rather than dogmatism is the key to human freedom—New Republic>
Suspicion stresses conjecture or apprehension that someone or something is not true, real, or right or that he or it has worked or is working evil or injury, but it also implies that the conjecture or apprehension is accompanied by uncertainty or doubt, often to the extent that the term comes close to doubt <seized with unwonted suspicion of his own wisdom—Meredith> <a glance of defiant nonchalance which... became a look of suspicion, and, finally, of rude disdain—Terry Southern>
The most ordinary actions became... entangled in complicated webs of apprehension and suspicion—Gibbons>
<a stranger... regarded with suspicion, if not actual hostility—Hudson>
Mistrust (see also DISTRUST) implies doubt that is based upon suspicion and that therefore precludes the possibility of one’s having faith or confidence or trust in a person or thing <intracommunity bickering, conflict, and mistrust obscure the steady vision of extracommunity danger—A. E. Stevenson> <man is only weak through his mistrust and want of hope—Wordsworth>
Ana certainty —Con certitude, conviction, assurance (see CERTAINTY)
Uncircumscribed boundless, illimitable, *infinite, semipermanent, eternal
Ana circumscribed
Uncivil *rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, ungracious
Ana boorish, loutish, churlish (see under BOOR): brusque, blunt, gruff, crusty (see BLUFF)
Ant civil
Uncolored 1 colorless, achromatic
2 dispassionate, impartial, objective, unbiased, *fair, just, equitable
Ana common
Uncommunicative *silent, taciturn, reticent, reserved, secretive, close, close-lipped, closedmouthed, tight-lipped
Ana communicative
Uncconcerned *indifferent, incurious, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested
Ana *cool, collected, composed, nonchalant: apathetic, *impassive, stolid, phlegmatic
Ant concerned —Con solicitous, anxious, worried, careful (see under CARE)
Uncongenial unsympathetic, incompatible, *inconsonant, inconsistent, incongruous, discordant, discrepant
Ana *antipathetic, unsympathetic, averse: *repugnant, repellent, abhorrent, obnoxious
Ant congenial —Con companionable, cooperative, *social: pleasing, *pleasant, agreeable
Unconquerable *invincible, indomitable, impregnable, inexpugnable, unassailable, invulnerable
Ana conquerable
Unconstraint, abandon, spontaneity can all denote the free and uninhibited expression of one’s thoughts or feelings or the quality of mood or style resulting from a free yielding to impulse. Unconstraint is the most general term and may be used in place of either of the others, though it is less positive in its implication <the old red blood and stainless gentility of great poets will be proved by their unconstraint—Whitman>
Abandon adds to unconstraint the implication either of entire loss of self-control <weep with abandon> or of the absence or impotence of any influence hampering free, full, or natural expression of feeling <had the fire and abandon that alone
can arouse audiences to fever pitch—Copland) <jazz
is the passion of movement, excitement, abandon, sex—Overstreet> Spontaneity suggests an unstudied naturalness
and agreeable freshness of expression or manner; sometimes it connotes lack of deliberation and obedience
to the impulse of the moment (Keats' letters . . . have a
deceptive spontaneity which invites the mind to pass
over them . . . without pausing to penetrate below the
surface—Murry>
Ana spontaneity, impulsiveness, instinctiveness
(see corresponding adjectives at SPONTANEOUS): naturalness,
simplicity, unsophistication, ingenuousness, naïveté
(see corresponding adjectives at NATURAL)
uncouth *rude, rough, crude, raw, callow, green
Ana *awkward, clumsy, gauche
uncritical *superficial, shallow, cursory
Ant critical —Con discerning, discriminating, penetrat-
ing (see corresponding nouns at DISCERNMENT): comprehending, understanding, appreciating (see UNDER-
STAND)
uncutous *fusome, oily, oleaginous, slick, soapy
Ana bland, polite, smooth, diplomatic (see SUAVE):
obsequious (see SUBSERVIENT)
Ant brusque
undaunted *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, in-
trepid, valiant, valorous, dauntless, doughty, bold, auda-
cious
Ana resolute, staunch, steadfast (see FAITHFUL): *con-
fident, assured, sure, sincere
Ant afraid —Con *fearful, apprehensive: cowed, brow-
beaten, bullied (see INTIMIDATE)
under *below, beneath, underneath
undergo *experience, suffer
Ana *bear, endure, abide, tolerate: accept, *receive:
Ant *digest, delve: expose, exhibit, *show: *reveal, dis-
Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable
underlying n *inferior, subordinate
Ant leader, master
underlying basic, *fundamental, basal, radical
Ana *essential, cardinal, vital, fundamental: requisite,
indispensable, necessary, *needful
undermine *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, sap, cripple,
disable
Ana *ruin, wreck: injure, damage, impair: thwart, foil,
*frustrate
Ant reinforce
underneath *below, under, beneath
understand, comprehend, appreciate mean to have a clear
idea or conception or full and exact knowledge of some-
thing. Understand and comprehend both imply an obtain-
ing of a mental grasp of something and in much of their
use are freely interchangeable ("You begin to com-
prehend me, do you?" cried he . . . "Oh! Yes—I under-
stand you perfectly!"—Austen) <the artist, it seemed . . .
had thoughts so subtle that the average man could com-
prehend them no more than a mongrel could understand
the moon he bayed at—Wolfe> But understand may stress
the fact of attained grasp, and comprehend may stress the
process by which it is attained; thus, one understands a
decision when he knows what it involves even though he
fails to comprehend the reasoning process on which it
was based: a person may understand a foreign language
without comprehending exactly how he learned it <for
well on a thousand years there have been universities
in the Western world; to understand the present institu-
tions, we must therefore comprehend something of their
history—Conant> Sometimes the difference is more sub-
tle, for understand can imply the power to receive and
register a clear and exact impression, and comprehend
can imply the mental act of grasping clearly and fully;
thus, the concept of infinity can be understood theo-
retically though scarcely comprehended as a verity (in order
fully to understand America, it is helpful to have some
grasp of the origins, culture and problems of the racial
and religious groups which are gradually being fused into
one people—Current History) (the average layman—or
Congressman—is deemed unable to comprehend the
mystic intricacies and intrigues of foreign affairs—K-
ennedy) <felt in Russia the presence of elements he
could not understand and never would understand, and
some of our official representatives said they shared
with him this feeling of bafflement—Edmund Wilson>
(being untrained in local history . . . in no way detracted
from my sense of enjoyment, nor lessened my ability to
understand the reality of all of that surrounded me—
Carruthers) Appreciate (see also APPRECIATE 2) implies
a just judgment or the estimation of a thing's true or exact
value; therefore the word is used in reference to persons
or things which may be misjudged (as by underestimating
or overestimating or by undervaluing or overvaluing)
<you are of an age now to appreciate his character—
Meredith> <the public opinion which thus magnifies
nationalism into a religion is a force of which it is difficult
to appreciate . . . the strength—Browne> (a new type of
State Department man with a most aggressive determina-
tion to see, to know and to appreciate all of his command
—Michener>
Ana conceive, realize, envision, envisage (see THINK):
interpret, elucidate, construe (see EXPLAIN): penetrate,
pierce, probe (see ENTER)
understanding 1 *reason, intuition
Ana comprehension, apprehension (see under APPE-
RENDE): *discernment, discrimination, insight, penetration
2 *agreement, accord
understudy n *substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate,
pinch hitter, double, stand-in
undulate wave, *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate,
pendulate
Ana *pulsate, pulse, beat, throb, palpitate
undying *immortal, deathless, unfading
Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable
unearth *discover, ascertain, determine, learn
Ana *dig, delve: expose, exhibit, *show: *reveal, dis-
Ana *quieted (see DISCOMPOSE)
uneducated *ignorant, illiterate, unlettered, untutored,
untutored, unlearned
Ana *rude, crude, rough, raw, callow, green, uncouth
Ant educated
unerring *infallible, inerrable, inerrant
Ana *reliable, dependable, trustworthy: exact, accurate,
precise, *correct
unescapable *inevitable, ineluctable, inescapable, un-
avoidable
Ana 1 Ant see those at INESCAPABLE
uneven *rough, harsh, rugged, scabrous
Ant even—Con *level, flat, plane, smooth: equable,
even, uniform. *steady, constant
unfading *immortal, deathless, undying

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
An * everlasting, endless: * lasting, perdurable, perpetual
unfeigned sincere, wholehearted, whole-souled, heartfelt, hearty
Ana genuine, veritable, bona fide, * authentic: * natural, simple, naïve: * spontaneous, impulsive
unfit, unsuitable, improper, inappropriate, unfitting, inapt, unhappy, infelicitous are comparable when they mean not right with respect to what is required or expected under the circumstances or demanded by the end, use, or function in view. Except for this denial of rightness, the terms otherwise correspond in applications and in implications to the affirmative adjectives as discriminated at fit. Ant fit —Con adaptable, pliable, malleable (see plastic): * able, capable, competent, qualified
unfitting inappropriate, improper, unsuitable, * unfit, inapt, unhappy, infelicitous
Ana unbecoming, unseemly, * indecorous
Ant fitting
unflagging unwearying, tireless, untiring, indefatigable, wearless
Ana persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at persevere): * steady, constant
Con indolent, fainthearted, slothful, * lazy
unflappable * cool, composed, collected, unruffled, imperturbable, nonchalance
unfold 1 Unfold, evolve, develop, elaborate, perfect can all mean to cause something to emerge from a state where its potentialities are not apparent or not realized into a state where they are apparent or fully realized. Unfold suggests usually a natural process by which is unveiled or disclosed the true character, the real beauty or ugliness, or the significance or insignificance of someone or something (the bud unfolds itself into the flower) (I see thy beauty gradually unfold, daily and hourly, more and more—Tennyson) (they were theater people, and the unfolding of a new creative work was a solemnity—Wouk) Evolve implies an unfolding or unveiling itself gradually and in orderly process; the term is particularly applicable when the slowness of the process and the complications involved in it are to be suggested (the Protozoa . . . evolved the types that were transitional to higher animals—Miner) (societies are evolved in structure and function as in growth—Spencer) (life has evolved according to a Creator’s plan—Marquand) However evolve is often used with weakened emphasis on the implications of slowness and complexity to imply specifically the production of a result (as an idea, a theory, or an aesthetic effect) from within or as if from within (with combined with the scenery of Egdon Heath to evolve a thing majestic without severity, impressive without showiness—Hardy) (this novel and intensely exacting technique, evolved . . . by the critical genius of a few . . . Frenchmen and of Henry James—Montague) Develop (see also mature) implies a passing through several stages and stresses the coming out or unfolding of latent possibilities in a thing, whether by a natural process or through human means (compare development) (there were different ideas of how the paper should develop. They wanted it to be successful; I wanted it to be outrageous—Mailer) (shorter than his wife—a jolly pink-faced man with a quietness that might have been developed to complete the unassuming noisemaker—Cheever) (one of the great European thinkers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries . . . helped to develop the conception Shaftesbury first formulated—Ellis) Elaborate distinctively stresses attention to detail and increasing complication by means of which the latent possibilities of a thing are more fully or completely developed (the sun, under whose influence one plant elaborates nutrient for man and another poison—Southey) (the constitutional system which was in course of being gradually elaborated—Gladstone) (the Negro discovered and elaborated a morality . . . an ethical differentiation between the good and the bad in every human activity—Mailer) Perfect stresses a freeing from faults, defects, or blemishes, and it can additionally imply an unfolding or development of something so that it stands as a complete or finished product (she had cultivated and perfected a vast cowlike limb which served her now in good stead—Pynchon) (he first conceives, then perfects his design, as a mere instrument in hands divine—Cowper) (a new determination to complete and perfect his plant-setting machine had taken possession of him—Anderson)
Ana * show, manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate: exhibit, display, expose (see show)
2 * solve, resolve, unravel, decipher
unformed * formless, shapeless
Ant formed —Con definite, definitive, developed, matured (see mature): fashioned, fabricated, manufactured, made (see make)
unfortunate * unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, calamitous, luckless, hapless
Ana baleful, malefic, * sinister: * miserable, wretched: unhappy, infelicitous (see unfit)
Ant fortunate —Con * lucky, providential, happy: auspicious, propitious, * favorable
unfounded * baseless, groundless, unwarranted
Ana * false, wrong: * misleading, deceptive: mendacious, dishonest, untruthful
unfruitful barren, * sterile, infertile, impotent
Ant fruitful, prolific —Con * fertile, fecund
ungodly * irreligious, godless, unreligious, nonreligious
Ana wicked, evil, ill, * bad: reproduce, abandoned, profigate: impious, blasphemous, profane
ungovernable * unruly, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong
Ana * contrary, perverse, froward, wayward: contumacious, insubordinate, rebellious, factious
Ant governable: docile —Con submissive, subdued, tame: tractable, amenable, obedient
ungracious * rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil
Ana churlish, boorish (see under book): brusque, gruff, blunt, curt (see bluff)
Ant gracious
unhappy infelicitous, inapt, unsuitable, improper, inappropriate, unfitting
Ant happy
uniform adj 1 * like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, identical
Ana * same, equivalent, equal
Ant various
2 * steady, constant, even, equable
Ana consistent, * consonant, compatible: regular, orderly
Ant multiform
uniformize consolidate, concentrate, * compact
Ana * integrate, articulate, concatenate: organize, systematize (see order vb): unite, combine, conjoin
Ant impassioned * sober, temperate, continent
Ana * cool, composed, collected, imperturbable: calm, serene, placid, tranquil: impassive, stolid, stoic, phlegmatic
Ant impassioned
uninterested * indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof, detached, disinterested
union * unity, solidarity, integrity

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
An integration, articulation, concatenation (see under INTEGRATE): *harmony, consonance, accord, concord

unique 1 *single, sole, lone, solitary, separate, particular
An *only, alone
2 singular, *strange, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, outlandish, curious
An *exceptional: uncommon, rare, *infrequent

unite 1 conjoin, combine, *join, connect, link, associate, relate
An *mix, blend, merge, amalgamate: *weave, knit: *integrate, concatenate, articulate

Ant divide: alienate

2 Unite, combine, conjoin, cooperate, concur are comparable especially when they are applied to people or groups or categories of people or to human institutions and when they mean to join forces so as to act together or to form a larger unit. Unite may suggest either of these ends (to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security—Dean) (states which would be politically independent but economically united—Current Biog.) but it more commonly suggests the formation of a new or larger unit (as by merging) (slowly uniting the Middle Eastern peoples in a strong emotional, religious nationalism—Atyeo) Combine (see also JOIN) is often used interchangeably with unite, but it may be preferred when a somewhat looser or more temporary association is to be suggested (several citizens combined to lead the campaign for the adoption of the city-manager form of government) (it is not so difficult to combine matrimony and a career such a small city—Hobby) Combine also is the one of these words that is at all likely to carry derogatory connotations (compare combine under COMBINATION) (no man is at liberty to combine, conspire and unlawfully agree to regulate the whole body of workingmen—J. N. Welch & Richard Hofstadter) Conjoin (see also JOIN) stresses firmness of the combination (the English army, that divided was into two parties, is now conjoined in one—Shak.) (despotism, priesthood, and proletariat have ever been good friends; a kind of freemasonry . . . has conjoined them from time immemorial against the honest and educated classes—Norman Douglas) Cooperate implies a combining for the sake of action or mutual support or assistance (it is . . . difficult to induce a number of free beings to cooperate for their mutual benefit—Goldsmith) (because the states can so seldom cooperate on common problems, federal intervention is inevitable—Armbrister) Concur in this relation retains the notion of agreement from another of its senses (which see under AGREE 2) and specifically implies a joining in agreement (was also a member of the Senate Finance Committee, with which he concurred in a recommendation of lowered income taxes—Current Biog.) (the Scotch philosopher believed that there was a moral discipline in nature . . . Bryant and Cole concurred in this opinion—Ringe)

An mingle, commingle, coalesce, fuse (see MIX): adhere, cohere, *stick, cling, cleave

Ant part

unity, solidarity, integrity, union can all denote a combining of all the parts, elements, or individuals into an effective whole, or the property or character of the whole achieved by such a combining. Unity is the comprehensive term applicable to wholes formed either of persons or of things: it may characterize such diverse things as a people, a nation, a church, an association, or a natural or artificial structure (as the human body or a cathedral) or a work of art (as a drama, an epic, a painting, or a bas-relief). In every case it implies oneness, especially of what is varied or diverse rather than uniform in its elements, that is gained by the interdependence of parts or individuals and by the cooperation of all so that each within its proper limits helps in effecting the end of the whole (the indispensable unity of a beautiful design—Alexander) (the wish to impose order upon confusion, to bring harmony out of dissonance and unity out of multiplicity is a kind of intellectual instinct, a primary and fundamental urge of the mind—Huxley) Unity often implies a oneness of spirit that results in a group of persons when there is harmony and concord (what he sought was unity of sentiment, not an unfeathered uniformity, and he attained it—Buchan) Solidarity denotes a kind of unity in a group (as a class, a community, or an institution) which enables it to show its strength, express its opinion, or exert its influence both through individuals and through the whole with the force of an undivided mass; the term implies unwillingness in individuals or in subgroups to go counter to the interests, aspirations, or will of the group as a whole (one secret of their power is their mutual good understanding . . . They have solidarity; or, responsibility, and trust in each other—Emerson) (instead of national solidarity following the war, we have only a revival of Know-Nothingism; one faction of hyphenates tries to exterminate another faction—Mencken) (the Mingotts had not proclaimed their disapproval aloud: their sense of solidarity was too strong—Wharton) Integrity is used chiefly in reference to wholes that have been built up so that each stands as a thing marked by completeness and a unity dependent on the perfection of its parts and their mutual interdependence; the term usually stresses soundness, undividedness, or freedom from impairment (guarantee the integrity of the British Empire forever—Upton Sinclair) (the integrity, the clean drive and the unforced power that distinguishes the good “primitive” novel—Morton) Union is the general term for the act of uniting several things to form a whole or for the body or organization which results from such a uniting (the union of thirteen states to form the United States) However the term can carry the deeper implications of a thorough integration of parts and of their harmonious cooperation (such harmony alone could hold all Heaven and Earth in happier union—Milton) (the union, peace and plenty of the kingdom—Clarendon) (thanks to . . . God, who has restored union to my family—Scott)

An identification, incorporation, embodiment, assimilation (see corresponding verbs at IDENTIFY); cooperation, concurrence, uniting, combining (see corresponding verbs at UNITE): integration, concatenation, articulation (see under INTEGRATE)

universal 1 Universal, cosmic, ecumenical, catholic, cosmicopolitan can all mean worldwide or at least extremely widespread (as in extent, range, influence, appeal, or use). Universal is likely to suggest what is worldwide rather than pertinent to or characteristic of the whole universe; it is often further narrowed to refer to the world of men and human affairs or to important or significant parts of this world. It is likely to indicate a unanimity or conformity of practice or belief or a broad comprehensiveness (no other theory which has won universal acceptance—Binyon) (the universal favor with which the New Testament is outwardly received—Thoreau) (replaced a philosophy which was crude and raw and provincial by one which was, in comparison, catholic, civilized, and universal—T. S. Eliot) Cosmic is used to suggest matters pertinent to the whole universe as opposed to the earth, especially in suggestions of infinite vastness, distance, or force (sardonic phantoms, whose vision is cosmic, not terrestrial—Lowes) (the great cosmic rhythm of the spirit which sets the currents of life in motion—Binyon) Ecu-
If we want to get at the permanent and general ideal of analogous words could be eventually subsumed—

James) Schorer) characteristic of writing but the use of words is a cultivation has been one of the standards in education general words—

Generic is often used in place of precision in use or signification <some rather weak cases used with less precise boundaries and often implies no to the same genus or that enables a student to assign a result <the illegitimate son of the Duke> <their union was illegitimate> but it is occasionally referred to something that is not proper according to the rules (as of logic) or to the authorities or to precedent <your inference is illegitimate> <it is illegitimate to suppose a chasm between the brute facts of physical nature . . . and the most abstract principles—Alexander> <I am far from thinking, with some modern theoretic purists, that it is illegitimate in painting to play on the power of association—Binyon> Illicit is used much more widely than illegitimate; it may imply a lack of conformity to the provisions of a law intended to regulate the performance, the carrying on, or the execution of something that comes under the law of state or of church <illicit liquor traffic> <an illicit marriage according to the Church may still be a legal marriage from the point of view of the State> but it is also applied to something that is obtained, done, or maintained unlawfully, illegally, or illegitimately <most persons . . . have long believed that happiness, being as they suspect somehow illicit at best, must have its locus beyond ourselves, beyond this world—Edman> <the tradition that illicit love affairs are at once vicious and delightful—Shaw> <the . . monk who loved Virgil had to study him with an illicit candle—Quiller-Couch> Ana iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious (see VICIOUS) Ant lawful — Con *due, rightful, condign

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unman 846 unnerve

unlucky coffee speculation—H. G. Pearson) (it was the unluckiest step we ever made to admit him into the bosom of our family—Lytton) Disastrous and ill-starred both carry the astrological implication that the stars are adverse to the person or thing in question and both suggest a more or less dire fate for him or it (the intrepid but ill-starred General . . . met with an airplane accident . . . and was burned to death—Peers) Though disastrous and ill-starred often imply a calamitous result as inevitable (in his fury made sudden decisions which would prove utterly disastrous to the fortunes of the Third Reich—Shirer) (the period and the region that produced Burrs ill-starred conspiracy—H. E. Davis) disastrous is not infrequently used in a much weakened sense without a hint of inevitability or, often, an implication of consequences more serious than that of a turning of the tables upon one or the other of the participants or contenders (a . . . denial of poetic possibilities . . . is liable to disastrous refutation by a triumphant instance of the “poetizing” . . . of that very word—Lowe) ill-starred, on the other hand, is close to ill-fated in meaning in that both imply an evil and unavoidable destiny awaiting a person or an action (the holiday was ill-starred from the outset, and a series of minor catastrophes culminated in a blowout on a lonely road—Curt) (the ill-fated attempt to collect the old war debts—Soule) (served as a wagoner with General Braddock’s ill-fated army—J. M. Brown) Unfortunate, though often interchangeable with unlucky, carries a much weaker implication of the intervention of chance (had an unfortunate day at the races) and a much stronger suggestion of misfortune, misery, unhappiness, or desolation, often to the extent of eliminating all suggestions of luck or of chance; occasionally it means nothing much more than regrettable or disastrous in its weakened sense (a most unfortunate family) (an unfortunate choice of words) (expecting some unfortunate woman to instruct simultaneously a crowd of fiftyurchins of all degrees of ignorance—Grandgent) Calamitous, which is used of events rather than persons, resembles unfortunate in its frequent elimination of all suggestion of luck or chance and in sometimes meaning little more than regrettable or upsetting (mother was afraid to leave the house in case something calamitous would happen, so we had a little extra time for dressing—Molly Weir) but it, like the noun calamity (which see under disaster) often suggests dire misery or the utmost of woeful distress typically stemming from some grave and extraordinary event (in that calamitous year of 1893 a total of 277,952 foreclosures forced people out of their homes—O’Brien) (men naturally admire Hannibal though the success of his cause might have been calamitous to the progress of civilization—Cohen) (there was more news than ever before, practically all of it calamitous—Catton) Luckless and hapless are more or less rhetorical terms implying that the person or thing so described has or reveals less than average good luck or good fortune (as in his undertakings or in their outcome); usually these words mean nothing more than unhappy, miserable, or wretched (she had disobeyed— and at the wrong time. Ah, the horrible, chancy, luckless wrong time—Styron) (hapless beings caught in the grip of forces we can do little about—Whyte) (the other victims . . . met an even more hapless fate—E. S. Bates) Ana inept, *awkward: distressing, troubling (see trouble): *sinister, malign, baleful Ant lucky —Con auspicious, propitious, *favorable, benign: fortunate, happy, providential (see lucky) unman *unnerve, emasculate, enervate Ana sap, undermine, *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate: *abase, degrade: *deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt

unmarried, single, celibate, virgin, maiden are comparable as adjectives when they mean not united in bonds of marriage. Unmarried merely states the fact; it is usually applied to those who have not yet married, but in law, it is applicable to a person who has been divorced and has not remarried and, sometimes, to one who has been widowed (an unmarried woman) (he said he would remain unmarried) (the question of being both unchaste and unmarried apparently never arises—Marcuse) Single is applied to those who are not yet married but is commonly used of those who remain unmarried through life (housing problems of single men and women) has to take anything she can get in the way of a husband rather than face penury as a single woman—Shaw) Celibate may be applied to the state of one having no expectation of marrying and it is especially applicable to that of one who is bound by a solemn vow to abstain from taking a mate. It is used chiefly of priests, monks, and nuns, of others who have dedicated their lives to religion, or of men or women who have accepted a way of life incompatible with having a spouse. For children (the masses of [Orthodox] believers preferred to confess to the celibate holy men . . . in the distant monastary—Bards) (the dandy must be celibate, cloistral; is, indeed, but a monk with a mirror for beards and breviary—an anchorite, mortifying his soul that his body may be perfect—Beerbohm) Virgin tends to stress a pure unassiled state of chastity. It usually applies to the unmarried but it may also be referred to the married when the marital relation has not been consummated, usually on grounds of choice (Saint Ursula and her virgin companions) (the young chief could not be told . . . for he was married, and the secret could be given only to a virgin youth—Conr) Maiden holds much the same implications as virgin, but it often differs in its heightened implication of not having married and in its subdued suggestion of purity and freedom from sexual intercourse (he has two maiden sisters) (his mind partly on a slit-skirted maiden cyclist—Birney) unmatured *immature, unripe, unmellow Ant matured —Con *mature, adult, grown-up unmellow *immature, unripe, unripe Ant mellow, mellowed —Con developed, ripened, matured (see mature vb) unmindful *forgetful, oblivious Ant heedless, thoughtless, *careless, inadvertent: *negligent, neglectful, remiss Ant mindful: solicitous —Con careful, concerned, anxious, worried (see under care): *thoughtful, considerate, attentive unmitigated *outright, out-and-out, arrant unnormal *imnormal, amoral, nonnormal unnatural anomalous, *irregular Ant *abnormal, aberrant, atypical: *monstrous, prodigious: *fantastic, grotesque, bizarre Ant natural unnerve, enervate, unman, emasculate can all mean to deprive of strength or vigor and of the capacity for endurance, overcoming difficulties, or making progress. Unnerve implies marked loss of courage, steadiness, and self-control or of power to act or fight usually as a result of some calamity or sudden shock (government was unnerved, confounded, and in a manner suspended—Burke) (that beloved name unnerved my arm—Arnold) Unnerved, hesitantly, unnerved and bewildered—Styron (the narcotic and unnerving property of these stimulants has been thoroughly established—Day Lewis) Enervate implies a more gradual physical or moral weakening or dissipation of one’s strength until one is too feeble
to make effort; usually the term implies a weakening of moral fiber under the influence of such debilitating factors as luxury, indolence, or effeminacy (those unhappy people whose tender minds a long course of felicity has enervated—Bolingbroke) (Plato asserts that a life of drudgery disfigures the body and . . . enervates the soul—Dickinson) Unman implies loss of manly fortitude or spirit; it often suggests a shameful reduction to tears, tremors, extreme timidity, or other state regarded as womanish (what, quite unmanned in folly? . . . Fie, for shame!)—Shak.) (the strangeness of the night . . . the dead man they had left in the field had unsettled them all and had unmanned at least one of them—Cheever) Emasculate (see also Sterilize 1) implies a loss of essential or effective power especially by the removal of something (as a factor or a condition) which has made for strength (as of a person, a group, or a law) (Hellenism . . . was not destroyed, though it was emasculated, by the loss of political freedom—Inge) (many states emasculated such civil rights statutes as exist—Swindler) An unoffending *harmless, innocuous, innocent, inoffensive unpremeditated *extemporaneous, extempore, extem- unpropitious *grim, implacable, relentless, merciless impatient, nervous, restless, restive, uneasy, unquiet constant, incessant, *continual, continuous, unremitting unreligious ^irreligious, ungodly, godless, nonreligious unremitting constant, incessant, *continual, continuous, perpetual, perennial unripe *immature, unmatured, unmellow Ana crude, raw, green, callow, *rude: *premature, un-

timely, forward, precocious Ant ripe —Con matured, ripened, developed (see MATURE vb)

unruffled imperturbable, unflappable, nonchalant, *cool, composed, collected Ana *calm, placid, peaceful, serene, tranquil: poised, balanced (see STABILIZE)

Ant ruffled: excited

unruly, ungovernable, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong are comparable when they mean not submissive to government or control. Unruly stresses a lack of discipline or an incapacity for discipline; in addition it often connotes such qualities as turbulence, disorderliness, waywardness, or obstreperousness (unruly children) (whatever my unruly tongue may say—J. R. Green) (the unruly passions—T. S. Eliot) (cleared the land, dug ditches and dammed unruly streams—Amer. Guide Series: Ariz.) Ungovernable implies either an incapacity for or an escape from guidance or control. When applied directly or indirectly to persons, it usually suggests either no previous submission to restrictions or a state of having thrown off previous restrictions (the fiercest and most ungovernable part of the . . . population —Macaulay) or the loss of all power to control oneself or to be controlled by others (he fell into an ungovernable rage) When used in reference to things, it usually suggests their incapacity for human direction or control (that . . . ungovernable wonder the wind—Hawthorne) Genius was as valuable and as unpredictable, perhaps as ungovernable, as the waves of the sea—Buck) Intractable and refractory both imply resistance to all attempts to bring under one's control, management, or direction. When applied to persons, intractable suggests a disposition to resist guidance or control (an intractable child) (an intractable temper) (his rough, intractable spirit—John Wesley) (a young man who resisted his mistress' wishes was an intractable young man indeed—Sackville-West) When applied to things, it suggests a more or less marked resistance to working, manipulation, treatment, or management (intractable soil) (an intractable metal) (Shakespeare was unable to impose this motive successfully upon the intractable material of the old play—T. S. Eliot) Refractory, on the other hand, often implies active resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness (it becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney) (there is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell) or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents unusual difficulties (bricks and other refractory substances are used to line furnaces) (cheerfulness is in ethics what fluor spar is in metallurgy. It is a flux absolutely necessary in dealing with refractory moral elements—Crothers) Recalcitrant carries an even stronger implication of active and violent resistance or of obstinate rebellion; it usually suggests defiance of another's will, order, or authority (his father became recalcitrant and cut off the supplies—Stevenson) (in Russia a minority of devoted Marxists maintain by sheer force such government as is possible in the teeth of an intensely recalcitrant peasantry—Shaw) The term is less often applied to things than intractable and refractory, but there is some use when seemingly insuperable difficulties are implied (he discovers poetry in the most unlikely places and wrings it out of the most recalcitrant material—Day Lewis) Willful usually implies intractability because of an overweening desire or an obstinate determination to

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (•) indicates place of treatment of each group.
cause of some elusive quality (as etherealness, spirituality, or ideality <ineffable tenderness> (the eyes remained distant and serious, as if bent on some ineffable vision —Wharton> (to explore the delicate involutions of consciousness, the microscopically sensuous and all but ineffable frissons of mental becoming—Mailer> (who shall say that in this silence, in this hovering wan light, in this air bereft of wings, and of all scent save freshness, there is less of the ineffable, less of that before which words are dumb?—Galsworthy> Indescribable and indefinable may imply to the thing a quality or sometimes the lack of any quality or to the would-be describer or definer a deficiency (as of perceptiveness, understanding, or language) that makes precise description, definition, narration, or explanation impossible (I keep being conscious of some subtle smell. . . . It’s not exactly a smell, either! It’s more than that. It’s a taste in the mouth and a strange indescribable feeling through every pore of the body—Powys> (an indescribable horror . . . I myself could hardly put it into words. But the effect it has upon me I could describe; only that would make you as miserable as I am—Powys> (our men have fought with indescribable and unforgettable gallantry—Roosevelt> (she lacks the indescribable charm of weakness—Wisconsin> (if a thing has been analyzed into any function of a given set of primitive ideas, it is indefinable relative to that set—Richard Robinson> (men may attribute to women mysterious, indefinable traits which finally prove to be mere caprice—Blankenagel> unwarranted *baseless, groundless, unfounded Ana unauthorized, unaccorded (see corresponding affirmative verbs at AUTHORIZE); unapproved, unsanctioned (see corresponding affirmative verbs at APPROVE) Ant warranted unwearyed *indefatigable, tireless, weariless, untiring, unwearying, unflagging Ana persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): unceasing, interminable (see EVERLASTING): constant, steady unwearying *indefatigable, tireless, weariless, untiring, unwearyed, unflagging Ana see those at UNTIRING unwelshome, morbid, sickly, diseased, pathological apply to what is unhealthy or unhealthful in any of various ways. Unwelshome is applicable not only to what is not healthy or healthful physically and mentally but also to what is morally corruptive (sick at heart, and enfeebled by unweelshome diet—Bancroft> (unwelshome surroundings in which to bring up children—Powys> (an aura . . . of unwelshome cleverness—J. V. Baker> (an unwelshome influence Morbid, in the sense of showing the effects of disease, is somewhat old-fashioned (a morbid condition of the liver—<morbid tissue> The term is more often descriptive of a physical, emotional, mental, or social condition or of fancies, feelings, or behavior that are abnormal or are a sign of abnormality (as derangement, decadence, or deterioration) (displayed a morbid interest in the gruesome details of the accident (in this vision . . . there is something of morbid suspicion—Edmund Wilson> (her thoughts had been more and more preoccupied with death, and with her morbid shame lest someone see her in the state of nature after she was dead—Wolfe> (but one feels gradually creeping on . . . the morbid excitement of the high-tensioned life around her—Ellis> Sickly, more than any of these words, implies the appearance of weakness or wanncss characteristic of poor health, or an inherent lack of robustness or virility: it applies not only to persons but to animals and to plants, not only to bodies but to minds and souls, not only to thoughts, feelings, and behavior, but to objective things (as colors, odors, or lights) that suggest the quality or character of a person weakened or wasted by disease (sickly children—a sickly plant> (a pallor that gave his dark skin a sickly look—Hervey> (the chronic habits of the sickly soul—Crabbe> Diseased applies not only to something (as a part or an organism) that is attacked by disease, but, like morbid, is often extended to whatever is deranged, disordered, dying, or abnormal (a diseased skin> (canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?—Shak.> (when love grows diseased, the best thing we can do is to put it to a violent death—Etherege> Pathological is applied to physical, mental, and moral conditions which have their origin in disease or which constitute gross deviations from the usual, expected, or normal, and, by implication, the wholesome <enormously sensitive and resilient, almost pathological in his appetite for activity—Mencken> (the beguiling Alice-world of pathological curves, some of which bound a small finite area and yet are infinite in length, while others entirely fill squares, cubes, and hypercubes, and some cross themselves at all points—Grigedeman> (this irrational age, governed by absolute violence and pathological hate—Mumford> Ana detrimental, deleterious, noxious, *pernicious, baneful: toxic, poisonous; dangerous, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY) Ant wholesome —Con *healthful, salubrious, salutary, hygienic: *healthy, robust, sound upheald *scold, rate, berate, tongue-lash, revile, vituperate, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail Ana reprehend, reprobate, blame, censure, denounce (see CRITICIZE): reproach, reprimand, rebuke, *reprove upheaval *commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, confusion, convulsion Ana heaving, raising, lifting (see LIFT vb): alteration, change (see under CHANGE vb): cataclysm, catastrophe, *disaster uphold *support, advocate, back, champion Ana *help, aid, assist: defend, vindicate, justify, *maintain: sanction, *approve, endorse Ant contravene: subvert upright, honest, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable are comparable when they are applied to men or their acts and words and mean having or exhibiting a strict regard for what is morally right. Upright implies manifest rectitude and an uncompromising adherence to high moral principles (the old-fashioned word upright. It’s a good word, comprises a good many things—all the straight qualities, like loyalty, truthfulness, the right sort of pride —Goudge> (we shall exult, if they who rule the land, be men . . . wise, upright, valiant; not a servile band—Wordsworth> Honest implies a recognition of and strict adherence to solid virtues (as truthfulness, candor, respect for others’ possessions, sincerity, and fairness) <it was fiction, but it was made as all honest fiction must be, from the stuff of human life—Wolfe> It is more widely applicable than upright which often implies independence of spirit and self-mastery and which is therefore referable chiefly to thoughtful and highly disciplined men. Honest, on the other hand, may be used in reference to the ignorant as well as the learned, and to the simple as well as the wise <the honest heart that’s free frae a’ intended fraud or guile—Burns> (if we be honest with ourselves, we shall be honest with each other—Macdonald> Just (see also FAIR) may stress conscious choice and regular practice of what is right or equitable <a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews—Acts 10:22> Human beings are a good deal less rational and innately just than the optimists of the
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
interchangeable with use, is especially appropriate when the reference is to persons or animals or their work or actions (the horse was unfit for service—Scott) (render a service to a friend) Service often implies that the result of one's act or works is beneficial (I have done the state some service, and they know't—Shak) Advantage adds to use the implication of improvement or enhancement (as in value or position) (he uses every penny to advantage) (her beauty proved to be of great advantage to her in her stage career) (Constance had never before seen him to such heroic advantage—Bennett) (true Wit is Nature to advantage dressed—Pope) Profit distinctively implies reward or the rewarding character of what is attained, and often implies pecuniary gain (the student worked hard but to no profit) (he found moral profit also in this self-study; for how, he asked, can we correct our vices if we do not know them—L. P. Smith) (coal and steel interests were merging with mutual profit—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) Account is used chiefly in use) of any avail

Ant analogous words

Analogous words

Ant antonyms

Antonyms

Con contrasted words

Contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
usefulness 852 vagabond

is needed when it does all that it can, indicates a policy, applies it to all within the lines, and seeks to bring within the lines all similarly situated—Justice Holmes. It is a test which we may apply to all figure painters—a test which will often discover the secret of unsatisfactory design—if we ask whether the figures are really occupied by what they are doing—Binyon. One avails (oneself of) something or someone that is at hand or is offered by using it or him to one's own benefit or advantage (far from resenting such tutelage I am only too glad to avail myself of it—Shaw) (takes us . . . into the consciousness of his characters, and in order to do so, he has availed himself of methods of which Flaubert never dreamed—Edmund Wilson)

Ana *handle, manipulate, ply, wield: practice, exercise usefulness *use, utility

Ana value, *worth: *excellence, merit usual, customary, habitual, wanted, accustomed can mean familiar through frequent or regular repetition. Usual stresses the absence of strangeness and is applicable to whatever is normally expected or happens in the ordinary course of events (they paid the usual fee) (open for business as usual) (it appeared to him to be the usual castle, and he saw nothing unusual in the manner of his reception by the usual old lord—Henry Adams). The characters were better drawn than is usual in romantic drama—Quinn) (darkness caused them to speak much louder than usual—Dahl) Customary often implies characteristic or distinguishing quality, and is applied to whatever is according to the usual or prevailing practices, conventions, or usages of a particular person or, especially, of a particular community (having her customary cup of tea before walking down the road to the bus stop—Salinger) (we had no idea how men behave when their customary way of life is disrupted—Lippmann)

Sometimes invariant or fixed quality is implied (the assumption that whatever has been customary must be bad, and that anything which is or seems novel must be good—Grandgent) Habitual implies settled or established practice, and is commonly applied to what has settled by long repetition into a habit (this habitual energy) (a habitual smile) (I stop ashamed, for I am talking habitual thoughts, and not adapting them to her ear—Yeats) (shut away from all that was familiar and habitual to him—Hervey)

Wonted, a somewhat bookish word, stresses habituation, but tends to be applied to what is favored, sought, or purposefully cultivated (in revolutionary times when all our wonted certainties are violently called in question—Mo-berry) (robbed him of his peace, destroying his pleasure in wonted things—Parrington) Accustomed is often interchangeable with wonted and customary, but it is a more familiar word than the first and is weaker in its suggestions of custom and fixity than the second (work with accustomed diligence) (even his evening clothes were as habitual as his breath and hung on him with a weary and accustomed grace as if he had been born in them—Wolfe)

Ana *regular, natural, normal, typical: *common, ordinary, familiar: prevalent, *prevailing, rife, current usurp *arrogate, preempt, appropriate, confiscate

Ana seize, *take, grab, grasp

Ant abdicate

utensil *implement, tool, instrument, appliance

Ana *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget utility *use, usefulness

Ana suitability, fitness, appropriateness (see corresponding adjectives at fit): value, *worth utilize *use, employ, apply, avail

Ana *benefit, profit: handle, manipulate, ply, wield: forward, further, promote, *advance utopian *ambitious, pretentious

Ana impracticable, unfeasible, impossible (see affirmative adjectives at possible): visionary, quixotic, chimerical (see Imaginary): ideal, transcendental, *abstract

utter vb 1 *say, tell, state

Ana enunciate, *articulate, pronounce: *speak, talk 2 *express, vent, voice, broach, air, ventilate

Ana enunciate, *articulate, pronounce: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: *declare, announce, publish, advertise

vacant *empty, blank, void, vacuous

Ana *bare, barren: destitute, void, *devoid: idiotic, imbecilic, foolish (see corresponding nouns at fool)

Con *full, complete, replete

vacate *annull, abrogate, void, quash

vacillate *hesitate, waver, falter

Ana fluctuate, sway, abrogate, void (see swing): *demur, scruple, boggle

vacuous *empty, vacant, blank, void

Ana barren, *bare: inane, wishy-washy, *insipid

Con *full, replete

vacuum n void, cavity, *hole, hollow, pocket

vagabond, vagrant, truant, tramp, bum, hobo mean a person who wanders at will or as a habit. Vagabond may apply to a homeless wanderer lacking visible means of support (apprehend all nightwalkers . . . vagabonds and disorderly persons—Philadelphia Ordinances) but more often it lacks derogatory implications and emphasizes the mere fact of wandering and implies a carefree fondness for a roaming life <Rousseau . . . that young vagabond of genius—L. P. Smith> (an exquisite defense of the fine art of irresponsible travel, and an encomium on the "cultured vagabond"—Nock> Vagrant is more likely to imply disreputableness and in its common legal use it denotes a person without fixed or known residence whose habits or acts are such that he is likely to become a public menace or a public charge (arrested as a vagrant) (the jail is the winter home of many vagrants) Even in more general use the term tends to carry stronger implications of disreputableness and waywardness than vagabond (every beggar, vagrant, exile-by-choice and peregrine-at-large . . . This whole hard-up population—Pynchon) (a chronic vagrant from the spirit's home—Sapir)

Truant carries its strongest implication the habit of wandering away from where one ought to be or of loitering when one ought to be elsewhere and especially at school (I have a truant been to chivalry—Shak)> (by truant we mean a boy of school age who intentionally stays away from school for no other reason than that he does not wish to go—Powers & Witmer) Tramp is the ordinary and generally derogatory word for one who leads a wandering life; it can apply to any such person whether

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
he moves about in search of work, especially seasonal work, or whether he lives by beggary and thievery (whoever, not being under seventeen, a blind person or a person asking charity within his own town, roves about from place to place begging, or living without labor or visible means of support, shall be deemed a tramp—General Laws of the Commonwealth of Mass.) (a distinct class of these gentlemen tramps, young men no longer young, who wouldn't settle down, who disliked polite society and the genteel conventions—Sanctuary) Bum basically applies to a lazy, idle, and often drunken, good-for-nothing, who will not work but habitually sponges on others (dwell in a black-and-white world where a guy is either your pal or probably a bum—Hal Boyle) (the local ne'er-do-well, the traditional village bum) But bum, especially when qualified, may denote one who wanders in pursuit of a particular occupation or activity (fruit bums who follow the harvests north) (a ski bum) Hobo is often distinguished from tramp, sometimes in terms of willingness to work, sometimes in terms of methods of travel, the tramp being then taken as one who typically tramps the roads, the hobo as one who typically rides surreptitiously on freight trains. A common application of hobo is to the migratory worker who roves about following such seasonal occupations as harvesting and crop picking (hobo) are traveling workers, tramps are traveling shirkers and bums are stationary shirkers—Cleveland Plain Dealer (in Western parlance a hobo is not a tramp. A hobo is a migratory laborer, who carries his blankets on his back, looking for work—World's Work) Ana wanderer, roamer, rover (see corresponding verbs at WANDER)

vagary • caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, conceit, crotchet

Ana • mood, humor, temper, vein: *fancy, fantasy, dream, daylight: notion, *idea

vagrant n • vagabond, truant, tramp, hobo, bum

Ana wanderer, roamer, rover (see corresponding verbs at WANDER)

vagrant adj • itinerant, peripatetic, ambulatory, ambulant, nomadic

Ana moving, shifting (see MOVE vb): wandering, roaming, roving, rambling, straying, ranging (see WANDER): strolling, sauntering (see SAUNTER)

vague • obscure, dark, enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal

Ana • formless, unformed: *doubtful, dubious: abstruse, *recondite

Ant definite: specific: lucid — Con *clear, perspicuous: express, *explicit

vain 1 Vain, negligent, otiose, idle, empty, hollow are comparable when they mean devoid of worth or significance. Something vain (see also FUTILE) is devoid of all value, either absolutely because worthless, superfluous, or unprofitable or relatively because there are other things which are of infinitely greater value, greater necessity, or greater profitableness (vain pleasures of luxurious life, forever with yourselves at strife—Wordsworth) (unless the forces of destruction . . . are brought under control, it is vain to plan for the future—Attlee) (vain pomp and glory of this world—Shak.) Something nugatory is trifling or insignificant or, especially in legal use, inoperative (in the decorative arts, the freedom given to the individual is rendered nugatory by the absence of cultural recognition of the innovator—Mead) (a literary work . . . likely to be despised as ephemeral and nugatory—J. W. Clark) (limiting the right to pass laws for the execution of the granted powers, to such as are indispensable, and without which the power would be nugatory—John Marshall)

the book is so one-sided that as a constructive contribution it is nugatory—Times Lit. Sup.) Something otiose has no excuse for being or serves no purpose and is usually an encumbrance or a superfluity (mummified customs that have long outlasted their usefulness, and otiose dogmas that have long lost their vitality—Inge) (it ought to be comparatively easy to decide . . . what kinds of criticism are useful and what are otiose—T. S. Eliot) (you were drastic . . . . A firm hand pruned your lines; a sharp ear tested their music. Nothing soft, otiose, irrelevant cumbered your pages—Woolf) Something idle has no solidity, either being baseless or groundless or being incapable of having any worthwhile effects or result (idle theorizing) (idle dreams) (there is nothing that can control speculation, and preserve legitimate theory from idle fancy, but a strict adherence to the essential principles of science—Dingle) (it is idle to illustrate further, because to those who agree with me I am uttering commonplaces and to those who disagree I am ignoring the necessary foundations of thought—Justice Holmes) Something empty or hollow is destitute of substance or reality and is only apparently or deceivingly sound, real, worthwhile, genuine, or sincere (empty threats) (a hollow victory) (in itself unreal, empty, of no importance, and discardable overnight—Wouk) (empty profundities to which no operational meaning can possibly be attached—Huxley) (they were married with the bright hollow panoply attending such military affairs—Stryon) Ana worthless, valueless (see affirmative nouns at WORTH): ineffectual, *ineffective, inincisious: fruitless, bootless, *futile, abortive

Con effectual, *effective, efficacious

2 *futile, fruitless, bootless, abortive

Ana *ineffective, ineffectual, inincisious: trivial, trifling, puny, *petty, paunchy, delusive, delusory, *mis-leading

3 proud, vainglorious (see under PRIDE n)

Ana self-satisfied, self-complacent, *complacent, priggish, smug: conceited, egoistic, egotistic (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT)

Con *humble, meek, modest: diffident, *shy, hashful

vainglorious proud, vain (see under PRIDE n)

Ana arrogant, haughty, supercilious, disdainful, insolent, *proud: boasting or boastful, bragging, vaunting, gas-conading (see corresponding verbs at BOAST)

vainglory *pride, vanity

Ana pomp, *display, parade: flaunting, parading, exhibition (see corresponding verbs at SHOW): rhapsody, rodomontade, rant, *bombast

valiant *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valorous, dauntless, unaunted, doubted, bold, audacious

Ana stout, sturd, tenacious, stalwart (see STRONG): indomitable, unconquerable, *invincible

Ant timid: dastardly

valid, sound, cogent, convincing, compelling, telling can all be applied directly or indirectly to arguments, reasons, principles, or processes of thought or to their presentation and mean having or manifesting the power to impress themselves on others as right and well-grounded. Valid and sound both imply that the power is inherent in the rationality or logicality of the thought apart from its presentation. Something is valid against which no objections can be maintained, because it conforms strictly to the laws or regulations (as of the state or the church) (holds a valid title to a piece of property) (a valid ordination) (a valid marriage) or because it is supported or justified by facts and correct reasoning (a valid argument) (valid evidence) (universally valid principles—Inge) or, less often, because it is fully in accordance with claims

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
value vb 1 *estimate, appraise, evaluate, rate, assess, assay
AnA *calculate, compute, reckon: *judge, adjudge, adjudicate
2 prize, treasure, * appreciate, cherish
AnA esteem, respect, admire (see under REGARD n): love, enjoy (see LIKE): *revere, reverence, venerate

vanish, evanesce, evaporate, disappear, fade can all mean to pass from view or out of existence. Vanish implies a complete, often mysterious, and usually sudden passing; it commonly suggests absence of all trace or of any clue that would permit following until found (no facts on the mother's disappearance. Died in childbirth, ran off with someone, committed suicide: some way of vanishing painful enough to keep Sidney from ever referring to it—Pynchon) (all those emotions of fear and abhorrence . . . vanished instantly from my mind—Hudson) (Addison complained that in his time the very appearances of Christianity had vanished—Huxley) Evanesce differs from vanish in its greater stress on the process (as effacement or dissipation) by which a thing passes from visibility or thought; sometimes the term distinctly suggests a gradual process (1 touch a scarf and it falls into air and light and seems to evanesce—Goyen) (the sun-streaming clarity of checkered beach parasols, of friendly boys digging castles in the sand, faded in outline, evanesced from the bright precision of reality to vagueness of storm and fog—Joseph Bennett) Evaporate suggests a vanishing as silently and inconspicuously as water does into vapor (because of future expenses already mandated by the legislature, that surplus will evaporate soon—Armbrister) The term is often used in respect to tenuous qualities, but it may be employed to describe stealthy or prudent or sudden departures or withdrawals of persons (people whose faith, so tenuous anyway, had evaporated upon the threatening winds of a “cosmic cataclysm”—Styron) (looking at the high gray-green grass. A man could evaporate in that stuff in a second—R. O. Bowen) (if we try to express almost any poem of his in prose, we find it impossible; its rare spirit evaporates in the process—Day Lewis) Disappear stresses only the passing from sight or thought; the passing implied may be sudden or gradual, permanent or temporary, but such suggestions are mostly contextual and not in the word (the traditional view, that the world was made up of a vertical scale of creatures, gradually disappeared—S. F. Mason) (some say, let us go back to Palestine, else Judaism will disappear—Cohen) (seldom have other writers been able to disappear from their narrative as completely as Faulkner does—Robert Humphrey) Fade, often with out or away, implies a gradual diminution in clearness and distinctness until the thing becomes invisible (the ship gradually faded from sight) (all other certainties had faded or eroded away in growing up—Wouk) (this story seems to have faded out of the popular mind—Norman Douglas)

A Ant appear: loom

vanity *pride, vainglory
AnA self-esteem, self-love, * conceit, egotism, egoism, amour propre: complacency, self-complacency, self-satisfaction, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT): show, ostentation, pretense (see corresponding adjectives at SHOWY)

vanquish *conquer, defeat, beat, lick, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout
AnA frustrate, foil, outwit, circumvent: *overturn, subvert
Con surrender, submit, capitulate (see corresponding nouns at SURRENDER): *yield, succumb

vanquisher *victor, conqueror, winner, champion

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
variety 1 Variety, diversity are comparable when they are used in reference to a group, class, or complex whole and imply the presence of two or more colors but stresses deviation from a type; 

2 Variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, strain, clone, stock are comparable when they mean a group of related plants or animals narrower in scope than a species. These terms tend to be variable in application and subject to confusing overlap in use, but all can carry distinctive implications. Variety stresses deviation from a type; historically, it denotes an infraspecific category differing from the typical form of the species in characters that are too trivial or too inconstant to justify its separation as a distinct species. In modern use it is appropriately selected when it is desirable to call attention to such deviation without making any specific taxonomic suggestion or it may be used specifically of any such divergent group developed under human control (as by selective breeding, hybridization, and cultivation) (an early variety of peach) <developing new varieties to meet special conditions>

Subspecies, which stresses subordinate status, is primarily a taxonomic term applicable to a morphologically distinguishable subdivision of a species that is geographically isolated but physiologically capable of interbreeding with other comparable subdivisions of the same species. Race stresses common ancestry and differentiation based on relatively discernible hereditary characters (a race of albino mice) As applied to the human species (Homo sapiens), race is a highly controversial term that basically denotes any of the primary subdivisions of recent man historically native to distinct parts of the world and distinguished by relatively fixed characters in physical type (as skin color, hair form, and skull shape) (the Caucasian race) (the Mongolid race) In more general use race may apply to either large or small groups within a species. Though often used as if interchangeable race and variety are not exactly correspondent; while they sometimes agree, they more often overlap in their reference, for race emphasizes a common descent, while variety stresses divergence from a type. Breed can refer to a group within a species of animals or occasionally of plants the members of which presumably share a common ancestry and are visibly different from that of the background (tall, shiny, and lustrous—Ertz) Breeding may stress bold streaks of contrasting color (tall, barred, and white—straw) (the woods were streaked and pied with fresh transparent leaves and flowers—Wylie) 

varied, variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, peibald, skewbald, dappled, freaked; all mean having a pattern involving different colors or shades of color Variegated implies variation in the color (as of a single piece, object, or specimen) without indication of what colors or what forms spots, streaks, blotches are involved (disliked the variegated hues of the buildings they reminded him of the garish brilliance in the lower town—Norman Douglas) Variegated tulips Particolored implies the presence of two or more colors but stresses not so much the presence of different colors as their clear demarcation and distinct presentation. Motley in most uses is likely to suggest presence of colors of very noticeable diversity in a chance, haphazard, or very capricious arrangement (birds of motley colors and varied cries—Chesterton) (the motley dress of a court jester) Checkered indicates a regular alternation of rectangular shapes different in color or shade like a checkerboard, especially an alternation between black and white or dark and light (the checkered fabric of Constable's pictures, their deep undertones overlaid with variegated passages) their clear demarcation and distinct presentation. Motley and checkers are comparable when they mean a group of related plants or animals narrower in scope than a species. These terms tend to be variable in application and subject to confusing overlap in use, but all can carry distinctive implications. Variety stresses deviation from a type; historically, it denotes an infraspecific category differing from the typical form of the species in characters that are too trivial or too inconstant to justify its separation as a distinct species. In modern use it is appropriately selected when it is desirable to call attention to such deviation without making any specific taxonomic suggestion or it may be used specifically of any such divergent group developed under human control (as by selective breeding, hybridization, and cultivation) (an early variety of peach) (developing new varieties to meet special conditions) Subspecies, which stresses subordinate status, is primarily a taxonomic term applicable to a morphologically distinguishable subdivision of a species that is geographically isolated but physiologically capable of interbreeding with other comparable subdivisions of the same species. Race stresses common ancestry and differentiation based on relatively discernible hereditary characters (a race of albino mice) As applied to the human species (Homo sapiens), race is a highly controversial term that basically denotes any of the primary subdivisions of recent man historically native to distinct parts of the world and distinguished by relatively fixed characters in physical type (as skin color, hair form, and skull shape) (the Caucasian race) (the Mongolid race) In more general use race may apply to either large or small groups within a species. Though often used as if interchangeable race and variety are not exactly correspondent; while they sometimes agree, they more often overlap in their reference, for race emphasizes a common descent, while variety stresses divergence from a type. Breed can refer to a group within a species of animals or occasionally of plants the members of which presumably share a common ancestry and are visibly different from that of the background (tall, shiny, and lustrous—Ertz) Breeding may stress bold streaks of contrasting color (tall, barred, and white—straw) (the woods were streaked and pied with fresh transparent leaves and flowers—Wylie) 

The things which differ, whether they are fundamentally similar or completely dissimilar, are related because they contribute to the same end or play a part in the formation of the same whole (his variety is to be praised . . . what is distressing . . . is his style—Mailer) (most workers would prefer some variety in their work, but they cannot get it—Hobson) Diversity, though often used interchangeably with variety, distinctively stresses the marked difference or divergence of the individuals, parts, or elements, and seldom suggests even a class or categorical likeness (the practical reduction of human diversity to subhuman uniformity, of freedom to servitude—Huxley) (the moral and intellectual explosion needed . . . to reestablish tolerance of qualitative diversity and intellectual freedom as the true basis of democracy—Julian Huxley) (the great diversity among human beings) Variety *dissimilarity, unlikeness, difference, divergence, divergency; multifariousness, variousness (see corresponding adjectives at MANY): miscellaneousness or miscellany, heterogeneousness or heterogeneity, assort edness or assortment (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT)
primary subdivisions of the species. It is especially applicable when the distinguishing character is a physiological quality (as vigor, or yield, or virulence); the term may imply human control as a means of gaining this result (as through crossing or inbreeding) or it may imply chance variation (the appearance of virulent and antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains) or controlled conditions (an improved strain of Golden Bantam corn) (superior milking strains have been developed in most dual-purpose breeds of cattle). Clone is the most precisely delimited term of this set; it denotes all the individuals that constitute the asexually produced progeny of a single parent and are therefore genetically identical. Though applicable to organisms (as bacteria and protozoans) that reproduce asexually in nature, it is used typically of economic plants that are propagated by such means as dividing, budding, or grafting and in such use may come close to variety, race, or strain; thus, one can speak of the Baldwin variety of apple or the Baldwin clone. Stock places emphasis upon community of origin and genetically close relationship in the group but its range of reference is not clearly defined. Often also it carries over from other senses of the word the notion of being a source or original (culled out a vigorous stock from which he selected several clones) (the several stocks developed by inbreeding were crossed to gain hybrid vigor).

various 1 *different, diverse, divergent, disparate
Ana *distinct, separate: distinctive, peculiary, individual (see CHARACTERISTIC): varying, changing (see CHANGE vb)
Ant uniform: cognate
2 *many, several, sundry, divers, numerous, multifarious
Ana *miscellaneous, heterogeneous, assorted
Con *same, identical, equivalent: equal: similar, alike, *like
vary 1 *change, alter, modify
Ana deviate, diverge, digress, depart (see SWERVE): *transform, metamorphose, convert
2 *differ, disagree, dissent
Ana deviate, diverge, digress, depart (see SWERVE): *separate, divide, part
vast *huge, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian
Ana stupendous, tremendous, prodigious, *monstrous: *large, big, great: *spacious, capacious
vault vb *jump, leap, spring, bound
Ana surmount (see CONQUER): mount, ascend, *rise, soar
vault n jump, leap, spring, bound (see under JUMP vb)
Ana surmounting (see CONQUER): rising, mounting, ascending, soaring (see RISE)
vaunt vb *boast, brag, crow, gasconade
Ana parade, flaunt, exhibit, display, *show: magnify, aggrandize, *exalt
veer *swerve, deviate, depart, digress, diverge
Ana shift, transfer, *move: turn, divert, deflect, sheer
vehement *intense, fierce, exquisite, violent
Ana forcible, forceful, *powerful, potent: fervid, fervorous, *impassioned, passionate, ardent: *furious, frantic, wild, rabid, delirious
vehicle *mean, instrument, instrumentality, agent, agency, medium, organ, channel
veil vb *cover, overspread, envelop, wrap, shroud
Ana mask, cloak, camouflage, *disguise: conceal, *hide, secrete, screen
vein 1 *flood, humor, temper
Ana *disposition, temper, complexion, temperament
2 strain, streak, *touch, suggestion, suspicion, suspicion, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash
velocity *speed, momentum, impetus, pace, headway
venturesome 857 versatile

for the cause of freedom  you have deeply ventured; but all must do so who would greatly win—Byron
But venture is often used in a weakened sense to mean little more than dare or, sometimes, attempt imagine the fate of a university don of 1860, or 1870, or 1880, or even 1890 who had ventured to commend Leaves of Grass to the young gentlemen—Mencken
this class fellows were were rather gloomily polite to him, and one or two ventured awkward words of condolence—Archibald Marshall

Hazard usually implies the putting of something to the chance of losing it; the term suggests more uncertainty or precariousness than venture and less hope of a favorable outcome and is often used in place of venture because of this implication men that hazard all do it in hope of fair advantages—Shak.

his own possessions, safety, life, he would have hazarded for Lucie and her child, without a moment's demur—Dickens

Like venture, hazard is also often used in a much weaker sense but it comes closer to dare than to attempt sometimes as he hunted he got a glimpse of the giraffe moving through the bush, but was never near enough to hazard a shot—Cloete

(no Elizabethan dramatist offers greater temptation: to the scholar, to hazard conjecture of fact; and to the critic, to hazard conjecture of significance—T. S. Eliot)

Risk carries a still stronger still stronger implication of exposure to real dangers and of taking actual chances Captain Cook had sailed straight through the middle of the group, not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser

Chance may suggest a trusting to luck and a sometimes irresponsible disregarding of the risks involved in an action or procedure decided to withdraw from Kentucky rather than chance defeat in enemy territory—Hay

I'll chance it, if it kills me—Jeopardize carries furthers the implication of exposure to dangers; it implies not only that they are a constant threat but that the odds in one's favor are equally or even unfavorably balanced with those against one found it difficult to steer a course that should not jeopardize either his loyalty or his honesty—Sidney Lee

(no traveler from abroad, however fair-minded, could tell the truth about us without jeopardizing his life, liberty, and reputation—Brooks

Endanger and peril both stress exposure to dangers or perils, and do not in themselves throw emphasis upon a taking of chances. Imperil may imply more certainty or more imminence to the predicted risk than endanger but the two words are often used interchangeably without significant loss (not so great a wind as to endanger us—Defoe)

condemned the abolitionists as agitators who actually endangered the cause of freedom—Cole

a jungle of aggressive power politics which implicts internal reconversion, the healing of the wounds of war, and the creation of the political apparatus necessary for one world—Mark Starr

(new technical processes and devices litter the countryside with waste and refuse, contaminate water and air, imperil wildlife and man and endanger the balance of nature itself—Kennedy

venturesome adventurous, daring, daredevil, rash, reckless, foolhardy

Ana bold, audacious, intrepid, brave: stout, sturdy, stalwart (see STRONG)

Con timid, timorous: fearful, apprehensive, afraid

veracity truth, verity, verisimilitude

Ana integrity, probity, honesty, honor

verbal oral

verbiage, redundancy, tautology, pleonasm, circumlocution, periphrasis are comparable when they denote a fault of style or a form or mode of expression involving the use of too many words. Verbiage may imply delight in words for their own sake (as for their sound, their color, or their suggestions) and overindulgence in their use for these reasons; the term, however, often suggests a pointless or habitual wordiness that tends to make what is written dull, meaningless, obscure, or unduly heavy reading this concise and well-informed speeches were welcomed amid the common verbiage of debate—Buchan

the almost luxurious richness of Aunt Phoebe's imagination, her florid verbiage, her note of sensuous defiance—H. G. Wells

Redundancy does not in general carry the implications of expansiveness, floridity, or heaviness so often apparent in verbiage; but the term sometimes implies the use of more words than are required by idiom or syntax and so suggests a fault of style redundancies result . . . when the writer fails to perceive the scope of a word—Wesley

the . . . florid redundancy of Italian prose—Ellis

Tautology is needless or useless repetition of the same idea in different words he cautioned his students to beware of such tautologies as visible to the eye and audible to the ear

Pleonasm implies the use of syntactically unnecessary words as in the man he said. Sometimes pleonastic expressions are acceptable means of emphasis and are thought of as figures of speech it is a pleonasm, a figure usual in Scripture, by a multiplicity of expressions to signify one notable thing—South

Circumlocution and periphrasis denote a roundabout or indirect way of saying a thing (the gift of the pamphleteer, who cuts through academic circumlocution—Dean)

one of those anomalous practitioners in lower departments of the law who . . . deny themselves all indulgence in the luxury of too delicate a conscience a periphrasis which might be abridged considerably—De Quincey

"The answer is in the negative" is a periphrasis for no—Time

Ana wordiness, verbose, compact, close

verbe wordy, prolix, diffuse, redundant

Ana grandiloquent, magniloquent, flowery, bombastic (see Rhetorical): loquacious, voluble, glib, garrulous, talkative

Ant laconic —Con concise, terse, succinct: compact, close

verse n edge, rim, brim, brink, border, margin

Ana bound, limit, end, confine: circumference, perimeter, compass

verify corroborate, substantiate, confirm, authenticate, validate

Ana *prove, test, try, demonstrate: certify, attest, witness, vouch: establish, settle (see SET vb)

verisimilitude truth, veracity, verity

Ana agreement, accordance, harmonizing or harmony, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): likeness, similitude, resemblance

veritable authentic, genuine, bona fide

Ana actual, real, true

Ant fictitious

verity truth, veracity, verisimilitude

veracious dialect, patois, lingua, jargon, cant, argot, slang

versatile, many-sided, all-around can all mean marked by or showing skill or ability or capacity or usefulness of many different kinds. When applied to persons, versatile stresses aptitude and facility in many different activities requiring skill or ability, especially the ability to turn with no diminution in skill from one activity to another without a hitch; applied to things, it stresses their multiple and diverse qualities, uses, or possibilities a versatile student the most versatile soprano now active Koledin a versatile interests a versatile combat weapon a versatile building material

Many-sided applied to persons stresses
breath or diversity of interests or accomplishments; applied to things, their diversity of aspects, attributes, or uses (A many-sided scholar and citizen) (A many-sided and truly civilized life—Trevelyan) (A many-sided personality) (A many-sided agreement—Manchester Guardian) All-around implies completeness or symmetry in development, either general or within a single activity with many phases; the term need not imply special or great attainments but rather a general ability to do oneself credit; when applied to things, it implies an analogous general usefulness (many observers have called him the best all-around reporter in the country—Walker) (the all-around adaptability and quality of our men—Vosseller) 

*An* gifted, talented (see corresponding nouns at Gift): accomplished, finished, *consummate: ready, apt, *quick, prompt

**Verse** 1 Verse, stanza both mean a unit of metrical writing. Verse is both wider and more varied in its popular usage since it can denote a single line of such writing, such writing as a class, or, along with stanza, a group of lines forming a division of a poem and typically following a fixed metrical and sometimes rhythmic pattern. Verse may also specifically denote the part of a song preceding the refrain or chorus or a comparable part of an anthem or hymn. But in technical use and in discussion of prosody verse is restricted to the single line of metrical writing and stanza is regularly employed for the group of lines that forms a division of a poem.

2 *paragraph, article, clause, plunk, count

**Versed** *conversant* 

*An* *learned, erudite: informed, acquainted (see Inform): intimate, *familiar

**Versifier** *poet, rhymmer, rhymer, poetaster, bard, minstrel, troubadour

**Version** 1 *translation, paraphrase, metathesis

2 *account, report, story, chronicle

**Vertebrae** *spine, backbone, back, chine

**Vertebral apex**

**Vertical, Perpendicular, Plumb** can mean situated at right angles to the plane of the horizon or extending from that plane at such an angle. Vertical suggests a relation to the vertex or topmost point (see Apex 1); it is used most often when the thing so described actually extends upward from the plane of the horizon or from its base or support in such a direction that if its direction line were produced, it would reach the zenith (vertical threads in a tapestry) (a vertical piston) (walls not quite vertical) Vertical is, of these terms, the most frequently applied to abstractions and the most common in extended use (the vertical organization of society) Perpendicular differs from vertical in being normally applied to things that extend upward or downward from the horizontal or both upward and downward; thus, one looks up or down the perpendicular face of a cliff (a perpendicular fall of water) Consequently, perpendicular is used more often than vertical to suggest little more than preciosity or extreme steepness or stiffness and straightness of line (a perpendicular descent) (a stiff perpendicular old maid—Milford) Plumb is largely a builder's term used particularly in judging the exact verticality or perpendicularity of something by its conformity to the direction of a plumb line (the wall was plumb)

*Ant* horizontal

**Vertiginous** *giddy, dizzy, swimming, dazzled

**Vertebral** *vivacity, animation, liveliness (see corresponding adjectives at Lively): buoyancy, resiliency, elasticity (see corresponding adjectives at Elastic)

**Very** selfsame, *same, identical, identic, equivalent, equal, tantamount

**Vessel** ship, *boat, craft

**Vestige** *trace, track

**Vex** irk, *annoy, bother

**Vice** 1 *fault, failing, frailty, foible

**Vicious** defec, flaw, *blemish: infirmity, weakness (see corresponding adjectives at Weak)

2 *offense, sin, crime, scandal

**Vivid** transgression, trespass, violation, *breach, infracion: immorality (see corresponding adjective at Immoral): *evil, ill

**Virtue**

**Vivacity, animation, liveliness** (see corresponding adjectives at Lively)
means extremely or flagrantly wicked 〈the nefarious neglect of their aged parents〉 〈race prejudice is most nefarious on its politer levels—Clurman〉 Flagrant and infamous both imply shameful and scandalous badness or wickedness, but the former is somewhat less rhetorical and more closely descriptive than the latter 〈in the beginning, the common law applied only to acts that all men, everywhere, admitted were flagitious—G. W. Johnson〉 〈forced and flagitious bombard—T. S. Eliot〉 〈else, perhaps, I might have been entangled among deeds, which, now, as infamous, I should abhor—Wordsworth〉 〈Alice . . . would have scouted as infamous any suggestion that her parent was more selfish than saintly—Shaw〉 Corrupt (see also DEBASE 1) may be applied to persons in an official capacity or to their acts, then implying a loss or lack of moral integrity or probity that makes one accessible to bribes or other inducements to go contrary to sworn duties or obligations 〈control of municipal government in . . . many . . . American cities had fallen into the clutches of corrupt political machines—Armbrister〉 〈bent only on turning each to his own personal advantage the now corrupt machinery of administration and law—Dickinson〉 or the term may be more generally applied, and then suggests degradation or depravity 〈those moral wildnesses of civilized life which the Square automatically condemns as delinquent or evil or immature or morbid or self-destructive or corrupt—Mailer〉 〈humanity they knew to be corrupt and incompetent—Henry Adams〉 Degenerate stresses a descent and deterioration from a presumed original or earlier high type or condition to one that is very low in the scale morally, intellectually, physically, or artistically. However it additionally carries so strong an implication of corruption, and so often suggests extreme viciousness that it is generally used to describe what is especially reprehensible and offensive from the historical point of view or in comparison to other members of its class or other instances of the type 〈preferred to prop up an effete and degenerate dynasty rather than face a vigorous reformed China—G. F. Hudson〉 〈what he has to say is inspired by revolt against the degenerate practice of his times—Binyon〉 〈we are solemnly warned that in the hands of modern writers language has fallen into a morbid state. It has become degenerate—Ellis〉 Ana debased, depraved, debouched, perverted (see under DEBASE) 〈disolute, profligate, *abandoned, reprobate: lewd, lascivious, wanton, lecherous, libidinous (see LICEN- TIOUS)〉 Ant virtuous vicissitude 1 *change, alternation, mutation, permutation 〈turning, revolution, revolving or revolution (see corre- sponding verbs at TURN): reversal, transposition (see corre- sponding verbs at REVERSE): *succession, progression, sequence, series: *variety, diversity 2 *difficulty, hardship, rigor Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: *trial, tribul- nation, affliction victim, prey, quarry denote a person or animal killed or injured for the ends of the one who kills or injures. Victim primarily applies to a living creature, usually an animal, sometimes a person, that is killed and offered as a sacrifice to a divinity; in more general use it applies to one who has been destroyed, ruined, seriously injured, or badly treated by some ruthless person or impersonal power before which he has been helpless 〈the victims of a pestilence〉 〈spent much time in the back of the grocery, complaining of his poverty as if it were a new invention and he its first victim—Malamud〉 〈was the girl born to be a victim; to be always disliked and crushed as if she were too fine for this world—Conrad〉 〈all are victims of circumstances; all have had characters warped in infancy and intelligence stunted at school—Russell〉 Prey applies to animals hunted and killed for food by more powerful carnivorous animals 〈the hungry family flew like vultures on their prey—Johnson〉 In extended sense prey applies to a vic- tim of something that seizes or captures or kills in a manner suggestive of the action of a predatory animal 〈Hitler, having taken his plunge, and with such reckless bravado, now suddenly was prey to doubts—Shirer〉 〈people who make solemn talk about art and are the natural prey of the artists of Punch—Montague〉 Quarry is predominantly a hunting term referable to a victim of the chase, especially one taken with hounds or hawks; it may be applied to the animal as pursued as well as the animal as taken after pursuit 〈the startled quarry bounds amain, as fast the gal- lant greyhounds strain—Scott〉 In extended use quarry usually applies to a person or thing determined upon as a victim and vigorously and relentlessly pursued 〈you think . . . you are the pursuer and she the pursued. . . . Fool: it is you who are the pursued, the marked-down quarry, the destined prey—Shaw〉 〈sometimes a man has to stalk his quarry with great caution, waiting patiently for the right moment to reveal himself—Dahl〉 victor, winner, conqueror, champion, vanquisher can all denote one who gains the mastery in a contest, conflict, or competition. Victor, the more literary term, and winner, the ordinary term, usually stress the fact of defeating one’s opponents; additionally victor can connote a triumph or a glorious proof of one’s powers. The terms are applicable when the test is one of strength, strategy, skill, or endurance 〈the winner in the oratorical contest〉 〈he who battles on her [Justice’s] side, God, though he were ten times slain, crowns him victor glorified, victor over death and pain—Emerson〉 〈life is a contest between people in which the victor generally recuperates quickly and the loser takes long to mend—Mailer〉 〈he undoubtedly was going to be a very rich man. So her boss said. And her boss picked winners—Donn Byrne〉 Conqueror stresses the defeat and subjugation of an enemy or opposing force; the term is seldom used appropriately in respect to friendly games or competitions where winner is the regular term, for it usually presupposes a warlike struggle or an attempt to crush by getting the upper hand 〈England never did, nor never shall, lie at the proud foot of a conqueror—Shak.〉 〈there was also in it . . . a note of the triumphant conqueror, the defier of the world—Shirer〉 Champion applies to the one who gains an acknowledged supremacy through a contest or in a field of competition (as in an athletic contest or a given sport). The term does not apply to a winner of any test, but only of a test in which one meets all of those of highest rank in the field or meets the one who holds the title of champion or one who challenges one’s own right to hold that title 〈the heavyweight champion of the world〉 〈he could end up being champion for a while. But I doubt if he could hold the title in a strong field—Mailer〉 Van- quisher is often used in place of conqueror and, often iron- ically or somewhat hyperbolically, in place of victor or winner, when there is an intent to imply an overpowering or an overwhelming or crushing defeat (but I shall rise victorious, and subdue thy vanquisher—Milton) 〈realized that gold is not always the vanquisher of every obstacle—Cable〉 victory, conquest, triumph can mean the result achieved by one who gains the mastery in a contest or struggle. Victory and conquest in their basic use carry the same implications and suggestions as the corresponding agent nouns (see VICTOR) 〈"Victory," said Nelson, "is not a name strong enough for such a scene"; he called it a con- quest—Southey〉 〈in their common extended use, victory Wick}
is likely to suggest a gaining of superiority or success, often in intellectual or spiritual fields (a first instance of the victory of technical knowledge . . . over the traditional crafts—Michael Barnour) (this mental victory over this cruel illness is . . . inspiring—Patterson) (music . . . starts off at the point where the victory of the spirit over musical instruments is complete—Spender) while conquest is more likely to imply a bringing of something under one's control, especially so that it may be put to use (man's conquest of the soil—Shaplen) (art is essentially a conquest of matter by the spirit—Binyon) Triumph may apply either to a brilliant or decisive victory or an overwhelming conquest and suggest the acclaim and personal satisfaction accruing to the winner (this [Wellington's] triumph will be sung . . . far on in summers that we shall not see—Tennyson) (it is surely questionable whether they . . . should desire their triumph, a degree of success that clearly implies the full accomplishment of all their ends, good and bad—The Commonweal) In its extended use triumph tends to stress decisiveness and brilliance of the result (the triumph of industrialism and the spread of urbanism—Glicksberg) or to express the pleasure of the successful person (she was clearly conscious of her success . . . there was a little prance of triumph in her walk—Dahl)\n
Ana winning, gaining (see GET): ascendency, *supremacy: control, sway, dominion, command, *power, authority

Ant defeat

victuals *food, feed, viands, provisions, comestibles, victuals

view *point of view, standpoint, angle, slant

vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, élan, drive

can all denote a quality of force, forcefulness, or energy. Vigor implies a strength that proceeds from a fundamental soundness or robustness or a display of energy or forcefulness deriving from this or befitting it (the physical and intellectual vigor and toughness which the trial lawyer needs—Robert Hale) (the tendency . . . to mistake gush for vigor and substitute rhetoric for imagination—Duy Lewis) Vim stresses the display of usually enthusiastic energy put into the work of doing or making something (the two sisters . . . were not beautiful. . . but they had the dash . . . that a later generation came to call sex appeal—Shaplen) Esprit is not quite equivalent to spirit; like spirit it implies a quality which has its basis in nature and is manifested in mood or temperament; unlike it, it suggests the force displayed by an exceedingly active and subtle mind and so comes close to meaning cleverness, brains, or wit usually with an added suggestion of vivacity (as in conversation) (one man who is a little too literal can spoil the talk of a whole tableau of men of esprit—Holmes) (the industrial esprit that could spark general economic advancement—Riesman) Verve also comes close to spirit, but it often carries a clearer implication of a characteristic or peculiar force or energy, the exact description of which only the context can supply or suggest (writing with the verve and gusto dear to the mid-nineteenth century—Mary Ross) (the spirit of their times is in them. There is the same tremendous energy and verve and vitality—Edith Hamilton) (his manly verve for the enlivening of that gray court—Bello) Punch suggests a quality that carries with it the power to gain its aim; it may imply a convincing or commanding quality, but it stresses forcefulness and immediate effectiveness (the searing punch of cloud to ground lightning—Dillon) (verbs that have punch—Westley) Élan approaches dash in meaning, but it carries a stronger connotation of impetuosity and assurance or of ardor in the display of force and energy (his stories . . . are told in a formal style and exhibit the attempt to recapture a certain note of urbanity, wit, and, and élan—Mailer) (performed with great élan in a sophisticated style—Dance Observer) Drive also, like dash and élan, suggests a quality that affects others, but it carries a richer implication than either of the display of power to force through to the ends in view and to carry the observers, especially the readers, along with it (the city had lost . . . the surging drive that supposedly was so characteristically American—Harold Sinclair) (the dynamic core of a society, its central impulse and drive—Maughan) (this titan's spirit which gave such drive and strength to the mightiest of his plays—J.M. Brown)\n
Ana strength, force, *power, might, energy: soundness, healthiness (see corresponding adjectives at HEALTHY): virility (see corresponding adjectives at MALE)

vigorous, energetic, strenuous, lusty, nervous can all mean having or manifesting great vitality and force. A person or thing is vigorous that has or manifests active strength or force and exhibits no signs of a depletion of the powers associated with freshness or robustness of body or mind (seemed as vigorous as a youth half his age—A vigorous, fast-growing tree—The vigorous mother of a large family) (a vigorous argument—Edmund Wilson) (Kate was a bold, vigorous thinker—Anderson) A person or thing is energetic that displays abundant force or a capacity for great activity; the term does not necessarily connote the reserve vitality and force that vigorous implies and it sometimes even suggests an expenditure of energy and Williams activity that has little to do with inherent physical or mental strength; therefore the term may be used to suggest compliment or, less often, slight deprecation (to be counted among the strong, and not the merely energetic—J. R. Lowell) (capable and energetic women, as fit to intimidate local government boards as to control the domestic economy of their own homes—Sackville-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, vile *base, low bodies—
Amer. Guide Series: Mich.)

already established as a comic

Ana depraved, corrupted, perverted, abused, outrage, mistreat, misuse: assail, attack:

Scamp may describe one given to artful cheating, clever

and yet

nerve—Masefield)

appetite) A thing

is lusty that exhibits exuberant vigor or energy <therefore my age is as a lusty winter, frosty, but kindly—Shak.)

Pete Gurney was a lusty cock turned sixty-three, but

Briefed by—Masefield] a lusty appetite) A thing

(as a quality, a style, or an utterance) is nervous that conveys a feeling of continuing often forceful activity such as results from mental vigor and energy <the nervous alertness of youthful brains, and the stamina of youthful bodies—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.)

Vindicate 1 justify, defend, maintain, assert

vim *vigor, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, élan, drive

villainous *vicious, iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious, infamous, corrupt, degenerate

Vindicate 1 justify, defend, maintain, assert

ana ire, manly, manful (see male): muscular, athletic, sinewy, husky: stout, sturdy, stalwart, strong, tough

ant languorous: lethargic

vile *base, low

villi *malign, traduce, asperse, calumniate, defame, slander, libel

ana *abuse, outrage, mistreat, misuse: assail, attack: revive, vituperate, berate (see scold)

ant eulogize

villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, scamp, rascallion, miscreant can all denote a low, mean, and reprehensible person utterly lacking in principles. Villain describes one utterly given to crime, evil, and baseness are not made villains by the commission of a crime, but were villains before they committed it—Ruskin)

Scoundrel may suggest blended thoughtlessness, meanness, and unscrupulousness a crew of pirates will elect a boatswain to order them about and a captain to lead them and navigate the ship, though the one may be the most insufferable bully and the other the most tyrannical scoundrel on board—Shaw)

Blackguard may imply inverte depravity; sometimes it is used with a suggestion of angry contempt as the antithesis of gentleman you must employ either blackguards or gentlemen, or, best of all, blackguards commanded by gentlemen, to do butcher's work with efficiency and dispatch—Kipling)

Knife may suggest sly trickery and deceit cheating knives gathered at the taverns) more fool than knife)

Rascal may suggest base dishonesty your true rascal is today your only true citizen of the world. He plunders all nations without pride in one or prejudice against another—Linklater)

Roger often suggests the blended roughness and willingness of a vagabond sturdy rogues taking to the roads as highwaymen) but both rascal and rogue are freely used with greatly weakened force and then imply no more than a more or less pleasing mischievousness tell me about . . . the dear little rogues—Whitman) the Yankee . . . was already established as a comic rascal—Bergen Evans)

Scamp may describe one given to artful cheating, clever robbery, or interesting escapades a scamp who had pinched pennies out of the teacups of the poor by various shenanigans, who was distributing his largesse to divert attention from his rascality—White) and it, too, is often used with weakened force, then suggesting impish and often childish trickery the most audacious scamp in all the animal kingdom is Bugs Bunny—My Baby Magazine)

Rascallion may refer to an ill-dressed rogue or rascal rarely successful the rascallions of the river, the Black Gangs—Le Sueur)

Miscreant typically refers to a singularly conscienceless villain a sordid glamour about imprisonment which makes the young miscreant feel important; he has the inverted satisfaction of being treated like a grown-up gangster—Times Lit. Sup.)

ana offender, sinner (see corresponding nouns at ofen: *criminal, malefactor

vindictive, revengeful, vengeful are close synonyms often used interchangeably to mean showing or motivated by a desire for vengeance. Distinctively vindictive tends to stress this reaction as inherent in the nature of the individual and, therefore, is especially applicable when no specific motivating grievance exists there was nothing vindictive in his nature; but, if revenge came his way, it might as well be good—Stevenson)

The term can imply a persistent emotion or a tendency to seek revenge for real or fancied wrongs or slights, sometimes with implacable malevolence, sometimes with spiteful malice a vindictive man will look for occasions of resentment—James Martin

The spirit of ardor or no avoidance of the arduous to hustle . . . seem to be prominent American...
proper palfries, black as jet, to hale thy vengeful wagon swift away—Shak. <they unnerve us with vengeful roar of wheel—Lewisohn>

**Anno** implacable, unrelenting, relentless, merciless, *grim: spiteful, *malicious, malignant, malign

**violation** *breach, infraction, transgression, trespass, infringement, contravention

*Anno* *offense, sin, vice, crime, scandal: desecration, *profanation, sacrilege, blasphemy: invading or invasion, encroachment, entrenchment (see corresponding verbs at TRESPASS)

**violence** *force, compulsion, coercion, duress, constraint, restraint

*Anno* vehement, intensity, fierceness (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE): *effort, exertion, pains, trouble: *attack, assault, onslaught, onset

**violent** *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite

*Anno* *powerful, potent, forceful, forcible: *excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extreme, extravagant

**virago, amazon, termagent, scold, shrew, vixen** can all mean a woman of pugnacious temperment. *Virago* and *amazon* are often interchangeable; both tend to suggest physical vigor and size and often a masculine quality of mind or unrest *viraoges* with red faces, thick necks, and tousled lit-colored hair screamed at all present to come and have a shy at the wooden figures—Lynd <an amazon of a woman appeared suddenly in the doorway. She was well over six feet and well over two hundred pounds—Nancy Rutledge> <a few daring amazons of the horsey set—Dos Passos> and both may apply to a woman engaged in typically masculine pursuits and especially fighting *their leader was a fiery little Mexican virago scarcely out of her teens—Green Peyton> <Charles XII of Sweden had a bearded female grenadier in his army, a reputedly beautiful amazon—Joseph Mitchell> <The warrior maiden Marfisa, a true virago and amazon—R. A. Hall> Distinctively *virago* can imply fierceness of temper and a domineering nature (sometimes she abjures her femininity, she hesitates between chastity, homosexuality, and an aggressive virago attitude—Parshley) <certain viragoes, who made life a burden to the brothers—G. W. Johnson> while *amazon* is more likely to suggest heroic qualities (as of dedication and competence) *a magnificent, tousled, ragged amazon of a woman, on fire with the spirit of revolt against oppression—Lingua- phone Mag.> <you can ... while some intellectual amazons at your right tells you all about Péguy and Beethoven and Karl Marx, smile at your wife and be glad she has just the mind she has—Le Beau> *Termagent* carries a strong implication of habitual disorderly turbulence, boisterousness, and uncontrollable temper *a loufomouthed termagent, who screamed abuse and vile sulkiness at her husband from morning till night—The Scotsman* <what she was trying to accomplish was to get rid of all his relatives ... She became a termagent—Howard> *Scold, shrew, and vixen* designate women who habitually inflict their bad temper on others. *A scold indulges herself in vulgar, abusive, and often castigating speech (really was a scold ... had fought life single-handed ... with all the ferocity of outraged sensibilities, and had come out of the fight scratched and disheveled, with few womanly graces—Stowe> <she laid on external things the blame of her mind's internal disorder, and thus became by degrees an accomplished scold—Peacock> while *a shrew* possesses a bitter tongue and a nagging disposition *a shrew, a woman with the temper of a fiend—Forester* and *a vixen, a fiery temperament and often a tendency to snappish asperity* <a woman tropical, intense ... she blended in a like degree the vixen and the devotee—Whittier>

**virgin adj** 1 *unmarried, single, celibate, maiden 2 also *virginal* maiden, boyish, *youthful, juvenile, puerile

*Anno* *chaste, pure, modest, decent: fresh, *new

**virile** *manly, manly, male, masculine, manlike, mannish

*Effeminate: impotent (sense 2)

**virtual** *implicit, constructive

*Actual

**virtually, practically, morally** can all mean not absolutely or actually, yet so nearly so that the difference is negligible. So close are these words in meaning that they (especially the first two) are often interchanged although each can carry specific implications that make discriminative use possible. Virtually may imply that the difference is merely that between what a thing is in name or outward seeming and what it is in fact, in essence, in effect, or, sometimes, in potentiality <the prime minister is virtually the ruler of his country> (their father's request is virtually a command) <The British contended that the American colonies were virtually represented> Practically implies a difference between what is enough for practical purposes or from the point of view of use, value, or effectiveness and what satisfies the requirements formally or absolutely <badly spotted fruit is practically worthless> <a road is practically finished when traffic can pass over it freely and without interruptions> Morally implies a difference between what satisfies one's judgment and what is required for proof by law or by logic <the jurors were morally certain of the defendant's guilt, but owing to a lack of evidence, they were compelled to render a verdict of "not guilty" When morally qualifies words such as "impossible," it occurs in a statement of a conviction and is slightly less positive than "absolutely" <it is morally impossible to accomplish more under the circumstances

**virtue** *goodness, morality, rectitude

*Anno* *honor, honesty, integrity, probity* *fidelity, piety, fealty, loyalty: righteousness, nobility, virtuousness (see corresponding adjectives at MORAL)

*Actual

**vice** 2 *excellence, merit, perfection

*Anno* *worth, value: effectiveness, efficacy, effectual-ness (see corresponding adjectives at EFFECTIVE): strength, might, *power, force

**virtuous** *expert, adept, artist, artiste, wizard

*Anno* *morals, ethical, righteous, noble

**virulent** *poisonous, venomous, toxic, mephitic, pestilential, miasmatic, miasmal

**virtually** *imaging, fancies, illusion, mirage: •imaginative, fanciful, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic

*Anno* romantic, *sentimental, maudlin: Utopian, *ambi-

**visitation** *imaginary, fanciful, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic

*Anno* *morally: righteous, noble

*Actual

**vision** *imagination, fancy, fantasy

*Anno* romantic, *sentimental, maudlin: Utopian, *ambi-

**visit** *visit, visitation, call are comparable when they mean a coming to stay with another, usually for a brief time, as a courtesy, an act of friendship, or a business or professional duty. Visit applies not only to such a stay with
another (pay a visit to a friend) (a physician's bill for visits) (a welfare worker's visit) but also, to a more protracted stay as a house guest or in a place where one goes for rest, entertainment, or sightseeing (a week's visit in a friend's summer home) (off for a visit to Washington) (plan a visit to Europe) Visitation (see also trial) 2) is chiefly employed in reference to a formal or official visit (as to a church, a college, or a ship) made by one in authority (as an ecclesiastical superior, a school superintendent, or a medical inspector) (parochial visitations of a bishop) (a visitation and search of a merchant ship can be made only by an authorized official) The term may also be used of something that visits one, often by or as if by the will of a superior power (see gentle visitations of calm thought—Shelley) or that is visited upon one and that is usually regarded as an affliction (an illness, a maiming accident or some other visitation of blind fate—Conrad) Call applies only to a brief visit, such as one makes upon a person who is not a friend, but with whom one has social or official relations (a society woman must give a portion of her time to formal calls) or by a person in quest of business or of a business order (the morning call of the grocer's boy) The term, however, may be used in place of visit for a short social visit.

visitant *visitor, guest, caller

visitation 1) visit, call 2) trial, tribulation, affliction, cross

Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: calamity, catastrophe, *disaster: hardship, vicissitude (see difficulty)

visitor, visitant, guest, caller mean one who visits another

Ana important, significant, consequential, weighty, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE): indispensable, requisite, necessary, *needful

vitalize, energize, activate can all mean to arouse to activity, animation, or life something inactive, inert, latent, or arrested (as in development). Vitalize may stress the arousal of something more or less inert or lifeless to vital activity, often by communicating an impetus or force, or an impairing of significance or interest to (something) or a making one aware of its inherent significance or interest; the term usually suggests a vigor, freshness, or health in the
effect (a force which can vitalize or destroy men—Cunnington) (a power of description that vitalizes his words—Christian Science Monitor) (a resurgent democracy vitalized . . . through a mobilization of the total resources of the community—Melby) Energize implies an arousing to activity by an imparting of strength or a source of power that increases capacity for activity or an acting with a vitality presumably induced by such power (oats are, without doubt, the best energizing food for horses—Wynmnalden) (storage batteries energize railroad block signal circuits—Orsino & Lynes) (it is Christianity which energized the special genius that made the West what it is—Cogley) (when a man and woman are successfully in love, their whole activity is energized and victorious. They walk better . . . they think more clearly—Lippmann) Activate implies a passing from an inactive to an active state; though the process involved can be equivalent to that implied by energize the stress is quite different and is consistently upon an arousing to activity by the influence of an external agent (breaks contact with the photoelectric cell and activates an alarm—Hynd) (the report has done much to crystallize and activate official and private opinion—Walter White) (vitamin D activated by sunlight) (political and legal hacks whose function it was to supply the docile social machinery for cleverer men to activate and guide—Mattingly)

Ana animate, *quicken, enliven, vivify: stimulate, galvanize, excite, *provoke

Ant atrophy

vitate *debase, deprave, corrupt, pervert, debauch


vilitated debased, depraved, corrupted, debauched, perverted (see under DEBASE)

Ana defiled, polluted, contaminated, tainted (see CONTAMINATE): impaired, spoiled, injured (see INJURE): invalidated, annulled (see NULLIFY)

vituperate revile, berate, rate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail

Ana condemn, denounce, censure, blame, reprehend, reprobate (see CRITICIZE): vilify, asperse, traduce, *malign, calumniate: *execrate, objurgate

Con *commend, applaud, compliment: *praise, extol, eulogize

vituperation *abuse, invective, obloquy, scurrility, billingsgate

Ana *animadversion, aspersion, stricture, reflection: *attack, assault, onslaught, onset: condemnation, denunciation, censuring or censure (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE): vilifying or vilification, maligning, calumniation (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)

Ant acclaim, praise

vituperative *abusive, opprobrious, contumelious, scurrilous

Ana *coarse, vulgar, gross, obscene; insulting, offending, outraging (see OFFEND): condemning or condemnation, denouncing or denunciatory (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE): vilifying or vilification, maligning, calumniation (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)

Ant acclaim, praise

vituperative *abusive, opprobrious, contumelious, scurrilous

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Ant acclaim, praise

ana~equivalent words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
vivid

vivify *quicken, animate, enliven

Ana *vitalize, energize, activate: *renew, restore, re- fresh: *stir,rouse, arouse: stimulate, galvanize, excite (see PROVOCATE)

vixen shrew, scold, termagent, *virago, amazon

vocal n *word, term

vocabulary *language, phraseology, diction, phrasing, style

vocal 1 Vocal, articulate, oral can all mean uttered by the voice or having to do with utterance. Vocal implies the use of voice, but not necessarily of speech or language; thus, vocal sounds are sounds produced by a creature that has vocal organs; vocal music is contrasted with instrumental music because the musical tones are produced by the voice rather than by a musical instrument. Articulate implies the use of distinct intelligible language; thus, speech is the uttering of articulate sounds; articulate cries are those that are expressed in meaningful words rather than in meaningless sounds (Constance nodded her head in thorough agreement. She did not trouble to go into articulate apologies—Bennett) Oral implies the use of the voice rather than the hand (as in writing or typing) in communicating (as thoughts, wishes, orders, questions, or answers) (an oral examination) (an oral command) (the oral transmission of tradition)

2 Vocal, articulate, fluent, eloquent, voluble, glib can mean being able to express oneself clearly or easily, or showing such ability. Vocal usually implies ready responsiveness to an occasion for expression or free and usually forceful, insistent, or emphatic voicing of one’s ideas or feelings (earth’s millions daily fed, a world employed in gathering plenty yet to be enjoyed, till gratitude grew vocal in the praise of God—Cowper) (this instantaneous indignation of the most impulsive and vocal of men was diligently concealed for at least six weeks, with reporters camping upon his doorstep day and night—Mencken) Articulate is as often applied to thoughts and emotions with reference to their capacity for expression as to persons or their utterances. It implies the use of language which exactly and distinctly reveals or conveys what seeks expression (the deepest intuitions of a race are deposited in its art; the primitive poet . . . was used by the community to communicate (as thoughts, wishes, orders, questions, or answers) (at ROAR) (an oral examination) (an oral command) (the oral transmission of tradition)

vociferate *roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, clamor, howl, ululate

Ana *shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, holler

vociferous *roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, clamor, howl, ululate

vociferous, clamorous, blatant, strident, boisterous, obstreperous are comparable when they mean so loud and noisy, especially vocally, as to compel attention, often unwillingly voicing. Vociferous implies both loud and vehement cries or shouts; it often suggests also a deafening quality (watermen, fishwomen, oysterwomen, and . . . all the vociferous inhabitants of both shores—Fielding) (vociferous vindications of their innocence—Irving) (vociferous protests) Clamorous can imply insistency as well as vociferousness in demanding or protesting (it was impossible to yield to her clamorous demands—Replier) but as often it stresses the notion of sustained din or confused turbulence (the district had been clamorous with trucks arriving, backing in and out . . . the drivers bawling and cursing—Peggy Bacon) Blatant implies a tendency to bellow or be conspicuously, offensively, or vulgarly noisy or clamorous (they were heretics of the blatant sort, loudmouthed and shallow-minded—Expositor) (building against our blatant, restless time an unseen, skillful, medieval wall—Lindsay) Strident basically implies a harsh and discordant quality characteristic of some noises that are peculiarly distressing to the ear; it is applied not only to loud, harsh sounds but also to things which, like these, irresistibly and against one’s will force themselves upon the attention (the colors are too strident—Anna) (the strident yellow note of the cockerel shot up into the sunshine—Gibbons) (there was no strident old voice to bid him do this or that; no orders to obey, no fierce and insane faultfinding—Deland) Boisterous has usually an implication of rowdy high spirits andflouting of customary order and is applied to persons or things that are extremely noisy and turbulent, as though left loose from all restraint (from the distant halls the boisterous revelry floated in broken bursts of faint-heard din and tumult—Jerome) (boisterous spring winds—Cather) Obstreperous suggests unruly and aggressive noisiness, typically occurring in resistance to or defiance of authority or restraining influences (the most care less and obstreperous merriment—Johnson) (disrespectful of Parliamentary decorum, they are so obstreperous that sittings sometimes have to be suspended to stop their hubbub—Flanner)

Ana noisy, sounding (see corresponding nouns at SOUND): bewildering, distracting (see PUZZLE vb)

vogue mode, *fashion, style,fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, cry

voice vb *express, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

Ana *reveal, disclose, tell, discover, divulge: *communicate, impart: *speak, talk

void adj 1 *empty, vacant, blank, vacuous

Ana exhausted, depleted, drained (see DEPLET): *bare, barren: hollow, empty, nugatory, *vain

2 *devoid, destitute

void n vacuum, *hole, hollow, cavity, pocket

Ana emptiness, vacancy, vauchy (see corresponding adjectives at EMPTY): abyss, *gulf, abyss

gests a flow of language that is not easily stemmed (indulge in voluble explanations) (a voluble person, but at last the flow of words stopped—Glasgow) Glib implies such facility in utterance as to suggest superficiality or emptiness in what is said or slipperiness or untrustworthiness in the speaker (he has a glib reply) (their only virtue, a glib conversation with such topics as came up for discussion—Sackville-West)

Ana expressing, voicing, venting (see EXPRESS vb): *expressive, sententious, eloquent
void

void vb vacate, *annul, abrogate, quash

volatile effervescent, buoyant, expansive, resilient, *elastic

Ana unstable, mercurial, *inconstant, fickle, capricious: light-minded, frivolous, flippant, flighty (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS): variable, *changeable, protean

volatility *lightness, light-mindedness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, flightiness

Ana vivaciousness or vivacity, gaiety, liveliness, animation, sprightliness (see corresponding adjectives at LIVELY): unstableness or instability, mercurialness, inconstancy (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSTANT): variability, changeableness (see corresponding adjectives at CHANGEABLE)

volcano *mountain, mount, peak, alp, mesa

tinction > <a

volition *will, conation

Ana *choice, election, option

Con *force, coercion, compulsion, duress

volubility glibness, garrulity, loquacity, talkativeness (see under TALKATIVE)

Ana fluency, glibness, eloquence, articulateness (see corresponding adjectives at VOCAL)

voluble 1 fluent, glib, eloquent, *vocal, articulate

Ana copious, abundant, *plentiful: *easy, facile, effortless, smooth

Ant stuttering, stammering

2 glib, garrulous*, loquacious, *talkative

Ant curt

volume 1 magnitude, *size, extent, dimensions, area

2 *bulk, mass

voluntary, intentional, deliberate, willful, willing can mean constituting or proceeding from an exercise of free will. Voluntary, the most widely applicable of these terms, often implies not only freedom from constraint but freedom from the control of an influence that might suggest, prompt, or incite action; it does not necessarily imply that these influences have not been operative, but it usually suggests that the decision is the result of one’s free choice (a voluntary renunciation of his inheritance) (a voluntary confession) (a voluntary system . . . which possessed a certain pleasant dignity denied to the systems of a more compulsory sort—Sackville-West). Often the term carries another, sometimes a different, implication, such as that of spontaneity (voluntary contributions) (our voluntary service he requires not—Milton) or, especially when the opposition is to involuntary, that of subjection to or regulation by the will (voluntary movements of the eyes) (voluntary muscles) or that of prior consideration and clear choice (voluntary manslaughter) or that of absence of any legal obligation or compulsion (as to do or make) (voluntary bankruptcy) or of any valuable consideration in return for doing or making (voluntary conveyance of property)

Intentional applies chiefly to acts or processes entered into in order to achieve a desired end or purpose or to the end or purpose so willed or effected; the use of the word eliminates all suggestion of the possibility of accident or inadvertence (an intentional insult) (not one in a thousand). It perpetrates any intentional damage to fish, food, or flowers—Jefferies

Deliberate (see also DELIBERATE 2, SLOW) adds the implication of full knowledge or full consciousness of the nature of one’s intended act and a decision to go ahead in spite of such knowledge or consciousness (a deliberate falsehood) (deliberate murder) (an organized and deliberate attack—carefully planned and calculated—N.Y. Times). Willful (see also UNRULY) adds to deliberate the implications of a refusal to be taught, counselled, or commanded, and of an obstinate determination to follow one’s own will or choice in full consciousness of the influences or arguments opposed to the attitude adopted or the action or deed contemplated (willful murder) (willful ignorance) (his willful abuse of his children) (willful blindness to ascertained truth—Inge)

Willing carries, in contrast, an implication of characteristics (as agreeableness, openness of mind, or absence of reluctance) that makes one ready or eager, without suggestion or without coercion, to accede to the wishes or instructions of others or to do something or effect some end pleasing to them (how curious is that instinct which makes each sex, in different ways, the willing slave of the other!—Jefferies) (willing service) (where ears are willing, talk tends to be loud and long—Huxley)

Ana chosen, elected, opted (see CHOOSE): *free, independent, autonomous

Ant involuntary: instinctive (sense 2) —Con compelled, coerced, forced (see FORCE vb)

voluptuous luxurious, sybaritic, epicurean, *sensual, sensual

Ana indulging or indulgent, pampering (see corresponding verbs at INDULGE): *luxurious, opulent, sumptuous

Ant ascetic

vomit *belch, burp, disgorge, regurgitate, spew, throw up

Ana *eject, expel, oust

voracious, glutinous, ravenous, ravenging, rapacious can all mean excessively greedy and can all apply to persons, their appetites and reactions, or their behavior. Voracious implies habitual gorging with food or drink, or with whatever satisfies an excessive appetite (a voracious eater) (a voracious reader) (voracious birds, that hotly bill and breed, and largely drink—Dryden). Gluttonous differs from voracious chiefly in its common suggestions of covetous delight (as in food) and of acquiring or eating past need or to the point of satiety (he was gluttonous for jewels—Gunther) (though a Norman was not gluttonous, he was epicurean—Lynton) (his gluttonous appetite for food, praise, pleasure—Guerard). Ravenous implies excessive hunger and suggests violent or brutal methods of dealing with food or with whatever satisfies an appetite (he contracted a habit of eating with ravenous greediness. . . . The sight of food affected him as it affects wild beasts and birds of prey—Macaulay) (he had mad hungers that grew more ravenous as he fed them—Wilde)

Ravenous is sometimes employed in place of ravenous (the hordes of ravenging ants—Beebe) but more often it comes close to rapacious in suggesting a violent tendency to seize or appropriate to oneself in the manner of a bird of prey or a predatory animal (beast of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenging wolves—Mt 7:15). Rapacious may imply the seizure of food (rapacious animals we hate: kites, hawks, and wolves, deserve their fate—Parkman) but more often it suggests extreme and utterly selfish acquisitiveness or cupidity (the Indians, who, though often rapacious, are devoid of avarice—Parkman) (the European nations, arrogant, domineering, and rapacious, have done little to recommend the name of Christianity in Asia and Africa—Inge)

Ana greedy, grasping, acquisitive, *covetous: sating, satiating, surfeiting, gorging (see SATIATE)

vortex *eddy, whirlpool, maelstrom

votary *addict, devotee, habitué

Ana *enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

vote n *suffrage, franchise, ballot

vouch *certify, attest, witness

Ana *support, uphold: *confirm, substantiate, verify, corroborate

vouchsafe *grant, accord, concede, award

Ana *give, bestow, confer, present: tend to: descend, deign, *stope: *oblige, accommodate, favor

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
wage or wages, salary, stipend, fee, pay, hire, emolument
can all mean the price paid a person for his labor or services. Wage or wages applies chiefly to an amount paid on
daily, hourly, or piecework basis and typically at weekly
intervals for labor, especially labor that involves more
physical than mental effort <a gardener’s wages> (a steel-
worker’s daily wage) Salary and stipend both usually
apply to compensation at a fixed, often annual, rate that
is paid in regular (as weekly or monthly) installments but
stipend is more likely to apply to the compensation of a
teacher, a clergyman, or a magistrate, or it may denote
money received from a scholarship or a pension <many a
person has brought up a family on a stipend of seventy
pounds a year—Shaw> Fee applies to the price usually
in the form of a fixed charge, asked or paid for the service
of a professional (as a physician, lawyer, musician, or
artist) when such service is requested or required <pay
the surgeon’s fee for a major operation> <a lawyer’s retain-
ing fee> (a pianist’s fee for a concert) Pay can replace
wages, salary, or stipend <fired and told to draw his pay>
<a teacher’s pay> <even a preacher needs adequate pay>
and is the one of these four terms freely used in combina-
tion and attributively <waiting for payday> <paycheck>
<crumpled his empty pay envelope> Hire, which basically
denotes payment made for the temporary use of something
(as the property or money of another), is occasionally and
especially in legal use applied to compensation for labor
or services and is then equivalent to wages or salary <the
laborer is worthy of his hire—Lk 10:7> <lends his pen
multiple, often means the financial reward of one’s work
or office <the emoluments of a profession—Gibbon>
>a worthier successor wears his dignity and pockets his
emolishments—Hawthorne> or more specifically rewards
and perquisites other than wages or salary <emolvements
of value, like pension and insurance benefits, which may
accru to employees—Gibbon or emoluments—Gibbon
of seventy pounds a year—Shaw> Emolument, usually in the
plural, often means the financial reward of one’s work
or office <the emoluments of a profession—Gibbon>
>a worthier successor wears his dignity and pockets his
emolishments—Hawthorne> or more specifically rewards
and perquisites other than wages or salary <emolvements
of value, like pension and insurance benefits, which may
accru to employees—Boyce> (salary £550 with no
emoluments—Farmer and Stock-Breeder)
Ana remuneration, recompensing or recompense (see
corresponding verbs at PAY)
wagger *bet, stake, pot, ante
waggish sportive, frolicsome, *playful, impish, mischie-
vous, roguish
Ana facetious, jocose, jocular, humorous, *witty: jovial,
jolly (see MERRY): comical, comical, *laughable, droll,
ludicrous, funny
Con *serious, earnest, sober, grave, sedate, staid
wall vb weep, *cry, whimper, blubber, keen
Ana mourn, *grieve: lament, bewail, bemoan, *deplore:
moan, sob, *sigh, groan
waite *stay, remain, abide, tarry, linger
Ana *delay, loiter
Con depart, leave, *go, withdraw, retire
waille cede, yield, resign, abandon, surrender, *relinquish,
leave
Ana *fargo, foarse, sacrifice: concede, *grant, allow

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
from point to point. Most of these verbs may imply walking, but most are not restricted in their reference to human beings or to any particular means of locomotion. **Wander** implies the absence of a fixed course or more or less indifference to a course that has been fixed or otherwise indicated; the term may imply the movement of a walker whether human or animal or of any traveler, but it may be used of anything capable of direction or control that is permitted to move aimlessly (wandering thoughtfully in the silent wood—*Pope*) (his eyes wandered over the landscape) (his mind wandered and he was unsure of himself—*Shirer*) (she wandered frequently from her subject). **Stray** carries a stronger suggestion of deviation from a fixed, true, or proper course, and often connotes a being lost or a danger of being lost (fallows grey, where the nibbling flocks do stray—*Milton*) (we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep—*Book of Common Prayer*) (though we stumbled and we strayed, we were led by evil counsellors—*Kipling*) **Roam** carries a stronger suggestion of freedom and of scope than **wander**; it usually carries no implication of a definite object or goal, but it seldom suggests futility or fruitlessness and often connotes delight or enjoyment (like us, the Libyan wind delights to roam at large—*Arnold*) (let the winged Fancy roam—*Keats*) (type of the wise who soar, but never roam—*Wordsworth*) (the charm of a quiet watch on deck when one may let one’s thoughts roam in space and time—*Conrad*) **Ramble**, in contrast, suggests carelessness in wandering and more or less indifference to one’s path or goal (to ramble through the country and to talk about books—*Marquand*) It often, especially in its extended uses, implies a straying beyond bounds, an inattention to details that ought to serve as guides, or an inability to proceed directly or under proper restrictions (a vine, remarkable for its tendency, not to spread and ramble, but to mass and mount—*Cather*) (great temptation . . . to ramble on interminably in praise of the delights of sailing—*Schoettle*) **Rove** comes close to roam in its implication of wandering over extensive territory, but it usually carries a suggestion of zest in the activity, and does not preclude the possibility of a definite end or purpose (invaders roved through the country burning and pillaging homes in their pathway) (ravenous beasts freely roving up and down the country—*Fuller d. 1661*) (to see thee did I often rove through woods and on the green—*Wordsworth*) **Range** is often used in place of rove without loss; it may be preferred when literal wandering is not implied or when the speaker is in the sweep of territory covered rather than on the form of locomotion involved (earth ships had ranged the cosmos far and wide—*Theodore Sturgeon*) (her imperious and hoarse voice ranged over a complete octave of requited social ambitions—*Cheever*) (his thoughts always ranged far afield—*Mencken*) **Prowl** implies a stealthy or furtive roving, about, may suggest a bustling from place to place idly or for the most trivial ends and often to the detriment of one’s actual duties (her upper housemaid and laundry maid, instead of being in their business, are gadding about the village all day long—*Austen*) (he disapproved of her gadding about by herself—*Galsworthy*) **Gallivant** adds to gad the implication of a search for pleasure or amusement or the use of an opportunity to display one’s finery (her father refused to allow her to go gallivanting around with any of her suitors) (young girls dressed in their Sunday best gallivanting along the highways—*Traipe*) which commonly suggests more vigor in movement and less aimlessness in intent than the remaining terms, may come close to come, go, or travel in meaning (in her late sixties she traipsed over Europe with a crony of equal years—*Leavitt*) (how old . . . does he think a man should be before he is barred from traipsing around making political speeches—*N.Y. Times*) (here traipsed into town a little thing from away off down in the country—*Weltly*) Even when used with reference to an erratic course **traipse** ordinarily implies a positive purpose (they lacked the time and energy to traipse around looking for the sort of thing they had in mind—*Kahn*) or stresses a bustling activity (other crowds like this: the yellow-faced swarm that pours out of shipyards, say, at five o’clock, the swarm that traipses Oxford Street, the mad swarms at the greyhound tracks—*Pritchett*) or a wearying expenditure of energy (she traipsed around the provinces playing small parts in second-rate companies at a miserable salary—*Maugham*) (kings . . . traipsed here and there with frenetic energy—*J. E. M. White*) Sometimes the term loses most of its reference to a course and then stresses a dashing or flaunting manner of going (people . . . who traipsed about in trite monotonous flipper—*Peggy Bennett*) (I got a job . . . as a model. I’d *traipse* around stepping through lace hems and gabbing to the customers—*New Yorker*) **Meander** may be used in reference to persons and animals but more characteristically in reference to things (as streams, paths, or roads) that follow a winding or intricate course in such a way as to suggest aimless or listless wandering (rivers that . . . meandered across the vast plains—*Haggard*) (across the ceiling meandered a long crack—*Galsworthy*) (the gray gelding meandered along through the hills—*Anderson*)
dissolute, reprobate

**Ant** chaste — **Con** pure, modest, decent (see CHASTE): virtuous, *moral

2 *supererogatory, uncalled-for, gratuitous

**Ana** *malicious, malevolent, spiteful: wayward, *contrary, perverse

**warp vb** battle, *contend, fight

**Ana** *resist, withstand, combat, oppose, fight: strive, struggle, endeavor, essay, *attempt

**warble vb** *sing, troll, carol, descant, trill, hymn, chant, intone

**ward** avert, *prevent, preclude, obviate

**Ana** block, bar, obstruct, impede, *hinder: forestall, anticipate (see PREVENT): *frustrate, balk, thwart, foil

**Ant** conduct to

**warn** alertness, caution, circumspection, calculation (see under CAUTIOUS)

**Ana** alertness, watchfulness (see corresponding adjectives at WATCHFUL): *prudence, discretion, foresight, forethought, providence

**Ant** foolhardiness: brashness (of persons) — **Con** careless, heedless, thoughtlessness, inadvertence (see corresponding adjectives at CARELESS): recklessness, rashness (see corresponding adjectives at ADVENTUROUS)

**warlike** *martial, military

**Ana** bellicose, *belligerent, pugnacious, combative, contentious: fighting, warring, contending, battling (see CONTEND)

**Con** *peaceful, peaceable, peaceful

**warm adj** warmhearted, sympathetic, *tender, compassionate, responsive

**Ana** *loving, affectionate: cordial, *gracious, affable: ardent, fervent, passionate (see IMPASSIONED): *sincere, heartfelt, hearty, wholehearted

**Ant** cool: austere

**warmhearted** warm, sympathetic, *tender, compassionate, responsive

**Ana** *loving, affectionate: kind, kindly, benign, benignant: heartfelt, hearty, wholehearted, *sincere

**Ant** coldhearted — **Con** austere, *severe, stern: *cold, cool, frosty, frigid

**warn, forewarn, caution** can mean to let one know of approaching or possible danger or risk. **Warn** is the most comprehensive of these terms; in most of its senses it stresses a timely notification that makes possible the avoidance of a dangerous or inconvenient situation. **Warn** ships of an approaching hurricane five minutes before the end of the class period, a bell rings to avoidance of a dangerous or inconvenient situation (warn

**Ant** invites, *enticement, solicitation, courtship

**Ana** *persuade, counsel (see ADVICE): advise, counsel (see under ADVICE)

**warp vb** distort, contort, *deform

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
wasted

vb *tend, mind, attend
watchful

vb *sendthrift, profligate, prodigal, wastrel

wastrel

spendthrift, profligate, prodigal, wastrel

wastrel

Ana reprobate, *outcast: loafer, idler, lounger (see corresponding verbs at

Ana sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart: robust, *healthy

save: conserve

Ana gaunt, scrawny, skinny, angular, rawboned (see LEAN adj)

Ana idler, loafer, loungler (see corresponding verbs at IDLE): squanderer, dissipater, fritterer (see corresponding verbs at WASTE)

wastrel *spendthrift, profligate, prodigal, waster

Ana reprobate, *outcast: loafer, idler, loungler (see corresponding verbs at IDLE): scoundrel, rascal, rogue, scamp (see VILLAIN)

watch vb 1 *tend, mind, attend
2 look, *see

Ana guard, protect, shield, safeguard (see DEFEND)

Ana gaze, gape, stare, glare: *scrutinize, scan, inspect, examine

watchful, vigilant, wide-awake, alert are comparable when they mean on the lookout especially for danger or for opportunities. Watchful is the general word (the five watchful senses—Milton) (became almost remote, strangely watchful, looking back from time to time as though they were being followed—Malamud) Vigilant implies keen, courageous, often wary, watchfulness (be sober, be vigilant) because your adversary is a roaring lion, walkketh about, seeking whom he may devour—I Pet 5:8) (we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe—James Holmes) Wide-awake stresses keen awareness, more often of opportunities and relevant developments than of dangers (merchants who . . . were . . . wide-awake and full of energy—van Loo) Alert stresses readiness or promptness in apprehending and meeting a danger, an opportunity, or an emergency (not only watchful in the night, but alert in the drowsy after-

noon—Pater) (our wits are much more alert when engaged in wrongdoing . . . than in a righteous occupation—Conrad)

Ana *cautious, wary, chary, circumspect: *quick, ready, prompt

Con *careless, heedless, thoughtless, inadvertent

waterlog *soak, drench, saturate, steep, impregnate, sop

waterspout *whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, twister

wave vb *swing, flourish, brandish, shake, thrash

Ana wield, swing, manipulate, *handle, ply: undulate, sway, *swing, fluctuate: *shake, quiver, quaver

waver vb 1 fluctuate, oscillate, pendulate, vibrate, *swing, sway, undulate

Ana flicker, flutter, hover, *flip, flitter: quiver, quaver, tremble, *shake

2 falter, *hesitate, vacillate

Ana balk, boggle, stickle, scruple, *demur, shy: fluctuate, oscillate (see SWING)

way n 1 Way, route, course, passage, path, mean, in common, a track or path traversed in going from one place to another. Way is general and inclusive of any track or path; it can specifically signify a thoroughfare especially in combinations and in fixed phrases (highway) (live across the way) (the city accepted the new street as a public way) (long inclined ways, paved with cobblestones, leading down between great warehouses to the water's edge—Sanary) or a direction or track that is, or can or should be, followed (lose his way) (the short way to town) (the only other village was one day's mule trip farther into the interior, but the way was so steep and slippery in places that we walked almost as much as we rode—Hitchcock) (the water continues its way down the valley for 5 kilometers—Heiden) The term also can be extended to what leads in a specified or implied nonspatial direction or toward a specified or implied end (clear the way for a more purely rational interpretation of the world—Ashley Montagu) (the way was now open for the final act—W. C. Ford) Route signifies a way, often circuitous, followed with regularity by a person or animal or laid out to be followed (as by a tourist or army) (a paper route) (a milk truck following a morning delivery route) (the dog team trails and canoe routes of trader, trapper and missionary in the bush country—Granberg) (a much traveled main route from Boston to Albany) Course may be interchangeable with route but more often implies a path followed by or as if by a stream, star, or other moving natural object impelled by or in a path determined by natural forces (the course of a river) (a meteor's course) (a ship's course) (the course of the seasons) or a predetermined or more or less compulsory way or route followed in human activities or enterprises (a course of study for an academic degree) (a golf course) (a racecourse) Passage stresses a crossing over or a passing through, often designating the thing passed through, usually something narrow where transit might be restricted (a rough passage to America by boat) (a narrow passage from kitchen to basement) (restrict the passage into the stomach) Pass usually designates a passage through or over something that presents an obstacle (as a mountain or river) (a narrow pass over the Alpes) (a shallow ford constituted the only pass across the river) Artery is applied to one of the great continuous traffic channels (as a central rail route, river, or highway) from which branch off smaller or shorter channels (the Congo river would remain the main traffic artery—Weigend) (the main artery between Buffalo and Niagara Falls—Retailing Daily) (the need for improvement of main arteries interconnecting cities and for express highways in cities—

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
weak, feeble, frail, fragile, infirm, decrepit can mean not strong enough to bear, resist, or endure strain or pressure or to withstand difficulty, effort, or use. Weak is by far the widest in its range of application, being not only inter-changeable with all of the succeeding words but also capable of being applied where they are not. Funda-mentally it implies deficiency or inferiority in strength; it may apply to the body, the will, the mind, or the spirit (a character too weak to resist temptation) she wasn't a weak and silly creature . . . She didn't swoon and give way to feelings and emotions—Farrell (though strong in love, art all too weak in reason—Wordsworth)

Often it implies a lack of power, skill, efficiency or ability to control (a weak government) (a weak team) (a weak influence) It may also suggest a sign of impairment of a thing's strength (as a defect, a fault, or a dilution) (a weak thread in a stairway) (weak tea) (a weak argument) (weak facetious echoes of a style . . . ten years outmoded—Woolf) Feeble only is not more restricted than weak in its range of application but also carries a stronger impli-cation of lamentableness or pitiableness in that weakness. It is chiefly applied to human beings and their acts and utterances, then usually implying a manifest lack or impair-ment of physical, mental, or moral strength (a feeble, tottering old man) (a feeble attempt to resist the enemy's advance) (rigid principles often do for feeble minds what stays do for feeble bodies—Macaulay) As applied to things, feeble implies faintness, indistinctness, impotency, or inadequacy (a feeble light) (a feeble sound) (a sense of feeble lust, of desire that mumbled incoherently as in a restless dream—Hervey) Frail, when it implies physical weakness, suggests not so much the impairment of strength as natural delicacy of constitution or slightness of build (a small, frail man, all heart and will—Masefield) (it was marvelous that . . . the energy of her spirit could carry through so triumphantly her frail nervous system and her delicate constitution—Ellis) As applied to things the term usually implies liability to failure or destruction if the thing has physical existence (shoot the rapids in a frail canoe) (I would lie there and listen to Yuriko's voice as it floated . . . through the frail partitions—Mailer) or, if immaterial, an incapacity for dealing with forces or powers opposed to it, or tending to destroy it (beauty, frail flow'r that ev'ry season fears—Pope) When frail is applied to the will, the conscience, the moral nature of man, it carries an even stronger implication of lack of power to resist than weak (if he prove unkind, (as who can say but being man, and therefore frail, he may)—Cowper) Frangible (see also FRAGILE 1) is frequently used in place of frail, but it usually carries even a stronger suggestion of delicacy and of likelihood of destruction (physically fragile, she was spiritually tough—Sackville-West) (passionately realizing the moment, its fleeting exquisiteness, its still, fragile beauty—Rose Macaulay) Infirm usually implies a loss of strength, especially of physical strength, with con-sequent instability, unsoundness, or insecurity (elevators in loft buildings . . . that, infirm and dolorous to hear, seem to touch on our concepts of damnation—Cheever) As referred to human beings, it implies illness or more often old age (a poor, infirm, weak, and despised old man—Shak) As referred, however, to the temperament, the designs, or the intentions of men, it often implies wavering or serious vacillation (infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers—Shak) Decrepit is as applicable to things as to persons that are worn out or broken down by use or age (such is its misery and wretchedness, that it resembles a man in the last decrepit stages of life—Fielding) (the bus is decrepit and the seats and several of the windows are held together with friction tape—Cheever)

Ana debilitated, weakened, enfeebled (see WEAKEN) (powerless, impotent Ant strong —Con stout, sturdy, tough, stalwart, tena-cious (see STRONG)

Weaken, enfeebled, debilitate, undermine, sap, cripple, dis-able can mean to lose or cause to lose, strength, vigor, or energy. Weaken, the most general term of this group, most frequently implies loss of the physical strength or func-tional efficiency characteristic of a healthy living thing or of any of its parts or loss of the soundness or stability characteristic of a strong material structure (overexercise has weakened his heart) (unfertilized plants weaken and die) (the illness has weakened him considerably) (decay has weakened the wooden supports of the bridge) but it may imply a loss in quality, intensity, or effective power in something material or immaterial (as by a natural or forced reduction in resources, numbers, means of support or strengthening principle) (wearing down the weakening defenders in battles of attrition—Shirer) (the growing power of Parliament weakened the authority of the sov-ereign) (weaken tea with water) (the spirit of adventure is not stimulated but weakened by poverty—Cohen)

Enfeebled implies a more obvious and a more pitiable condition than weaken; it suggests the state of a person greatly weakened by old age, by severe or prolonged illness, or by a state comparable to it and usually implies helplessness or powerlessness more strongly than weaken does (so enfeebled by illness that he will probably never walk again) (a country crushed and enfeebled by war) Debilitate may be used in place of enfeebled but it tends to suggest a somewhat less marked and often more gradually developed impairment of strength or vitality (her frail nervous system and her delicate constitution, still further debilitated by the slow progress of disease—Ellis) (a debilitating climate) Undermine and sap imply a weaken-ning by something or someone working surreptitiously or insidiously and may further suggest a draining of strength or a caving in or breaking down (her health has been undermined by lack of rest and proper food) (some of the new philosophies undermine the authority of science, as some of the older systems undermined the authority of religion—Inge) (but sloth had sapped the prophet's strength—Newman) (his moral energy is sapped by a kind of skepticism—Dowden) Cripple basically means to deprive of the use of a limb; in extended use it suggests a deprivation of something causing a loss of strength or effectiveness comparable to that resulting from the loss of a limb (crippled diseases) (crippled by arthritis) (the obstacles which stilt and cripple the man—Inge) (the war economy which marries full production to a neces-sarily crippled market—Mailer) (a writer possessing a sense of style only partially crippled by his reckless fecundity—A. C. Ward) Disable implies an intervention (as an event, an injury, or an influence) that deprives of strength or competence (these consoling yet nonetheless disabling illusions—Straight) (disabled soldiers) (do
wealthy
not let your mind be disabled by excessive sympathy
—Shaw

* Ana enervate, emasculate, *unnerve, unman: impair, injury, damage: dilute, *thin, attenuate, extenuate

Ant strengthen —Con energize, *vitalize, activate: *improve, better

wealthy *rich, affluent, opulent

Ant indigent

wean *strange, alienate, disaffect

Ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

Ant addict

wearless unwearying, unwearied, tireless, *indefatigable, unting, unflagging

Ana dogged, pertinacious (see STABILIZE): assiduous, sedulous, diligent (see BUSY)

Con lagging, dawdling, procrastinating (see DELAY): indolent, fainthearted, slouching, *lazy

dreadsome tiresome, tedious, boring, *irksome

Ana fatiguing, exhausting, fagging, tiring (see TIRE vb): dull, slow, *stupid

Con exciting, stimulating, quickening (see PROVOKE)

weary vb *tire, fatigue, exhaust, jade, fag, tuck

Ana debilitate, enfeeble, *weak: depress, oppress, weigh

Con energize, *vitalize: animate, *quicken, enliven, vivify

weave, knit, crochet, braid, plait, tat mean to make a fabric or textile or to form an article by interlacing threads or strands of material. Weave usually implies crossing rows of threads or strands interlaced into a web, irrespective of method, material, or pattern (weave baskets). Specifically the term means to interface warp and weft yarns, by means of a loom, into a textile fabric, the yarns being passed over and under each other according to a predetermined pattern.

Knit implies the use of a single strand, commonly of yarn, to produce an elastic fabric and, in its specific sense, the use of two smooth-pointed needles alternately holding the material and forming a new row of interlacing loops (knit a sweater) (knit stockings) (knitted fabrics). Crochet specifically differs from knit by implying the use of a single hooked needle and in not necessarily suggesting a building up by successive rows (crochet an afghan) (crochet lace). Braid implies the entwining of three or more strands (as of hair, cord, or cloth strips) by passing one strand over another in such a manner that each strand winds a sinuous course through the ribbonlike or ropelike contexture that is thus produced (braid rag strips to make a rug) (a whip of braided rawhide). Plait is sometimes identical in meaning with braid, but it tends to be used especially of the braiding of strands of hair or of the interlacing of straw or reeds (as in hatmaking or basketmaking) whether the method approaches that of braiding or weaving. Tat implies the making of lace by the use of a single thread and of one or more shuttles by means of which a series of sliding knots and, usually, loops is formed in that thread.

wedding *marriage, matrimony, nuptial, espousal, wedlock

wedlock *marriage, matrimony, nuptial, espousal, wedding

wee diminutive, tiny, teeny, weeny, *small, little, minute, microscopic, minute, petite

weeny tiny, teeny, wee, diminutive, minute, microscopic, minute, little, *small

weep *cry, wail, keen, whimper, blubber

Ana bewail, bemoan, lament, *deplore: sob, moan, *sigh, groan

weigh 1 *consider, study, contemplate, excogitate

Ana *ponder, meditate, ruminate, muse: *think, reflect, cogitate, reason, speculate

2 *burden, encumber, cumber, weight, load, lade, tax, charge, saddle

Ana balance, ballast, trim, poise (see STABILIZE): *set, settle

3 *depress, oppress

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry: torment, torture, *afflict, try, rack

Con lighten, *relieve, alleviate, assuage, mitigate, allay

weight n 1 significance, *importance, moment, consequence, import

Ana *worth, value: magnitude, *size, extent: seriousness, gravity (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)

2 *influence, authority, prestige, credit

Ana effectiveness, efficacy (see corresponding adjectives at EFFECTIVE): *emphasis, stress: powerfulness, potency, forcefulness, forcibleness (see corresponding adjectives at POWERFUL)

weight vb 1 load, *aluderate, sophisticate, doctor

2 *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, load, lade, tax, charge, saddle

Ana see those at WEIGH 2

weighty *heavy, ponderous, cumbrous, cumbersome, hefty

Ana *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting

weird, eerie, uncanny can all mean fearfully and mysteriously strange or fantastic. Weird may be used in the sense of unearthly or preternaturally mysterious (when night makes a weird sound of its own stillness—Shelley) (weird whispers, bells that rang without a hand—Tennyson) or it may mean little more than strangely or absurdly queer (had somehow absorbed . . . a weird mixture of the irresponsible, megalomaniacal ideas which erupted from German thinkers during the nineteenth century—Shirer)

Eerie does not connote ordinary justifiable or explainable fear but rather a vague consciousness that unearthly or mysterious and often malign powers or influences are at work; the term is used chiefly to create atmosphere rather than to define the character of the thing so described (found awe creeping over her as her brother's voice filled the vault of the temple, chanting words thousands of years old, in an eerie melody from a dim lost time—Wouk)

Uncanny has in general use an implication of uncomfortable strangeness or of unpleasant mysteriousness that makes it applicable not only to persons or concrete things but to abstractions (as sensations, feelings, or thoughts) (the alien elements of the Soviet Union affect him as disquieting, uncanny, because they turn up in fusion with pretenses at Western discipline, Western logic—Edmund Wilson)

Ana *mysterious, inscrutable: *fearful, awful, dreadful, horrific: *strange, odd, queer, curious, peculiar

welcome adj *pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, grateful, gratifying

Ana satisfying, contenting (see SATISFY): congenial, sympathetic (see CONSONANT)

Ant unwelcome —Con distasteful, *repugnant, repellant, obnoxious

well adj *healthy, sound, wholesome, robust, hale

Ana unwell, ill —Con infirm, frail, feeble, *weak

well-nigh *nearly, almost, approximately

well-timed timely, *seasonable, opportune, pat

Ana apt, happy, felicitous, appropriate, fitting (see FIT adj)

Con *premature, untimely: late, *tardy, behindhand

welter *swallow, grovel

Ana struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT vb)

wet, damp, dank, moist, humid are comparable when they mean covered or more or less soaked with liquid. Wet may be used with no further implications or it may specifically imply saturation (wet clothes) (the rain lies in puddles on the wet ground). Often, however, the term refers to a surface covered with liquid (wet pavements) (wet hands) (cheeks wet with tears). But wet often means
merely not dry, or not yet dry, especially when used in reference to something (as paint, ink, or glue) which has been applied to or used on a surface. Damp differs from wet chiefly in implying a slight or moderate absorption or covering and often in connoting the presence of unpleasant or disagreeable wetness (damp shoes) (the sheets on the bed are damp) (a damp house) However damp usually implies less wetness than is commonly suggested by the adjective wet (sheets should be damp when they are ironed) Dank unequivocally applies to what is disagreeably, penetratingly or, from the point of view of health or comfort, dangerously, wet (a cool dank mist) (a dank cellar) Moist often suggests little more than the absence of dryness or a not unpleasant dampness (moist eyes) (moist air) (moist heat) Humid is chiefly used to imply an oppressive degree of moisture in warm air (the humid atmosphere of early August) (the humid prairie heat), so nourishing to wheat and corn, so exhausting to human beings—(Cather) (a firefly . . . on a humid summer's night) (Furnas) Ana soaked, saturated, drenched, waterlogged (see SOAK vb) Ant dry

wharf, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty, levee signify a breakwater for a harbor applies also to a small and usually not very substantial pier of timbers (the harbor, from 30 to 60 feet deep, is protected by white marble jetties—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.) (fishermen . . . take their accustomed places on the wharves and jetties for the summer sport of gawking—(Anable) (a jetty is usually built so that it lies parallel with the direction of the tidal stream, and at such jetties ships should always berth against the stream—Manual of Seamanship) Levee primarily applies to an embankment for confining or restricting floodwaters but in the South and West, where a levee is often used for landing, the term is often the equivalent of quay (build emergency levees to control a dangerously rising river) (down by the river's borders the new levees proclaim the grandsfonds' plans for a resurrected river traffic—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.)

wheelie blandish, cajole, *coax Ana entice, inveigle, *lure, seduce, decoy Con bully, browbeat, bulldoze, cow, *intimidate wheel vb *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, twirl, whirl, swirl, pirouette, eddy while, *wile, *beguile, fleet mean to pass time, especially leisure time, without being bored. One *whiles or *wiles away a space of time by causing it to be filled by something pleasant, diverting, or amusing (they can *while away an hour very agreeably at a card table—Lamb) (attempt to *wile away the long days . . . telling a story to his sister—Woolf) One *begullies a space of leisure time or its ierkiness by occupying that time with some agreeable and not necessarily time-wasting employment (and, skilled in legendary lore, the lingering hours *beguilled—Goldsmith) (others . . . *beguilled the little tedium of the way with penny papers—Hawthorne) (to *beguile his enforced leisure, I tried to teach him sundry little tricks—Grandgent) One *fleets the time by causing it to pass quickly or imperceptibly; the term may or may not imply an effort to while time away (many young gentlemen . . . *fleet the time carelessly—Shak.) (fleeting the quiet hour in observation of his pets—Lewes) Ana divert, *amuse, entertain whim freak, fancy, *caprice, whimsy, conceit, vagary, crotchet Ana inclination, disposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE): *fancy, fantasy, vision, dream: notion, *idea whimper vb weep, *cry, blubber, wail, keen whimsy *caprice, freak, fancy, whim, conceit, vagary, crotchet Ana see those at whim whirl vb 1 twirl, spin, wheel, swirl, *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, pirouette, eddy 2 *reel, stagger, totter whirlpool *eddy, maelstrom, vortex whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, water-spout, twister share the basic notion of a rotary motion of the wind. Whirlwind is applied to a small windstorm which begins with an inward and upward spiral motion of the lower air and is followed by an outward and upward spiral motion until, usually, there is a progressive motion at all levels. Cyclone, in technical use, is applicable to a system of winds that rotate, counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere, about a center of low atmospheric pressure; such a system of winds originating in the tropics (a tropical cyclone) may rotate at the rate of 75 miles per hour or more, sometimes exceeding 200 miles per hour. Typhoon is used of a severe tropical cyclone in the region of the western Pacific ocean. A tropical cyclone in the tropical north Atlantic and tropical western Pacific, with winds rarely exceeding 150 miles an hour, occasionally moving into temperate latitudes, is called a hurricane. In popular

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
use, especially in the midwestern U.S., cyclone may take
the place of tornado, the usual technical term, for an extremely
terrible whirling wind which is accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud and which moves with great speed in a
narrow path over a stretch of territory, often causing
great destruction. A waterspout is a tornado that occurs
great water. Twister is a familiar term often applied to a
whirlwind, tornado, or waterspout.

whel mite, jot, iota, bit, *particle, smidgen, tittle, atom

whiten vb 1 Whitening, bleach, dechlorinate, etiolate can
all mean to change from an original color to white or almost
to white. To whiten is to make white usually by the applica-
tion or addition of something from without. To bleach is to
bleach by the removal or withdrawal of color. Blanch almonds by scalding which removes the brown skin or by preventing it from developing
(blanche celery by covering the stalks with earth, so as
to exclude the sunlight). To bleach is to whiten or
lighten in color, especially by exposure to sun and air or
by chemical processes (bleach linen by spreading it on
the grass in the sun) (bleach hair by use of peroxide)
Decolorize implies the deprivation of color (as by pro-
cesses of bleaching or blanching) but does not carry as
strong an implication of whitening as do bleach and blanch
(decolorize a colored fabric by the use of chloride of lime)
Etiolate is a scientific term used in reference chiefly to
plants from which sunlight has been excluded with the
result that the natural coloring of chlorophyll is not
formed (etiolated plants look sickly)
Ant blacken
Ant whole

whel whitewash, gloze, gloss, *palliate, extenuate

whitewash vb whitening, bleach, dechlorinate, etiolate extending, extend

whitewash vb whitening, bleach, dechlorinate, etiolate extending, extend

whole adj 1 entire, *perfect, intact

Ana sound, well, *healthy, robust, wholesome: complete, plenary, *full
Con *deficient, defective: impaired, damaged, injured, marred (see INJURE)

2 Whole, entire, total, all, gross are comparable when they
mean including each and every part, particle, individual,
or instance of without exception. Whole implies that
nothing has been omitted, ignored, abated, or removed
(have devoted his whole energy to the task) (the whole
congregation approved the pastor's policy) (the whole
army will be mobilized) (the whole country was affected)
Entire may be used in place of whole in any of these illus-
trations; it also can, as whole cannot, imply actual com-
pleteness or perfection from which not only nothing has
been taken but to which nothing can be added (an entire
stallion) (whom to obey is happiness—Milton)
(Granting entire liberty of conscience—Macaulay) Total
implies that everything without exception has been
counted, measured, weighed, or somehow included (the
total amount expended for welfare payments) (the total
output of the factory last year) Sometimes especially
when applied to something that is often incomplete, total
is used as an indication that no reservation is made (total
eclipse) (total blindness) (a total silence) All sometimes
equals whole (all the city was in an uproar), sometimes
it comes closer to entire (all their affection was centered
on their children), and sometimes it equals total (all their
earnings were insufficient for their needs) Gross is used
especially in financial statements in place of total to in-
dicate that deductions (as for costs or expenses) have not
yet been made (gross earnings) (gross receipts)
Ant partial

whole n total, aggregate, *sum, amount, number, quantity

Ant part: constituent: particular —Con portion, piece, detail (see PART n): *item, detail: component, *element

wholehearted wholly-souled, heartfelt, heartily, unfeigned,
sincere

Ana ardent, fervent, *impassioned, passionate: genuine,
bona fide, *authentic: earnest, *serious

wholesale indiscriminate, sweeping

wholesome 1 *healthful, healthy, salubrious, salutary,
hygienic, sanitary

Ant noxious —Con deleterious, detrimental, *per-
nicious
2 sound, *healthy, robust, hale, well

Ana *strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout

whole-souled wholehearted, heartfelt, heartily, unfeigned,
sincere

Ana see those at WHOLEHEARTED

whooop vb *shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal,
holler

whooop n shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal,
holler (see under SHOUT vb)

wicked evil, *bad, ill, naughty

Ana *immoral, unmoral, amoral: iniquitous, *vicious,
conspiring, *abandoned, reprobate, profligate, dissolve
Con *moral, virtuous, righteous, ethical, noble

wide *broad, deep

Ana *spacious, capacious, ample: extended or extensive
(see corresponding verb at EXTEND)
Ant strait —Con limited, restricted, confined (see
LIMIT vb)

wide-awake *watchful, vigilant, alert

Ana *aware, alive, awake, conscious, sensible

wield swing, *handle, manipulate, ply

Ana *swing, flourish, brandish, shake, wave: control,
direct, manage, *conduct: exercise, drill, *practice
wig vb tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, berate, *scold,
upbraid, rate, rail, revile, vituperate

Ana reprimand, reproach, rebuke, *reprove, chide

wild adj *furious, frantic, frenzied, frenetic, delirious,
rabid

Ana distracted, bewildered, perplexed (see PUZZLE): con-
fused, muddled, addled (see CONFUSE): agitated, upset,
perverted (see DISCOMPOSE): mad, crazy, demented, de-
ranged (see INSANE)

wilderness waste, desert, badlands

wile n artifice, feint, ruse, maneuver, *trick, stratagem,
gambit, ploy

Ana *deception, fraud, trickery, chicanery, chicanery:
cunning, *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation, guile

wile vb *while, beguile, fleet

Ana see those at WHILE vb

will n Will: volition, conation can all refer to the power
or act of making or effecting a choice or decision. Will
applies only to this power or act but also to the com-
plex of rational and irrational, conscious and unconscious
forces within a person that is the agent of this power and
to the process by which one makes his choice, resolves
it into an intention, and puts that intention into effect. In
all of these senses will may vary greatly in its specific
meaning; it may denote a dominant desire or inclination
which determines one's choice (when he was confronted
by accidental extinction, he had felt no will to resist—
Cather) or it may denote a power that derives from one's
conception of what is good or right and that tests and
accepts or rejects one's desires or inclinations (appetite
is the will's solicitor, and the will is appetite's controller;
what we covet according to the one, by the other, we often
reject—Hooker) Will often denotes mainly the deter-
mination that is inseparable from action or the effecting
of one's decisions (in the government of self, Bismarck's

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
will broke down from time to time, as Richelieu's never did; and, after all, the government of self is the supreme test of will—Bellcol—but it may be used when frustration or impossibility of action is suggested (spirits disillusioned, who still pathetically preserve the will to conquer, even when life no longer presents them with anything worth winning—Binyon). Further will may designate a subjective power, act, or process (luxurious feeling and pathetic imagination, which make no severe call upon...the will—Inge) or an objective force which must be encountered, challenged, or obeyed (submit oneself to the will of God). This method of consulting the popular will—Bryce. Volition, in contrast to will, is a comparatively simple term. In its ordinary and most sharply distinguished sense, it designates merely the act of making a choice or decision; it usually carries an implication of deliberation, but it rarely suggests struggle or determination to put one's decision or choice into effect. Therefore it may be preferred when no other implications are desirable or important (surrendered his authority of his own volition) (our children do not seek school of their own volition—Grandgent) (the primal necessity for the faithful is that by an act of the will, not necessarily an emotional act, but an act of pure and definite volition,—they should associate themselves with the true and perfect sacrifice—Benson). Conation usually implies a striving to get or achieve what is desired or willed. The term need not imply a conscious goal; it may suggest clearly directed striving or it may connote the restless aimless strivings which the mind cannot interpret or explain, but it stresses effort rather than choice (Religion or the desire for the salvation of our souls, Art or the desire for beautification, Science or the search for the reasons of things—these conations of the mind...are really three aspects of the same profound impulse—Ellis).

\textit{Ana} intention, intent, purpose, design: choice, election, preference: character, disposition, temper, temperament

\textit{wind vb} Will, bequeath, devise, leave, legate all mean to give a part or the whole of one's possessions to another by one's last will and testament. Will implies the provision or the existence of a legal instrument (a will) disposing of one's property after one's death (he has willed that his property be divided among his wife and children) (he willed his money to various charities). Bequeath is much used in wills by the testator (I bequeath all my property to my wife) and is frequent in legal, historical, and literary use; it may imply nothing more than a proved intention (as by a will or a definite oral or written statement) (William had bequeathed Normandy to his eldest son, Robert—J. R. Green). In legal use bequest is commonly distinguished from devise, the one implying a gift of personally, the other a gift of realty (every article she possessed...every pot and pan, every garment, is separately bequeathed as an affectation remembrance—Ellis) (I had never imagined rings as things one bought for oneself...they were things given, or bequeathed by grandaunts—Reppler) (was the son of a white man by one of his slaves, and his father executed certain instruments to manumit him, and devised to him some landed property—Tanner). Leave is the common and ordinary unspacific term for any of the preceding terms (he left a legacy to his nephew) (he left his land, money, books, pictures to Harvard University) Legate is not manifestly different from bequeath except that it invariably implies a formal will (the oval inlaid table I legate to—Law Reports, House of Lords).

\textbf{willful} 1 deliberate, intentional, voluntary, willing

\textbf{Ana} determined, decided, resolved (see decide): intended, purpose (see intend): obstinate, stubborn, dogged, pertinacious

\textbf{Con} acquiescent, *compliant: submissive, *tame

2 headstrong, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, *unruly, unmovable

\textbf{Ana} rebellious, contumacious, factious, *insubordinate: *obstinate, mulish, bullheaded, pigheaded

\textbf{Ant} biddable—\textit{Con} tractable, docile, amenable, *obedient

\textbf{willing} voluntary, intentional, deliberate, willful

\textbf{Ana} prone, open (see liable): inclined, predisposed, disposed (see incline vb)

\textbf{Ant} unwilling—\textit{Con} reluctant, loath, *disinclined, indisposed, averse

\textbf{will} *droop, flag, sag

\textbf{Ana} slump, sink, drop, *fall: languish (see corresponding adjective at languid)

\textbf{wily} *sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, guileful, artful

\textbf{Ana} astute, sagacious, *shrewd: deceitful, cunning (see corresponding nouns at deceit)

\textbf{win} gain, acquire, *get, obtain, procure, secure

\textbf{Ana} achieve, accomplish, effect (see perform): attain, *reach, compass: *induce, persuade, prevail, get

\textbf{Ant} lose

\textbf{wince} *recoil, flinch, shrink, blench, quail

\textbf{Ana} cringe, cower (see fawn): balk, shy, stick, stickle (see demur): squirm, *writhe

\textbf{wind}, breeze, gale, hurricane, zephyr are comparable rather than synonymous terms that can all basically mean air in motion. Wind is the general term referable to any sort of natural motion whatever its degree of velocity or of force (a strong wind) (there is no wind tonight). Breeze in general use is applied to relatively light but fresh wind, usually a pleasant or welcome one (the fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, the furrow followed free—Coleridge). In technical meteorological use the term specifically notes a wind with a velocity of from 4 to 31 miles an hour. Breezes are sometimes further described as light (4–7 miles an hour), gentle (8–12), moderate (13–18), fresh (19–24), strong (25–31). Gale in ordinary use is applied to a high, destructive wind of considerable velocity and force; technically the term is applied specifically to a wind between 32 and 63 miles an hour; a whole gale is one having a velocity between 55 and 63 miles an hour. Hurricane is sometimes applied popularly to an exceedingly violent or devastating windstorm but technically the term denotes a rotating windstorm with winds of particular velocities (see also whirlwind). Zephyr is a poetical term for a very light gentle breeze that delicately touches objects (fair laughs the morn, and soft the zephyr blows—Gray)

\textbf{Ana} *whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, tornado, twister

\textbf{wind vb} Wind, coil, curl, twist, twine, wreath, entwine mean to follow a circular, spiral, or whirling course or to make or form a corresponding figure. Wind fundamentally implies an axis or something suggestive of an axis around which another thing is turned so as to encircle, enclose, or enfold (wind thread on a spool) (wind a bandage around his arm). Often the word is extended in meaning to imply a motion performed (as tightening, tensing, or lifting) by or as if by winding (wind a watch) (wind the strings of a mandolin) (her nerves are all wound up) (wind up his affairs). At other times the word implies movement or direction in a curving, sinuous, or devious manner (compare winding) (the road...wound on between low, quick-set hedges or wooden palings—Mackenzie) (a wagon...light enough and narrow enough to wind through the mountain gorges beyond Pueblo—Cather). Coil implies a curving so as to take the form of a spiral, often a flat...
winding, sinuous, serpentine, tortuous, flexuous can all twist, bend, curve: surround, encircle, circle, Ana entangling <the lamp base looks like two snakes type of compound curve or to the front of a bureau or curves <up the heathy waste, [the road] mounts, as you see, in mazes serpentine—Wordsworth) 

serpentine—Wordsworth) see, in mazes 

tine implies curving in a pattern suggested by the smooth and flowing curves of a moving snake; it need not imply regularity in the size and shape of the inward and outward curves <up the healthy waste, [the road] mounts, as you see, in mazes serpentine—Wordsworth> As applied to a type of compound curve or to the front of a bureau or sideboard having such a curve the word implies that the bulging or convex curve is in the center. Tortuous, like sinuous, suggests lack of straightness and directness, but in contrast it stresses the number and intricacy of bendings, twistings, and turnings rather than the constant flow of curves <the course of the river became more tortuous as we neared its source> <there remained but a tortuous defile for carriages down the center of the street—Hardy> Flexuous, commoner in technical than general use, basically suggests alternation of gentle opposite curves or an easy zigzag course <a flexuous leaf margin> flexuous stems> In extended use it implies a lack of rigidity in action, and so comes very close to flexible <(a bacterium that) appears to move by changing the shape of its body which is not rigid but very flexuous and elastic—Biological Abstracts> <René's comings and goings, and each of his flexuous moods—E. P. O'Donnell> Ana curving, bending, twisting (see CURVE vb): circuituous, *indirect, roundabout: *crooked, devious: meandering (see WANDER) 

Ant straight 

window, casement, dormer, oriel can mean an opening in the wall of a building that is usually covered with glass and serves to admit light and air. Window is the ordinary general term for the entire structure, including both its framework and the glass or the movable sashes which that framework encloses <come to the window, sweet is the night air—Arnold> Casement basically denotes a window sash attached to one of the upright sides of the frame by hinges; in ordinary use, however, the term is applied to a window or a series of windows (sometimes called casement window) with sashes of this character <magic casements, opening on the foam of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn—Keats> Dormer denotes a window which stands out from a sloping roof and is typically enclosed by a gable-topped structure. An oriel differs from a dormer in projecting from a wall of a building rather than from a roof, in being at least three-sided and usually either semihexagonal or semisquare in shape, and in being supported by a corbel or bracket rather than by a rafter. 

wing ell, extension, *annex 

wink vb Wink, blink both mean to move one's eyelids. Wink usually means to close and open the eyelids rapidly and usually involuntarily <houses so white that it makes one wink to look at them—Dickens> or to close one eye part way mischievously or teasingly or as a hint or a command <A siasiatic do not wink when they have outmanuevered the enemy, but . . . Mahbub Ali . . . came very near it—Kipling> To blink is to wink involuntarily and with eyes nearly shut as if dazzled, partly blind, half asleep, or suddenly startled <blink when roused from a sound sleep> <blink at the report of a gun> he was . . . hailed up . . . blinking and tottering . . . into the blessed sun—Stevenson> In extended use wink implies connivance, and blink suggests evasion or shirking <wink at neglect of duty> <blink the issue> 

winner *victor, conqueror, champion, vanquisher 

Ant loser 

winning adj *sweet, engaging, winsome, dulcet Ana charming, alluring, captivating, enchanting, bewitching, attractive (see under ATTRACT vb) 

winsome *sweet, engaging, winning, dulcet Ana see those at WINNING 

wipe *exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, uproot, deracinate Ana obliterate, *erase, efface, expunge, blot out: *abolish, extinguish, annihilate: *destroy, demolish 

wisdom judgment, *sense, gumption 

Ana discretion, *prudence, foresight; judiciousness, sages-ness, saneness, sapience (see corresponding adjectives at
wise, sagacity, perspicacity, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWED)

Ant folly: injudiciousness

wise, sage, sapient, judicious, prudent, sensible, sane are comparable when they mean having or manifesting the power to recognize the best ends and the best means to attain those ends. Wise applies to one or the acts or views of one who is so discerning in his understanding of persons, conditions, or situations that he knows how to deal with them, how to correct what is wrong in them, how to get the best out of them considering their limitations or difficulties, or how to estimate them fairly and accurately; often also the term implies a wide range of experience or of knowledge or learning (prudent and conservative, Edward was wise enough to know that these two qualities...were not enough—Buck) (knowing himself wise in a mad world—Meredith) (it is wise to be cautious in condemning views and systems which are now out of fashion—Inge) Sage characterizes one who is eminently wise and typically philosophical by temperament and experience. The term can suggest a habit of profound reflection upon men and events and an ability to reach conclusions of universal as well as immediate value, and has been applied chiefly to persons and utterances that are venerated for their wisdom and good counsel (what the sage poets, taught by the heavenly Muse, storied of old in high immortal glory—by the Milton) (for I, who hold sage Homer’s rule the best—Pope) (the natural crown that wise Experience wears—Wordsworth) In somewhat lighter use sage often suggests the affection or the appearance of great wisdom or knowledge, whether the matters concerned be of significance or not (the older women seemed to have a kind of secret among themselves, a reason for sage smiles and glances—Sackville-West) Sapient describes one exhibiting the utmost sagacity (contain valuable insights and sapient advice to educators—Larrabee) (the sapient leader who shall bring order out of the wild misuse—Parrington) but often the term is used ironically to imply a mere hollow sham of such sagacity (the generals...turned attractive profiles in their [photographers'] direction and put on expressions of sapient authority—Linklater) (a sapient, instructed, shrewdly ascertaining ignorance—Pater) Judicious applies to one who is capable of arriving at wise decisions or just conclusions; the term usually suggests the ability to distinguish fact from falsehood and to eliminate all bias so that one’s judgments are fair, well-balanced, and level-headed as well as sound (I am perfectly indifferent to the judgment of all, except the few who are indeed judicious—Cowper) (I really think that, for wise men, this is not judicious—Burke) (the love of knowledge is not perhaps as insatiable as with us, but it is infinitely more judicious—Brownell) Prudent (see also under PRUDENCE; PRUDENT 3) applies to one who is so rich in practical wisdom that he can keep himself, his passions, and his actions under control and obedient to what he knows as right and necessary. In this sense prudent implies the use of one’s reason in the attainment of the moral virtue that leads to right living, as distinguished from its use in the attainment of knowledge of things which transcend experience (the prudent man looketh well to his going—Pro 14:15) Sensible (see also AWARE, PERCEPTIBLE, MATERIAL) describes one who in speech or action does not exceed the bounds of common sense or of good sense; the term suggests a display of intelligence rather than of wisdom and of natural reasonableness rather than the exercise of the reason (to discuss the ultimate career of a child nine years old would not be the act of a sensible parent—Bennett) (whatever he took up he did in the same matter-of-fact sensible way; without a touch of imagination, without a spark of brilliancy—Woolf) Sapient characterizes one who shows healthy-mindedness and level-headedness in prudent, judicious, or sensible acts and words (sane...persons who are so well balanced that they can adjust themselves to the conditions of every civilization—Ellis) (thankful in his heart and soul that he had his mother, so sane and wholesome—D. H. Lawrence)

Ana discreet, prudent, foresighted (see under PRUDENCE): cautious, circumspect, calculating; sagacious, perspicacious, *shrewd, astute: knowing, *intelligent, alert, bright, smart

Ant simple

wise-crack n crack, gag, *joke, jest, jape, quip, witticism wish vb *desire, want, crave, covet


wissy-washy *insipid, vapid, flat, jejune, banal, inane

wit n 1 intelligence, brain, *mind, intellect, soul, psyche

Ana *reason, understanding, intuition: comprehension, apprehension (see under APPREHEND); sagaciousness or sagacity, perspicaciousness or perspicacity (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWED)

2 Wit, humor, irony, sarcasm, satire, repartee are comparable when they denote a mode of expression which has for its aim the arousing of sudden sharp interest that is accompanied by amusement or laughter or a quality of mind which leads or predisposes to such expression. Wit which can denote reasoning power or mental capacity more typically implies intellectual brilliance and quickness in perception combined with the talent for expressing one’s ideas in a sparkling effective manner; in this sense wit need not imply the evocation of laughter, but it suggests a delighting and entertaining (they never meet but there’s a skirmish of wit between them—Shak.) (true wit is nature to advantage dressed, what oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed—Pope) Sometimes the implication of a power to evoke laughter or smiles becomes prominent and the term without any loss of its earlier suggestions of mental acuteness and swift perception, especially of the incongruous, adds notions of verbal felicity, especially as shown in the expression’s unexpectedness of turn and aptness of application (if thou hast wit, and fun, and fire, and ne'er good wine did fear—Burns) Humor is often contrasted with wit, especially as one of two similar yet strikingly different modes of expression in literature. Humor may designate the peculiar disposition that leads one to perceive the ludicrous, the comical, or the ridiculous, and to express one’s perceptions so as to make others see or feel the same thing (she was always saved by her crisp sense of humor, her shrewd and mischievous wit—Ellis) or it may imply more human sympathy, more tolerance, more kindness than wit, a deeper sense of the inherent incongruities in human nature and human life, and a feeling for the not readily perceived pathos as well as for the not readily perceived absurdness of characters, of situations, or of consequences (writers distinguish the humor of Chaucer and Shakespeare from the wit of Dryden and Pope; the wit of Molière’s comedies from the humor of Don Quixote) (you expect wit from every man of any eminence in the eighteenth century. But of that sympathetic enjoyment of all the manifold contrasts

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
and incongruities of life which we call humor, I think Westley had very little—Winchester> Irony applies chiefly to a way of speaking or writing in which the meaning intended is contrary to that seemingly expressed (Of course Constance is always right,) observed Sophia, with . . . irony—Bennett> (she was assisted by an impetuous girl called Caroline . . . who by the irony of language "waited" at table—Mackenzie) In a deeper sense irony applies both to the quality of mind of a person (as a poet, dramatist, or philosopher) who perceives discrepancies in life and in character (as between the appearance and the reality, or between what is promised and what is fulfilled, or between what is attempted and what is accomplished) and to the form of humor or wit which has for its aim the revelation of the mockery implicit in these contradictions (there must be some meaning beneath all this terrible irony—Shaw> A kind of understatement which recalls to us at once the grim and conscious irony of those who knew that "their feet had come to the end of the world"—Day Lewis> Sarcasm applies chiefly to a savage, bitter form of humor intended to cut or wound. Sarcasm need not imply the use of verbal irony, sometimes suggesting no more than plain speaking, but it regularly implies as its aim the intent to make the victim an object of ridicule (in the intercourse of familiar life, he indulged his disposition to petulance and sarcasm—Johnson> The arrows of sarcasm are barbed with contempt—Gladden) Satire primarily designates writing intended to hold up vices or follies (as of a people or an age) for ridicule and reprehension (Johnson's drama is only incidentally satire, because it is only incidentally a criticism upon the actual world . . . that is, it does not find its source in any precise emotional attitude or precise intellectual criticism of the actual world—T. S. Eliot> Repartee applies chiefly to the power or art of answering quickly, pointedly, skillfully, and with wit or humor or, less often, irony or sarcasm (as for repartee in particular, as it is the very soul of conversation, so it is the greatest grace of comedy—Dryden> I hadn't known Jane spoke so well. She has a clever, coherent way of making her points, and is concise in reply if questioned, quick at repartee if heckled—Rose Macaulay> Ana quick-wittedness, alertness, brightness, brilliancy, cleverness, smartness, intelligence (see corresponding adjectives at INTELLIGENT): raillery, *badinage, persiflage: pungency, piquancy, poignancy (see corresponding adjectives at PUNGENT)
witchcraft wizardry, witchery, sorcery, *magic, alchemy, thaumaturgy
withery *magic, sorcery, witchcraft, wizardry, alchemy, thaumaturgy
with *by, through
withdraw *go, leave, depart, quit, retire
Ana abscond, decamp, *escape, flee, fly: retreat, *recede
Con arrive, *come
wither, shrivel, wizen mean to lose or cause to lose freshness and smoothness of appearance. Wither implies a loss of vital moisture (as sap or body fluids) with consequent fading or drying up and ultimate decay or death (withered leaves) (blossoms) which fall before they wither—Binyon> The term is often used in an extended sense implying a similar loss of vitality, vigor, or animation (age cannot wither her, nor custom steal her infinite variety—Shak> Art, he thought, should flower from an immediate impulse towards self-expression or communication, and should wither with the passing of the impulse—Huxley> Shrivel carries a stronger implication of becoming wrinkled or crinkled or shrunk in size than wither; usually also it implies a cause (as a blasting or blighting by or as by intense heat) or a lack of invigorating influences (as rain or, in extended use, encouragement, stimulation, or variety of employments) (the leaves shrivel in the hot sun) (age has shriveled her skin) (the man whose . . . practical life [is] shriveled to an insignifi- cant routine—Ellis) Wizen, especially in the past participle, is often preferred to wither or shrivel when the ideas of shrinking in size, and the wrinkling of the face or other surface especially through age, lack of nourishment, or failing vitality are especially stressed (a wizened old man) (the wizened face of a poorly nourished boy) (a wizened shrub, a staving bough—Browning> Ana *dry, parch, desiccate: shrink, *contract, constrict withhold detain, keep back, keep out, retain, hold, hold back, reserve, *keep Ana *restrain, curb, check, bridle, inhibit: refuse, *decline Con accord, *grant, concede, award, vouchsafe withstand *resist, contest, oppose, fight, combat, conflict, antagonize Ana *bear, endure, stand, tolerate, suffer: thwart, baffle, balk, foil, *frustrate: assail, *attack, assault Con submit, *yield, capitulate witness n *spector, observer, beholder, looker-on, onlooker, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer witness vb *certify, attest, vouch witticism *joke, jest, jape, quip, wisecrack, crack, gag Ana wit, humor, sarcasm, satire, irony, repartee witty, humorous, facetious, jocose are comparable when they apply to persons and their urgings and provoking or intended to provoke laughter or smiles. Witty (compare wit) suggests a high degree of cleverness and quickness in discerning amusing congruities or incongruities; it may connote sparkling pleasantry, especially in repartee, but it often suggests sarcasm or causticity (her tongue was as sharp and witty as ever—Sackville-West> There's no possibility of being witty without a little ill-nature; the malice of a good thing is the barb that makes it stick—Sheridan> Humorous is a generic term applied to whoever or whatever provokes laughter (a humorous account of a picnic) (a humorous lecture) (the humorous characters of Shakespeare's plays) As opposed to witty, humorous often suggests sensibility rather than intellect, sympathy rather than aloofness in criticism, and sometimes, whimsicality rather than direct insight; thus, Pope is often described as a witty, Burns as a humorous, poet (whose humorous vein, strong sense, and simple style may teach the gayest, make the bravest smile—Cowper> The genius of the Italians is acute . . . but not subtle; hence, what they think to be humorous is merely witty—Coleridge> facetious usually applies to clumsy or inappropriate jesting or, somewhat derogatorily, to attempts at witiness or humorousness that please their maker more than others (probably the most tedious bore on earth is the man who feels it incumbent upon him always to be facetious and to turn everything into a joke—Pike> (her lines were weak facetious echoes of a style of college slang ten years outmoded—Wouk) Jocular also implies a fondness for jesting and joking but suggests as its motive the desire to make others laugh or to keep them amused. It need not imply loquaciousness but it tends to suggest a sustained jolly mood or habit of temperament (his more solemn and stately brother, at whom he laughed in his jocular way—Thackeray> The watercolor lesson enlivened by the jocular conversation of the kindly, humorous old man was always great fun—Conrad> Jocose suggests waggishness or sportiveness in jesting and joking; it often comes close to facetious in suggesting clumsy inappropriate jesting (sundry jocose proposals that the ladies should sit in the gentlemen's laps—Dickens>
**wonder**

Acolon (:)separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**Ana** amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): sparkling, scintillating (see FLASH vb): *caustic, mordant, acrid, scathing: penetrating, piercing, probing (see ENTER)

**wizard** *expert, adept, artist, artiste, virtuoso

**wizardry** witchcraft, witchery, sorcery, *magic, alchemy, thaumaturgy

**wizen** *wither, shrivel

**Ana** shrink, *contract: dwindle, diminish, reduce, *decrease

**wobble** teeter, totter, shimmy, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, quake, *shake, tremble, dither

**woe** grief, anguish, heartache, heartbeat, *sorrow, regret

**Ana** *distress, suffering, misery, agony, dolor: lamenting, bewailing, bemoaning, deploiring (see DEPLORE)

**Con** *happiness, bliss, felicity

**woebegone** disconsolate, dispirited, rejected, depressed, *downcast

**Ana** *melancholy, lugubrious, doleful: forlorn, *despondent: spiritless, listless (see LANGUID)

**woman** *female, lady

**womanish** womanlike, womanly, ladylike, feminine, *female, effeminate

**Ant** manliness — *Con manlike, virile, masculine, manly, *male

**womanlike** womanly, womanish, ladylike, feminine, *female, effeminate

**Con** feminine, womanly, womanish, ladylike (see FEMALE)

**womanly** womanlike, ladylike, womanish, feminine, *female, effeminate

**Ana** *mature, matured, grown-up, adult

**Ant** unwomanly, manly — *Con manliness (see MALE):

* youthful, juvenile, virgin, virginal, maiden

**wonder** *wonder

**wonder n** 1 Wonder, marvel, prodigy, miracle, phenomenon can all mean something that causes astonishment or admiration. Wonder applies specifically to whatever excites surprise, astonishment, or amazement (as by its perfection, its greatness, or its inexplicableness) the hotels were wonders of comfort — White  the real wonder of jujitsu is . . . in the uniquely Oriental idea which the whole art expresses — Hearne  Chinese painters are not . . . absorbed in expressing their sensuous delight in the wonder and glory of the world — Binyon  Marvel applies to something that excites surprise or astonishment especially by its extraordinary nature, its strangeness, or its curiosity All I ask from them is discretion. — A., said Adrian, whose discretion was a marvel — Meredith  had never believed that such marvels of the cooking art really existed — Wouk  for the Roman army was still strong, and was to remain for centuries one of the marvels of the world — Buchan  Prodigy may name some extraordinary or abnormal fact or circumstance in nature seen as an omen or portent were not comets formerly dreaded, as awful prodigies intended to alarm the world? — Jeremiah Joyce or apply to something that makes one marvel because of its oddness or unusualness especially in degree of some quality (as skill, endurance, size, or achievement) wondering whether her husband, a despot, and pitiless pedant, would have tried to turn their boy into a prodigy — Edmund Wilson  women performing prodigies of endurance, bravery, and hope — Newsweek  Miracle applies to something that is accomplished or occurs which seems to those who are witnesses or have undergone the experience to exceed human powers and to require a supernatural or superhuman explanation wonders ye have done; miracles ye cannot — Tennison  In its nonreligious sense miracle retains its implication of wonder in its insistence on the fact that the person or thing so designated is beyond ordinary human comprehension or capacity to do or produce; only occasionally does it suggest a supernatural or superhuman agent or agency clung to their candles with an instinctive feeling that these primitive instruments were . . . more to be trusted than the miracles of science — Wolfe  the miracle which we call genius — Lowes  it was a miracle that the two men survived so many days exposure in an open boat  it was a miracle of rare device, a sunny pleasure dome with caves of ice! — Coleridge

Phenomenon in its more popular sense, which is somewhat contrary in meaning to phenomenon as used by scientists and philosophers (compare phenomenal under MATERIAL), implies something exceptional or extraordinary; it applies to a person, animal, or thing that is regarded as a prodigy or marvel or occasionally merely as an oddity the captain — a phenomenon during prohibition because he was honest — Dinneen  The Beat . . . the first phenomenon in years to come out of the Great Unwashed which Madison Avenue hadn't rigged, manipulated or foreseen — Mailer

2 Wonder, wonderment, amazement, admiration can denote the complex emotion aroused by something that is inexplicable or incomprehensible and, often, awe-inspiring. Wonder and wonderment commonly suggest novelty or strangeness in what excites the emotion and astonishment or perplexity in the person affected still the wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew — Goldsmith  showed no great zest . . . a quiet wonderment rather, faintly tinged with pleasure — Cather  In its richest use wonder often implies rapturous awe nor any power above or under ever made us mute with wonder — Shute  Amazement stresses bewilderment or loss of power to collect one's thoughts; it rarely gives an indication of like or dislike for the object exciting the emotion reports . . . which constantly express amazement at the extent and severity of Russian attacks . . . and despair at the German setbacks — Shirer  Admiration, which in its most general sense implies an often enthusiastic recognition of superiority (see REGARD /z), can add an implication of absorbed or ecstatic attention (as to the rare, the beautiful, or the sublime) that approaches awe in its elevation and intensity respect which in the lay mind may well mount to admiration and even to awe — More  considered the emotion of reverence to be very complex. Into it enters awe which itself is a blend of fear and admiration. Admiration, in turn, represents a fusion of negative self-feeling and wonder G. W. Allport  a Kioto painter . . . who burnt a hole in his roof to admire a moonlight effect, and in his rapt reverence to be very complex. Into it enters awe which itself is a blend of fear and admiration. Admiration, in turn, represents a fusion of negative self-feeling and wonder — G. W. Allport  a Kioto painter . . . who burnt a hole in his roof to admire a moonlight effect, and in his rapt reverence to be very complex. Into it enters awe which itself is a blend of fear and admiration. Admiration, in turn, represents a fusion of negative self-feeling and wonder — G. W. Allport

**wondrous**[1]

**wont n** 1 Habit, custom, usage, practice, manner, fashion (see METHOD)

**woor**[2] accustomed, customary, habitual, *usual

**Ana** familiar, *common, ordinary: natural, *regular, normal, typical

**woo vb** court, solicit, *invite, bid


**wooden** *stiff, rigid, inflexible, tense, stark

**Ana** firm, hard, solid: *heavy, weighty, ponderous: clumsy, *awkward: Con plant, pliable, *plastic: supple, limber

**word, vocable, term** can mean a letter or combination of letters or a sound or combination of sounds capable of being pronounced and expressing an idea that is by tradition or common consent associated with the letters or the sounds. Word applies to a letter or combination of
Wordy, verbose, prolix, diffuse, redundant can all mean 
word or a sound or a combination of sounds that forms 
an indelible whole constituting one of the ultimate units 
of a language. Vocabularies throw emphasis upon a word as 
pronounced or spelled rather than as a unit of meaning; 
a flat denial of poetic possibilities, in the case of any 
vocabularies, is liable to disastrous refutation—Lowes. 
Acustomed to songs in which the words are often merely 
convenient vocabularies with the melody usually more important 
than the text—Scholl. Term applies both to words and 
to phrases that express a whole idea and form one of the 
units of expression in a language, applying especially 
to units with a more or less precise technical use or meaning 
(the term communism is used today to describe both 
a political philosophy and its translation into reality— 
Gaytke). "The most important woman in Finland" is a 
term which has been applied—Current Biography. (All professions 
are likely to develop innumerable terms that constitute 
an almost private jargon.)

Ana expression, idiom, *phrase, locution 
Wordy, verbose, prolix, diffuse, redundant can all mean 
using or marked by the use of more words than are necessary 
to express the thought. Wordy often carries no further 
implications, though it may suggest garrulousness or lo-
quacity when the reference is to speech; went into consid-
erable detail about the Fuehrer's thoughts and policies on 
almost every conceivable subject, being more wordy than 
any previous letter . . . to his Italian partner—Shirer. (A wordy, prelogomenon babble—Stevenson) Verbose 
suggests overabundance of words as a literary fault char-
acteristic especially of a writer or public speaker or of 
a work or speech; it often implies resulting dullness or 
obscurity of expression or a lack of incisiveness, con-
fusion of ideas, or grandiloquence (a verbose style). (A dull verbose narrative) (His letters are full of interesting 
details but they are never verbose.) Prolix implies such 
attention to minute details as to extend what is written 
or told beyond due bounds; the term carries a stronger impli-
cation of tediousness or wearisomeness than verbose 
(the belief, so prevalent abroad, that it is typical of Russian 
literature to be formless, prolix and hysteric—Edmund Wilson) This, then, was Nuflo's story, told not in Nuflo's 
manner, which was infinitely prolix—Hudson. Diffuse 
usually implies verbosity, but it throws the emphasis upon 
the lack of organization and of the compactness and con-
densation needed for pointedness and for strength of style; 
it often attributes flabbiness, looseness, or desultoriness 
to what is written (The one can be profuse on occasion; 
the other is diffuse whether he will or no—J. R. Lowell). 
(Though Seneca is long-winded, he is not diffuse—he is 
capable of great concision—T. S. Eliot) Redundant 
can apply to whatever is superfluous (Older . . . occupations 
are becoming redundant and obsolete—Barkin) but in its 
specific application to words and phrases the term implies a 
superfluity that results from being repetitious or un-
needed for clarity and accuracy of expression (Revision 
of technical prose requires word by word scrutiny and 
elmination of whatever is redundant.) In its correspond-
ing application to writers, speakers, or utterances redu-
undant implies the use of redundancies (see redundancy under 
Verbiage) (The naturally copious and flowing style of the 
author is generally redundant—Mackintosh) (She had 
been, like nearly all very young writers, superfluous of 
phrase, redundant—Rose Macaulay) (In sharp comment . . .
quite demolished the emptiness and the pretentious-
ness of this redundant plan—Michener)

Ana *inflated, turgid, tumid, flatulent; bombastic, *rhe-
torical: loquacious, garrulous, voluble, glib, *talkative 
Con laconic, *concise, terse, succinct, summary, pithy, compendious 

Work n 1 Work, labor, travail, toil, drudgery, grind are 
comparable when they mean effort or exertion directed 
to the accomplishment of an end, or an employment or 
activity which involves such expenditure of effort or exer-
tion. Work is the most comprehensive of these terms, for 
it may imply activity of body, mind, or machine or, in its 
largest sense, of a natural force. It is applicable not only to 
the exertion and to the employment which involves such 
exertion (Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work— 
Exod 20:9) but also to what is accomplished or produced 
by such exertion (This statue is the work of a gifted but 
unknown sculptor) (You have done a day's work in three 
hours) and to the material upon which one is employed 
(put your work away) Labor differs from work not so 
much in its specific denotations as in its implications; as 
a rule it implies human work and therefore suggests physi-
ocnal or intellectual exertion only, but it may suggest work 
of strenuous, onerous, or fatiguing kind (Labor is doing 
what we must; leisure is doing what we like—Shaw) The 
larger part of the labor of an author in composing his work 
is critical labor; the labor of writing, combining, construct-
ing, expunging, correcting, testing—T. S. Eliot) Sir William Meredith, anticipating the labors of Romilly, 
protested against the barbarity and the inefficacy of a 
criminal code—G. O. Trevelyan) Travail carries a 
stronger implication of painful effort or exertion than does 
labor; that connotation is often so strong that the term 
tends to denote suffering rather than labor (The sentiment-
alist escapes the stern travail of thought—Lowes) It 
breaks his heart . . . that all his hours of travail here for 
men seem yet in vain—Lindsay) Toil suggests labor that 
is prolonged and highly fatiguing but not necessarily 
physical (For years he led a life of unremitting physical 
toil—Buchan) Drudgery implies dull, irksome, and dis-
tasteful labor (thereafter, through . . . all the days she 
served in the store, the job was nothing but exasperating 
drudgery—Wouk) (Labor of the hands . . . pursued to 
the verge of drudgery—Thoreau) Grind applies to labor that 
one finds toilsome and trying or exhausting to mind or 
body (The long grind of teaching the promiscuous and 
preoccupied young—Henry James)

Ana exertion, *effort, pains, trouble; *task, duty, chore 
Ant play 
2 Work, employment, occupation, calling, pursuit, business 
can all denote the specific kind of labor or activity in which 
a person engages seriously especially as a means of earn-
ing a livelihood. Work is the most general of these terms; 
It applies to any kind of labor, whether physical or intel-
lectual, whether carried on by the hour, day, week, month, 
or longer period, and whether done for pay or not and, if 
the former, whether compensated for by an employer or 
out of fees for services or the profits of a business (Be out 
of work) (His work is that of a railroad engineer) (He is 
at work on his book) Employment implies work for which 
one has been engaged and is being paid by an employer 
(He is unable to find employment) (His employment is 
that of a bookbinder) (1 . . . went from town to town, work-
ing when I could get employment—Goldsmith) Occupa-
tion, though often used interchangeably with employ-
ment, can be more inclusive, for it does not necessarily 
connotate service under an employer and may be referred 
to the work of a kind in which one engages habitually or 
for which one has been trained; thus, one seeks employ-
ment but follows a particular occupation (Unable to find 
employment in his old occupation, he turned to common 
labor) (He is by occupation a teacher) (These are the chief 
questions which a man would ask . . . whom circumstances 
allowed to choose his occupation—Inge) Calling is
sometimes used in place of occupation but is typically used of occupations which can be described as vocations or professions and to which one is likely to have been called by one’s nature or special tastes (his calling is that of a preacher) (the learned callings) (Miss Jekyll had received that luckiest of fairy gifts, a calling . . . something that she loved to do—L. P. Smith) Pursuit, too, may be used in place of occupation but more specifically in the sense of a trade, craft, profession, business, or art that is followed often as a means of earning one’s living (they never have to learn to adjust themselves to people whose tastes and pursuits are different from their own—Russell) (though it was supposed to be proper for them to have an occupation, the crude fact of moneymaking was still regarded as derogatory, and the law, being a profession, was accounted a more gentlemanly pursuit than business—Wharton) Business is often used in the sense of work or sometimes of occupation (the business of keeping a lunatic asylum—Denman) (I hated, and still hate, the awful business of research—Bennett)

Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession

3 Work, product, production, opus, artifact can all denote a concrete thing that is made or brought into being by the exertion of effort and the exercise of skill. Work is applied to what comes under this general definition (as something that is manufactured or that is constructed or built) only when used without reference to a particular thing (the work reveals the workman) or when used with a possessive (the cabinetmaker is proud of his work) (every church that is known as Christopher Wren’s work) or in certain combinations (fireworks) (waxworks) Otherwise it is applied to a thing that results from mental labor, especially one involving composition and artistry in execution and specifically called a work of art (the works of Keats include his poems and usually his prefaces) (the works of Beethoven are all his musical compositions) (The Thinker is one of Rodin’s works) (the new history of literature promises to be a monumental work) Product (see also product 2) is applied chiefly to articles of manufacture whether they are made by hand or with the aid of machinery (the factory seeks a market for its products) (she was unwilling to part with the embroideries and laces that were the products of her handiwork) (synthetic materials impart their special properties to perfumes and flavors and when properly used, increase rather than diminish the value of the product—Morrison) When product rather than work is used of a poem, novel, statue, or painting, it is often either depreciative in its connotations or definitely noncommittal (this dull product of a scroffer’s pen—Wordsworth) (shall a literary product reveal the spirit of its age and be silent as to the spirit of its author—Matheson) Production is sometimes used where work would be the commoner and more idiomatic term, but it has a formal or slightly bombastic effect except when qualified by a superlative (the noblest productions of literary genius) (the finest productions of Michelangelo) (so one {Pygmalion} whose story serves at least to show men loved their own productions long ago, wooed an unfeeling statue {Galatea} for his wife—Cowper) The term also is specifically applied to a theatrical or similar performance viewed as the work of a producer or director who is responsible for all the technical, artistic, and dramaturgical aspects of a production. Opus is applied chiefly to a musical composition or group of compositions and in this use it is commonly followed by a number designating the order of publication or, sometimes, execution (Beethoven’s opus 27) The term also has some specific application (as to work in mosaic or embroidery) and is used in light criticism of a work of art or literature often with a suggestion of facetious pomposity (British books on statistics are ever so much sprightlier and clearer than American opera on the subject—Forbes) (an instance of misplaced creativity, perhaps the first but not the last in Wright’s prodigious opus—Mumford) Artifact basically denotes an artificial as distinguished from a natural product; it usually implies human workmanship, largely as a general designation for primitive weapons and implements as well as works of art (flints, arrowheads, and other artifacts of stone)

Ana article, object, *thing: accomplishment, achievement, performance (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM)

work vb operate, function, *act, behave, react

worker, workman, workingman, laborer, craftsman, handcraftsman, mechanic, artisan, hand, operative, roustabout can all mean one who earns his living by labor, especially by manual labor. Worker, the most comprehensive and least specific of these terms, applies to someone who earns his living by work of hand or brain (office workers) (factory workers) Workman does not imply a specific kind of work, but in all but its extended senses it commonly implies manual labor. It may be applied to one engaged to do a specified piece of work or to help in the construction of something requiring many workers; it may also be applied to a skilled or to an unskilled worker. Usually it implies opposition to employer, or manager, or foreman (there were 30 workmen on the job) In extended use the term is applicable to a worker whether he works with his hands or with his mind provided he makes, constructs, invents, or creates something (high-minded) and purifying workmen, they have spared no pains to produce a poetry finer than that of any other country in our time—Lowell) Workingman is more restricted in its range of application than workman, and is, in spite of varying legal definitions, applied commonly to a wage earner who at an hourly, daily, or weekly rate pursues a trade (as carpentry, masonry, or plumbing) or is similarly employed in a mercantile, manufacturing, or industrial establishment as distinguished especially from an industrialist, a merchant, and a professional man. Laborer commonly designates one whose work demands more strength and physical exertion than skill (as on a construction or excavation job) (day laborers) (farm laborers) Craftsman and handcraftsman basically apply to one who is a skilled workman in a craft or handicraft (see craft, handicraft under TRADE 1). Unlike the foregoing terms these two are common in general use and may apply as freely with reference to an avocation as to an employment. But the former may apply distinctively to a worker who is a competent technician or who is versed in the technique of his art, profession, or trade. It is especially used of artists, writers, playwrights, or skilled artisans (Pope . . . one of the most consummate craftsmen who ever dealt in words—Lowes) (the good craftsman constructs his product as perfectly as he can . . . He becomes an artist in so far as he treats his materials also for themselves—Alexander) Mechanic applies specifically to a workman skilled in the repair or adjustment of machines (an automobile mechanic) (an aviation mechanic) Artisan is more often opposed to artist (for this sense see under ARTIST 1) than employed as a designation of a particular type of workman. When applied to workmen as such and without thought of opposition to artist, the term comes very close to craftsman and is commonly applied to one who is skilled in a trade (as carpentry, weaving, or shoemaking) that involves learned skills and their appropriate application as well as physical labor (we pass from the weavers of cloth to a different class of artisans—Macaulay) Hand is applied to one of a crew, a force, or a gang of workmen or some-
times to an owner's or proprietor's helper or assistant

Analogous words: worrier, worrierer, worryer, worryerer, worryer

Antonyms: non-worryer, non-worrier, non-worryerer, non-worryererer, non-worryer

Contrasted words: worryer, worrier, worryerer, worryererer, worryer

worried (adj) troubled, distressed (see trouble vb); harassed, harried (see worry vb)

Con: comforted, solaced, consoled (see comfort vb)

worry vb Annie, worry, annoy, harass, harry, plague, pester, tease, tantalize can all mean to torment so as to destroy one's peace of mind or to disturb one acutely.

Worry stresses incessant attacking or goading and an intention or sometimes an effect of driving the victim to desperation or defeat (pursue a policy of worrying the enemy) (worry him out till he gives his consent—Swift) (brother should not war with brother, and worry and devour each other—Cowper) Annoy (see also annoy 1) implies continued molesting, interfering with, intruding on, or bedeviling until the victim is angry or upset (wilt thou then serve the Philistines with that gift which was expressly given thee to annoy them?—Milton) (clouds of flies . . . annoyed our horses—Borrow) (my movements are all along a regular beat, which enables me to avoid things that bore or annoy me—Edmund Wilson) Harass usually implies persecution, especially continued petty persecutions, or burdensome demands or exactations that drive one to distraction or exhaust one's nervous or mental power (it is good for boys and girls to know that their father can be harassed by worst and their mother worn out by a multiplicity of details—Russell) (securing air and naval bases from which he could harass and blockade the British Isles—Shirer) Harry, though often used interchangeably with harass, more vividly suggests maltreatment and oppression (Button and Miss Wace had been harried and chivied ... the latter getting visibly flustered, for tears came into her eyes—Sackville-West) (how on earth can you rack and harry and post a man for his losings, when you . . . live in the same station with him?—Kipling) Plague basically implies an affliction or infliction comparable to that of a devastating epidemic disease and even with greatly weakened implications tends to suggest a tormentor and an agonized or suffering victim (the gods are just, and of our pleasant vices make instruments to plague us—Shak.) (the kind of unhappy phrase that could plague a candidate right down to the wire—Michener) (misfortune plagued the plotters at every turn—Shirer) Pester implies the power to annoy past endurance (as by numbers or by repetition of attacks suggestive of the discomforts of an infestation of vermin) (pester the authorities with complaints) (Adrian . . . would accept him entirely as he seemed, and not pester him . . . by trying to unlock his heart—Meredith) Tease may imply repeated attempts to break down resistance by successive appeals or importunities (the children were teasing to be taken to the circus) (I have not been to the Rooms this age . . . except . . . last night with the Hodges's . . . they teased me into it—Austen) or it may imply an attempt to provoke or upset by railillery or tormenting (gets me mad when my ana

worldly vb (adj) worldly 1 universe, *earth, cosmos, macrocosm worldly-wise worldly 1 universe, *earth, cosmos, macrocosm worker, workingman, laborer, craftsman, workman, laborer, * worker, craftsman, 

worldly vb (adj) worldly 1 universe, *earth, cosmos, macrocosm worker, workingman, laborer, craftsman, workman, laborer, * worker, craftsman, 

worried (adj) anxious, concerned, careful, solicitous (see under care n)

### wound vs. wrench

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wound</th>
<th>wrench</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<tr>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<td>&lt;assumption . . . that the social whole has greater worth and significance than its individual parts—Huxley&gt;</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong>, on the other hand, applies more frequently than <strong>worth</strong> to the qualities (as excellence, usefulness, or importance) imputed to a person or thing or to the degree in which that person or thing is regarded as excellent, useful, or important especially in its relation to other things (a special association may give an inflated value to a certain poem)</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<td>&lt;there is always a gap between their appreciation of a man's value at any moment and his real weight—Bellow&gt;</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<td>nothing in the [church] service was slighted, every phrase and gesture had its full value—Cather</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further, value may be applied, as worth is not, to something (as a principle, a quality, a condition, or a substance) which is regarded as important, useful, desirable, or of value, sometimes in its relation to other things, sometimes in the degree which seems proper or fitting to it, and sometimes absolutely (we may call food a value for the animal ... because it is nutritious and fills his need of life—Alexander&gt;</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<td>the opinion ... that while science ... contemplates a world of facts without values, religion contemplates values apart from facts—Inge&gt;</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<td>&lt;prolongation of the war ... tends to pass in meaning from the injury received to the trauma of the younger—Sears&gt;</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<tr>
<td>the disillusion of the older generation or emotional blow or stress that results in disordered feelings or behavior or leaves a lasting abnormal impression on the mind &lt;hysteria is a condition that often results from external force or violence (as from a fall, a blow, a shot, a stab, or a burn) or from a cause incidental to birth or surgery. Often the term is extended to a mental or emotional blow or stress that results in disordered feelings or behavior or leaves a lasting abnormal impression on the mind &lt;hysteria is a condition that often results from a psychic trauma &gt; the great social traumas like the French Revolution and the American Civil War—Heard&gt;</td>
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<td>what psychologists call a trauma, a shock whose increasing aftereffects ... testified to the susceptibility of the saint to sin—Thomas Mann&gt;</td>
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<td>In this connection trauma tends to pass in meaning from the injury received to the effect it produces &lt;the disillusion of the older generation had become the spiritual trauma of the younger—Aldridge&gt;</td>
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<td>&lt;a postwar boom that got us over the physical trauma of the 1930's—Galantier&gt;</td>
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<td>Traumatism in general use is seldom clearly distinguished from trauma &lt;the traumatisms of history with time ... become embedded in the culture of a people—Edmond Taylor&gt;</td>
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<td>but in technical use it tends to be applied specifically to the local or general disordered state that results from injury or wounding &lt;fractures, sprains ... burns and similar traumatisms—JAMA&gt;</td>
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<td>a lesion basically implies an injury or impairment &lt;the severe control ... is no lesion to inward harmony and happiness—Maritain&gt;</td>
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<td>but in technical use it applies specifically to a usually clearly circumscribed pathological change in tissue that may be caused by a wound or injury or be symptomatic of a disease or degenerative process</td>
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<td>&lt;wound 882 wrench</td>
<td>882 wrench</td>
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<tr>
<td>wrench vb</td>
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<tr>
<td>*excellence, merit, virtue, perfection: *use, usefulness, utility</td>
<td>wrench vb</td>
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<tr>
<td>wound n</td>
<td>wrench vb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wound, trauma, traumatism, lesion, bruise, contusion are comparable when they mean an injury to one of the organs or parts of the body. Wound generally denotes an injury that is inflicted by a hard or sharp instrument (as a knife, a bullet, or a club) forcibly driven or applied, and is characterized by breaking of the skin or mucous membrane and usually by damage to the tissues beneath [deep wounds made by a bayonet] &lt;a bite wound is likely to become infected &gt;</td>
<td>wrench vb</td>
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<tr>
<td>In extended use wound can apply to a figurative hurt or blow (as to the mind or to society) &lt;inflicts wounds upon the human spirit which no surgery can heal—Woolf&gt;</td>
<td>wrench vb</td>
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<tr>
<td>the perfect way to heal many of the world's worst wounds—Mazur</td>
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<td>Trauma basically applies to a wound or other injury (as a strain, fracture, or concussion) resulting from external force or violence (as from a fall, a blow, a shot, a stab, or a burn) or from a cause incidental to birth or surgery. Often the term is extended to a mental or emotional blow or stress that results in disordered feelings or behavior or leaves a lasting abnormal impression on the mind &lt;hysteria is a condition that often results from a psychic trauma &gt; the great social traumas like the French Revolution and the American Civil War—Heard&gt;</td>
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wretched

The wretched author, composer can all denote a person who gives
writing a confession from a suspect) more farm output, both of foodstuffs and raw materials, must be wrung from the hard-pressed peasants—Lieberman (wringing more blackmail from this unwarlike nation—Forester)

Ana

wrest

v b wrench, wring

Ana twist, bend (see CURVE): force, compel, coerce, constrain: strain, sprain (see under STRAIN n)

wrestle, tussle, grapple, scuffle

mean to struggle with an opponent at close quarters. Wrestle basically implies a struggle for mastery by gripping with hands, arms, and legs, often in ways governed by fixed rules; the term connotes the exercise of skill and ingenuity as well as strength. In its extended use wrestle also implies a struggle for mastery, but it may suggest either a striving for superiority or for a particular advantage or a laborious effort (as in understanding, in seeking, or in overcoming) (compelled to wrestle with the increasing difficulties of his office) (the perfectionist’s instinct for wrestling with a problem until he had shaped it to his mental image—Kolodin) (the man who has never wrestled with his early faith . . . has missed not only a moral but an intellectual discipline—Ellis)

Tussle also suggests a struggle for mastery, but it implies determination rather than skill or ingenuity and willingness to accept the rough-and-tumble conditions of such a struggle (the boys tussled long and hard) (tussle with a problem in mathematics) (a strong man who could tussle with evil and conquer—Caspy)

Grapple stresses the action of taking hold of or coming to grips with; the term carries a stronger implication of being in a position to gain the mastery and, usually, of a successful struggle (grappled with his assailant, pinning one of his arms behind him) (the architect has grappled with more problems than one needs to see solved in any single church—Henry Adams) (it has been mainly the academicians who have attempted to grapple with the . . . intricacies of Joyce’s mysticism of the flesh—Mailer)

Scuffle may imply brief, confused, usually not very serious fighting involving much scrumbling and noise (boys scuffled with each other in the schoolyard) It may suggest hurried or superficiality in overcoming difficulties (you go to school and scuffle on the best way you can—Runciman)

Ana

*content, fight, battle, war: resist, withstand, combat, oppose: strive, endeavor, essay (see ATTEMPT): labor, toil, travail (see under STRAIN n)

wretched

* miserable

Ana *despondent, forlorn, hopeless, despairing: doleful, dolorous, melancholy: abject, sordid, * mean: pitiable, piteous, * pitiful

writing

v b wrench, wring

Ana *press, squeeze: crush, mash, smash, bruise: extract, extort, elicit (see EDUCE): distort, contort (see DEFORM): wisl, bend (see CURVE)

writer, author, composer

can all denote a person who gives expression to his ideas or feelings, but they are not as a rule synonyms. Writer is a comprehensive term applied to someone whose occupation or chief employment is the specific term for the author of a musical composition (the composer of the Peer Gynt suite) but, although this is its commonest application, it is also applicable to poets, painters, designers, and others when composition rather than creation or representation is the end (Shakespeare was not only a dramatist but a composer of lyrics and sonnets)

writhe, agonize, squirm

are comparable when they mean to twist or turn in physical or mental distress. Writhe regularly carries vivid suggestions of convulsive contortions (as of one in the throes of death, in a paroxysm, in an instrument of torture, or in a trap) and of fruitless struggling to escape. When used in reference to physical distress, it commonly implies also great pain (childhood and youth agoing in savage pains—Shelley)

When extended to refer to mental distress, it usually implies a torturing sense of shame, of bafflement, or of frustration (thus, at every march, the hidden enemy became bolder and the regiment writhe . . . under attacks it could not avenge—Kipling) (corrupt men in the machines write in the presence of his obvious integrity—Helen Fuller)

Agonize sometimes evokes the image of one in the pangs of death, struggling and in anguish; sometimes it evokes the picture of one wrestling or straining arduously to achieve a difficult victory (bled, groaned, and agonized, and died in vain—Cowper) (pages which cost a week of unremitting and agonizing labor—Huxley)

Squirm evokes images of a less dignified or a more familiar character; it usually does not imply profound distress, but great unease (as in aversion to restraint or discipline) or a shrinking or wincing (as under sarcasm or criticism) (sleek-haired subalterns who squirmed painfully in their chairs when they came to call—Kipling) (a grueling cross-examination . . . in which he is going to make me squirm in front of the grand jury—Gardner)

Ana

twist, bend (see CURVE vb): distort, contort (see DEFORM): wince, blench, flinch, * recoil

wrong

n * injustice, injury, grievance


wrong adj 1 * false

Ana fallacious, sophistical (see under FALLACY): misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory

Ant right—Con * correct, exact, accurate, precise 2 bad, poor


v b Wrong, oppress, persecute, aggravate can mean to inflict injury upon a person without just cause or in an outrageous manner. One wrongs another who injures him by unjustifiably depriving him of his property or his good name or by violating something he holds sacred (receive

ana

analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man—2 Cor 7:2) (such an air of wronged nobility—Cheever) One oppresses another who inhumanely lays upon him burdens too heavy to be endured or exacts of him more than he can possibly perform <how reviving to the spirits of just men long oppressed, when God into the hands of their deliverer puts invincible might—Milton> (may have missed the tender love of her parents . . . or been oppressed by her elderly uncle—Cheever) One persecutes another who relentlessly or unremittingly subjects him to annoyance or suffering (if a boy has abnormal mental powers in some direction, combined with poor physique and great nervousness, he . . . may be so persecuted [by normal boys] as to be driven mad—Russell) One aggrieves another or, more often, causes him to be or to feel aggrieved who by wrongdoing, oppressing, or persecuting him gives him ground for protest (several nations were aggrieved by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles) (so the bargain stood: they broke it, and he felt himself aggrieved—Browning)

Ana *abuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat, outrage: *injure, harm, hurt

wrought *angry, irate, indignant, wrathful, acrimonious, mad

Y

yank vb *jerk, snap, twitch

Ana *pull, drag, tug: snatch, clutch (see TAKE): *wrench, wrest

yap vb *bark, bay, howl, growl, snarl, yelp

yardstick *standard, criterion, gauge, touchstone

yarn tale, *story, narrative, anecdote

yearn *long, pine, hanker, hunger, thirst

yelp vb *shout, shriek, scream, squeal, holler, whoop

Ana vociferate, *roar, clamor, bellow, bawl

yell n shout, shriek, scream, squeal, holler, whoop (see under SHOUT vb)
yelp vb *bark, bay, howl, growl, snarl, yap

yield vb 1 produce, turn out, *bear

Ana *generate, engender, breed, propagate: create, *invent: form, shape, *make, fabricate, fashion

2 *relinquish, surrender, cede, abandon, leave, resign, waive

Ana *forgo, forbear, abnegate, eschew, sacrifice: abdicate, renounce, resign

Con *keep, keep back, retain, withhold: appropriate, *arrogate, confiscate

3 Yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent, defer, bow, cave can all mean to give way to someone or something that one cannot further resist. Yield (see also RELINQUISH; BEAR 2), when the reference is to a person implies being overcome (as by force, argument, or entreaty) (yield to persuasion) (yield to temptation) (he never yields except when the matter under discussion is of no significance to him) (he has no right to give way on this subject—Russell) but when the reference is to a thing, the word implies elasticity, or lack of firmness, strength, or endurance in the thing that gives way (the door suddenly yields to her hand—Austen) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or habitation that had yielded at every point to the crotchets and meanderings of a growing family—Cheever) Submit carries a more definite implication of contumacy or conflict than yield and, therefore, suggests more strongly a surrender after resistance to another’s will, or because of a thing’s strength or inevitability (all is lost—the unconquerable will . . . and courage never to submit—Milton) (the Indian summer of her heart, which was slow to submit to age—Stevenson) (a long diatribe against Pitt for having tamely submitted to the rebuffs of the French Directory—Quiller-Couch) (submitted to their joking with the best grace she could—Wouk) Capitulate can mean to surrender on terms definitely agreed upon, but in its common extended use, it more often centers attention on a definite submission to a force or power that one has not the strength, the skill, or the will to overcome (I always tip for special services rendered but I will not capitulate before sheer impertinence—Weichberg) (the universities would capitulate to a young, vigorous and revolutionary creed—Moherly) Succumb carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of weakness or helplessness in the person or thing that gives way or of strength or irresistibility in the person or more often the thing that causes the giving way. The suggestion of sinking under that force or power is usually so strong in succumb that the word frequently implies a disastrous outcome (as death, destruction, or subjugation) (succumb to pneumonia) (the best of constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing . . . to the temptations of power—Huxley) (true passion . . . must be crushed before it will succumb—Meredith) All of the preceding terms usually imply a giving way on the part of a person or sometimes a thing that has not or cannot maintain the upper hand; they therefore often imply a weakening of the one that gives way. Relent, by contrast, implies a yielding on the part of the one who has the upper hand and who has been severe or harsh in his attitude to another person or fixed in his determination (as to punish, to interfere, or to frustrate). The term therefore implies a softening or mollifying that turns him from his previous course (can you hear a good man groan, and not relent?—Shak.) (when a second appeal, couched in more urgent terms, was dispatched to him, he relented—Cerf) Defer implies a yielding or submitting to because of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another’s authority or superior knowledge (everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a dean and chapter truckle to her wishes—Sackville-West) (clearly conscious of her success and of the way these Londoners were deferring to her—Dahl) Bow is a picturesque equivalent of defer or submit; it may suggest a yielding through courtesy or through subjugation (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May bow to this decision—Wharton) Cave, usually with in, can be a close synonym of succumb, but it often suggests resistance to pressure to the point of exhaustion and sudden collapse (in the end government caved in, and unconditionally agreed to inquiry—Punch)

Ana surrender, cede, waive (see RELINQUISH): concede, accord, award, *grant
yoke 885 zone

yoke  *couple, pair, brace
yokel  bumpkin, hick, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout, *boor, churl
young  *offspring, progeny, issue, descendant, posterity
youth, adolescence, puberty, pubescence  are sometimes used interchangeably to denote the period in life when one passes from childhood to maturity. Youth is the most general of these terms, being applied sometimes to the whole early part of life from childhood or infancy to maturity (youth, maturity, senility). More often, however, youth is applied to the period between the maturing of the sexual organs and the attaining of full maturity. Youth often connotes the freshness, vigor, inexperience, or impetuousity characteristic of the young. Adolescence designates the same period as youth in the restricted sense, but it carries a stronger connotation of immaturity. Adolescence suggests the awkwardness resulting from the rapid growth during this period and also the mental and emotional instability resulting from the physiological changes. In legal use adolescence designates the period extending from puberty to the attainment of full legal age or majority. Basically puberty designates the age at which the signs of the maturing of the sexual organs appear (as the beard and changed voice in boys and the development of the breasts in girls); in law this age is commonly fixed at fourteen for boys and twelve for girls. In broader use puberty often designates the period covering the earlier years of adolescence during which the secondary sex characteristics are unfolding. Pubescence is sometimes used as equivalent to puberty, but often it applies distinctively to the condition of attaining the characteristics (as genital hair) of developing sexuality.

Ant  age (sense 1)
youthful, juvenile, puerile, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden are comparable when they mean relating to or characteristic of one who is between childhood and adulthood; although their basic meaning is the same, they are seldom interchangeable because of widely differing implications and applications. Youthful suggests the possession or the appearance of youth, or of qualities appropriate to youth; it can be employed laudatorily or in extenuation (youthful aspirations) (youthful indiscretions) Juvenile often suggests immaturity of mind or body or lack of experience; it is applied especially to what is suited to or designed for boys and girls in their early teens (juvenile dances) (juvenile fiction) Puerile is applied especially to acts and utterances which, though excusable in a boy or girl or characteristic of immaturity, would be unpardonable or out of character in an adult; the word finds its commonest use in depreciatory reference to acts or utterances of the mature (what seemed sapient discourse in 1940 is rather puerile chatter now—G. W. Johnson) (time and again the suspicion wounds us that we are puerile people, fatal minds, illegible tapestries—Ferry Bennett) Boyish (compare mannish under male), though referred commonly to boys, is sometimes used in reference to girls or their clothes, appearance, or qualities. The term often suggests some of the engaging qualities or the physical attractiveness of normal, vigorous boys (a boyish smile) (boyish charm) (boyish enthusiasm) Virgin and virginal, though referable usually to girls, in the extended use in which they suggest the freshness, innocence, purity, and inexperience that are associated with youthful virginity are applicable also to boys (that beautiful mixture of manly courage and virginal modesty—Farrar) (he smiled like a girl, or like clear winter skies, a virginal light making stars of his eyes—Lindsay) Maiden in its extended sense carries an even stronger suggestion than virgin or virginal of youthful lack of experience; it also implies that one's qualities (as virtue, worth, competence, or strength) have not been tried or tested (a maiden speech) (his maiden effort at authorship)

Ana  *immature, unmatured
Ant  aged—Con  *mature, matured, grown-up

Z

zeal  enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, *passion
Ana  energy, force (see power): zest, gusto (see taste): earnestness, seriousness (see corresponding adjectives at serious); intensity, vehemence, fierceness (see corresponding adjectives at intense)
Ant  apathy—Con  impassivity, phlegm, stolidity (see under impassive)
zealot  *enthusiast, fanatic, bigot
Ana  partisan, sectary, adherent, disciple, *follower: devotee, votary (see addict)
zeen  apogee, culmination, meridian, *summit, peak,

pinnacle, climax, apex, acme
Ant  nadir
zeephyr  *wind, breeze, gale, hurricane
zest  relish, gusto, *taste, palate
Ana  enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, zeal, *passion: spiritedness or spirit, high-spiritedness (see corresponding adjectives at spirited): enjoyment, delight, delectation, *pleasure
zone  belt, *area, tract, region
Ana  *locality, district: section, sector, segment (see part r)

Ana  analogous words  Ant  antonyms  Con  contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
### LIST OF AUTHORS QUOTED

The entries in italic type in the left-hand column are the actual forms used in citations in the Vocabulary of this Dictionary. These entries are arranged in the alphabetical order of surnames or titles. The right-hand column supplies an identification for each author or source cited. Only readily understood abbreviations (such as Amer. for American and Eng. for English) are used in this column.

As the names of books of the Bible are given wherever cited in the Vocabulary, all biblical quotations are from the Authorized Version (or King James Bible). Quotations from other versions are indicated by the addition of the abbreviations R. V. for Revised Version (of 1885), D. V. for Douay Version (or Douay Bible).

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<td>Wiener</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norbert Wiener (1864-1964) American, mathematician</td>
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<td>Wier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Ernest Wier (1879-1945) American music editor</td>
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<td>Wiggen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Edward Wiggen (1873-1957) Amer. author</td>
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<td>Wiggin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Douglass Wiggin (1856-1921) American poet</td>
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<td>Wilferse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Wilferse (1805-1873) American, poet</td>
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<td>Wilkie</td>
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<td>Barbara Wilkie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orville F. O'Flaherty Wilkie (1854-1900) English playwright</td>
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<td>Wilder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Wilder (1901- ) Amer. educator</td>
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<td>Williams</td>
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<td>G. F. Williams (1879-1963) American educator</td>
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<td>Willet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Williams (f. 1953) Amer. writer</td>
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<td>Willets</td>
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<td>Harry Willets, Russia Under Khrushchev (1962)</td>
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<td>Willey</td>
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<td>Gordon Randolph Willey (1913- ) Amer. anthropologist</td>
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<td>Stanley Thomas Williams (1888-1956) American educator</td>
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<td>A. R. Williams (1883-1962) American educator</td>
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<td>Willet</td>
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<td>George Willet (1890- ) Amer. educator</td>
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<td>Williams</td>
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<td>George Valentine Williams (1883-1946) American poet</td>
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<td>Whittaker</td>
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<td>Harrison Whittaker (1919-) Amer. senator</td>
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<td>Howel Whittaker (1898-1963) American anthropologist</td>
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<td>J. E. Williams (f. 1960) Amer. educator</td>
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<td>Philip William Williams (1918-1955) American educator</td>
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<td>Tennessee Williams (1911-1963) American playwright</td>
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<td>W. C. Williams (1883-1963) American poet</td>
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<td>William Williams (1883-1963) American poet</td>
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<td>Henry J. Whittington (1888-1948) American poet</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Parker Wilks (1806-1867) American editor</td>
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<td>H. P. Willis (1897- ) Amer. architect</td>
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<td>Wendell Lewis Willkie (1892-1944) American actor</td>
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<td>William Willis (f. 1950) Amer. educator</td>
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<td>Colin Willis (1906- ) Austral. author</td>
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<td>Albert Potter Wills (1873-1937) American educator</td>
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<td>William</td>
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<td>Betty Douglas Wilson (1906-1979) Amer. teacher</td>
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<td>Angus Wilson (1906-1979) Amer. writer</td>
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<td>Buxton</td>
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<td>Angela Buxton, Justice Wilson (1813-1897) American poet</td>
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<td>Edmund Wilson (1895-1972) Amer. editor</td>
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<td>Ethel Davis Wilson (1890-1975) American poet</td>
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<td>Francis Gabriel Wilson (1901-1976) American educator</td>
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<td>Henry Wilson (1812-1875) U.S. vice-president (1873-1875)</td>
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</table>
Wood . . . Ralph Charles Wood (1904— ) Amer, linguist

Anthony Wood . . . Anthony Wood (1632-1695) Eng, historian

Clement Wood . . . Clement Wood (1888-1950) Amer, writer

Woodburn . . . John Moore McKeehan Woodburn (1901-1952) Amer, editor

Woodcock . . . George Woodcock (1912— ) Brit, author

Woodfin . . . Jane Woodfin, Of Mikes & Men (1951)

Woodward . . . Comer Vann Woodward (1908— ) Amer, historian

Woodard . . . George Prior Woodard (1908—1979) Amer, educator

Woodr. . . Robert Gale Woolbert (1903—1954) Amer, historian

Woof . . . Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) Eng, author

Wordsworth . . . William Wordsworth (1770-1850) Eng, poet

Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855) Eng, diarist; sister of William

Work . . . Henry Clay Work (1832-1884) Amer, songwriter

World's Work . . . World's Monthly

Wouk . . . Herman Wouk (1915- ) Amer, writer

Woodring . . . W. H. Woodring (1905— ) Amer, writer

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) 28th president of the U.S.

Winant . . . John Gilbert Winant (1889—1947) Amer, diplomat

Winchell . . . Alexander Winchell (1824—1891) Amer, geologist

Winchester . . . Caleb Thomas Winchester (1847-1920) Eng, educator

Windham . . . William Windham (1750-1810) Eng, statesman

Winnett . . . Ralph Winnett (1914— ) Amer, writer

Wintringham . . . Thomas Henry Wintringham (1898-1949) Eng, soldier

Wirth . . . Louis Wirth (1897-1952) Amer, (Ger.-born) sociologist

Wisler . . . Clark Wisler (1870-1947) Amer, anthropologist

Wister . . . Owen Wister (1860-1938) Amer, nov.

Witmer . . . Helen L. Witmer (1898— ) Amer, anthro- pologist

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Wolfers . . . Arnold Oscar Wolfers (1892—1966) Amer, (Swiss-born) educator

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Women's Wear Daily


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Wren . . . Sir Christopher Wren (1632—1723) Eng, architect

Wright . . . Thomas Wright (1810-1877) Eng, antiquarian


F. L. Wright . . Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959) Amer, architect

Georg con Wright . . Georg Henrik von Wright (1916— ) Finnish philoso-

pher

L. B. Wright . . Louis Booker Wright (1899— ) Amer, librarian

Wyatt . . . A. W. Wyatt, African Ab-

strator (1951)

Woodrow Wyatt . . Woodrow Lyle Wyatt (1918— ) Brit, diplomat

Wyld . . . Henry Cecil Kennedy Wyld (1870-1945) Eng, lexicog- rapher

Wylie . . . Elinor Horton Wylie (1885-1928) Amer, author


Wynman . . . Henny Wynnman (1889— ) Eng, horse breeder

Wynde . . . John Joseph Wynde (1859—1948) Amer, clergyman

Wythe . . . George Wythe (1893— ) Amer, government official

Yale Review . . . Quarterly

Ybarra . . . Thomas Russell Ybarra (1880— ) Amer, author

Yeats . . . William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) Irish poet

Yerby . . . Frank Garvin Yerby (1916— ) Amer, Nov.

Yoder . . . Robert McAuley Yoder (1907—1959) Amer, journalist

Yonge . . . Charlotte Mary Yonge (1823-1901) Eng, nov.

Young . . . Edward Young (1863-1975) Eng, poet

A. M. Young . . Arthur Morgan Young (1874— ) Eng, author

Arthur Young . . Arthur Young (1741-1820) Eng, agriculturist

Kenneth Young . . Kenneth Young (1916— ) Brit, editor

Kimball Young . . Kimball Young (1893-1973) Amer, educator

Stark Young . . Stark Young (1881-1963) Amer, writer

Zabel . . . Morton Davidson Zabel (1901—1964) Amer, educator

Zachari. . . Elias M. Zacharías (1890-1961) Amer, naval officer

Zangwill . . Israel Zangwill (1864-1926) Eng, writer

Zimmer . . . Fred Zimmer (fl. 1954) Amer, writer and painter

Zink . . . Harold Zink (1901-1962) Amer, political economist

Zinsser . . Hans Zinsser (1878-1949) Amer, bacteriologist

Zirato . . . Bruno Zirato (1884-1972) Amer, (Tal.-born) orchestra manager

Zirkle . . . Conway Zirkle (1895-1972) Amer, biologist