Introduction

This book contains all the most important words that you need to know to successfully complete speaking and writing/essay parts of IELTS, TOEIC, and TOEFL tests.

This material is perfect for any serious candidate who does not wish to waste time researching and learning new vocabulary the traditional way. This book will make your learning more efficient with less of your own effort, which means more spare time to review other concepts.
We tried not to create just a regular dictionary with a bunch of words, but chose only the most necessary definitions from the official examination materials, and described them in the most accessible way.

Have a great time.
**Aberration**
Is a state or condition markedly different from the norm; unusual, or unexpected.

**Abhor**
To regard with horror or detestation; to shrink back with shuddering from; to feel excessive repugnance toward; to detest to extremity.

**Abnegation**
The denial and rejection of a doctrine or belief; the act of not allowing yourself to have something, especially something you like or want.

**Abscond**
Leave hurriedly and secretly; run away.
**Abstruse**
Difficult to understand, especially when you think it could be explained more simply.

**Acquiesce**
Means to accept something reluctantly but without protest; agree or express agreement.

**Acrimonious**
Marked by strong resentment or cynicism; someone or something is bitter or harsh in manner or speech, or rubs a person the wrong way.

**Adage**
Is a short, pointed, and memorable saying, which is considered a veritable truth by the majority of people; a
traditional saying expressing a common experience or observation.

**Adjure**
Means to command solemnly; ask for or request earnestly; to order someone to do something.

**Adroit**
Having or showing skill, cleverness, or resourcefulness in handling situations.

**Adulation**
Means high praise or admiration; intense adoration.

**Adulterate**
Means to make (something) impure or weaker by adding something of inferior quality; to
make a substance less pure by adding something else to it.

**Adumbrate**
To describe roughly or briefly or give the main points or summary of.

**Adversity**
Means misfortune, an unfavorable turn of events; a difficult or unlucky situation.

**Affectation**
A deliberate pretense or exaggerated display; something that is not part of your personality but that you do to impress people.
Aggregate
Is a whole formed by combining several elements. To aggregate is to add together.

Akrasia
Is a state of mind in which someone acts against their better judgment through the “weakness of will.”

Alacrity
Brisk and cheerful readiness; quickly and with enthusiasm.

Algorithm
Is a procedure or formula for solving a problem, based on conducting a sequence of specified actions.
Allegory
Is a story or picture with a hidden meaning. The characters in allegories are symbols which represent particular ideas.

Alleviate
Means to make something easier to deal with or endure; to make something bad less severe.

Allusion
Is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, person, or event. This can be real or imaginary and may refer to anything, including fiction, folklore, historical events, or religious manuscripts (for example: When she lost her job, she acted like a Scrooge, and
refused to buy anything that wasn’t necessary).

**Amalgamate**
To bring together, unite; to combine different things to create something new.

**Ambiguous**
Means unclear or vague in meaning; having more than one possible meaning.

**Ambivalence**
Is a state of having simultaneous conflicting reactions, beliefs, or feelings towards some object. Stated another way, ambivalence is the experience of having an attitude towards someone or something that contains both positive and
negative components. The term also refers to situations where “mixed feelings” of a more general sort are experienced, or where a person experiences uncertainty or indecisiveness.

**Amend**
Means to make minor changes to the text (piece of legislation, etc.) in order to make it more fair or accurate, or to reflect changing circumstances.

**Amicable**
Means friendly, agreeable; characterized by or showing goodwill, peaceable.

**Anachronistic**
Out-of-date, not attributed to the correct historical period.
Anagram
Is a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of another word or phrase. In other words, any phrase or word that exactly reproduces the letters in another order is an anagram. For example, the word secure is an anagram of rescue; angel is an anagram of glean; state is an anagram of taste, etc.

Anew
Once more; again; in a new, typically more positive, way.

Annihilation
Means a reaction of the transformation of particles and antiparticles when they collide into any other particles that are different from the original. For
example, when an electron collides with e- and positron e +, they disappear, turning into photons.

**Annulment**
An official or legal cancellation.

**Apathy**
Means lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.

**Apogee**
Is the highest point in the development of something; a climax or culmination. In astronomy, it means the point in the orbit of the moon or a satellite at which it is furthest from the earth. It is the opposite of *perigee* (the point in the
orbit of the moon or a satellite when it is closest to the earth).

**Apostasy**
Is the act of giving up your religious or political beliefs and leaving a religion or a political party. One who commits apostasy is known as an *apostate*.

**Apotheosis**
Is the glorification of a subject to divine level; the highest point in the development of something; a culmination.

**Appease**
Make peace with; pacify or placate (someone) by acceding to their demands (for example:
She claimed that the government had only changed the law in order to appease their critics.

**Apprise**
Means to inform somebody of something (for example: *We must apprise them of the dangers that may be involved*).

**Archaism**
(from the Ancient Greek *archaikos* (meaning “old-fashioned, antiquated”)) is the use of a form of speech or writing that is no longer current or that is current only within a few special contexts.
**Archetype**
Means something that is considered to be a perfect or typical example of a particular kind of person or thing, because it has all their most important characteristics. For example, the United States is the archetype of a federal society.

**Arid**
Means extremely dry or deathly boring. If you describe something, such as a period of your life, as arid, you mean that it has so little interest, excitement, or purpose that it makes you feel bored or unhappy.
Arouse
To cause someone to have a particular feeling, or response; to cause an emotion or attitude.

Assertion
Is a statement, usually backed up by some kind of solid proof or reasoning; a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief.

Assiduous
Means persistent, hard-working. If you call someone assiduous, it means they're careful, methodical and very persistent.

Assuage
Means to make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense.
Assumption
Something that you consider likely to be true even though no one has told you directly or even though you have no proof.

Attendee
Participant or a person who attends a conference or other gathering.

Austere
Means stern and forbidding. If you describe something as austere, you approve of its plain and simple appearance.

Avail
To be of use, help, worth, or advantage (to), as in accomplishing an end (for example: *My attempts to*
improve the situation were of little/no avail).

**Avarice**
Means greedy desire for wealth or material gain.

**Axiom**
Is a statement that is taken to be true, to serve as a premise or starting point for further reasoning and arguments.

**Banter**
Good-humored, playful conversation; the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.

**Bashful**
Self-consciously timid, often feeling uncomfortable with
other people and easily embarrassed.

**Beforehand**
At an earlier or preceding time; in advance; prior to; earlier (than a particular time).

**Bellicose**
Inclined or ready to fight; aggressively hostile.

**Benevolent**
Friendly and helpful; characterized by or expressing goodwill or kindly feelings.

**Bewilder**
To become perplexed and confused (for example: *Beware of false people and situations*)
that may bewilder you temporarily).

**Bias**
Means the action of supporting or opposing a particular person or thing in an unfair way or different from the way you treat other people.

**Blare**
Means to make a loud and unpleasant noise (for example: *If something such as a siren or radio blares or if you blare it, it makes a loud, unpleasant noise*).

**Boon**
Something that is desirable, favorable, or beneficial.
Brackish
Means distasteful and unpleasant (for example: *Brackish water is slightly salty and unpleasant*).

Brazen
Obvious, without any attempt to be hidden. If you describe a person/behavior as brazen, you mean that they are very bold and don't care what other people think about them or their actions.

Burgeon
To develop, expand, or grow rapidly.
**Cadaverous**
Having appearance or color of dead human body; looking very pale and ill.

**Cajole**
Means to persuade someone to do something by encouraging them softly or being good to them.

**Camaraderie**
Brotherhood, partnership, jovial unity, sociability amongst friends.

**Candor**
The quality of being honest and straightforward.
**Cantankerous**  
Means ill humored, irritable, marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition, ugly, malicious.

**Castigation**  
To criticize someone or something severely; verbal punishment. The word comes from the Latin *castigus* which means “to make pure”.

**Catharsis**  
Is the purging of the emotions, especially through certain kinds of art (as music or tragedy) that brings about spiritual renewal or release from tension.
Cavil
To raise irritating and trivial objections; to argue or protest about unimportant details.

Circuitous
Indirect, taking the longest route (for example: A circuitous journey/path is longer than it needs to be because it is not direct).

Circumlocution
Can be described as the use of too many words to say something, especially in order to avoid saying something clearly; an indirect way of expressing something.
Clairvoyant
Exceptionally insightful, able to foresee the future. Clairvoyant is believed to know about future events or to be able to communicate with dead people.

Coercion
Means the use of force to persuade someone to do something that they are unwilling to do.

Cogent
Reasonable and convincing; based on evidence; forcefully persuasive.

Cognitive
Relating to the mental process involved in knowing, learning, and understanding things.
**Coincide**
Means to happen at or near the same time or during the same period, to occupy exactly the same space.

**Comity**
Is a state or atmosphere of harmony or mutual civility; polite and considerate behaviour towards others based on mutual respect.

**Commensurate**
Equal in significance; corresponding in size or degree.

**Concede**
Means to admit or accept that something is true after first denying or resisting it.
Conciliation
Is the act of placating and overcoming distrust and animosity; the action or process of ending a disagreement.

Condescending
Showing or characterized by a patronizing or superior attitude toward others.

Confidant
Means someone to whom private matters are told. A confidant is the person you tell your secrets to.

Conformity
Is the act of matching attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors to group norms. This tendency to conforms to small groups
and/or society as a whole, and may result from subtle unconscious influences, or direct and overpressure. Conformity can occur in the presence of others, or when an individual is alone.

**Congruence**
Is the consistency of different elements, objects, components of any structure, their harmonious work and consistency with each other, due to which harmonious work and integrity of the overall structure are achieved.

**Connotation**
Is a feeling or idea that is suggested by a particular word although it need not be a part of
the word’s meaning, or something suggested by an object or situation (for example, the word “lady” has connotations of refinement and excessive femininity that some women find offensive).

**Construe**
Make sense of; to understand the meaning, especially of other people's actions and statements, in a particular way.

**Contention**
The disagreement that results from opposing arguments; the act of competing as for profit or a prize.
Convergence
The state of separate elements joining or coming together (for example: If roads or paths converge, they move towards the same point where they join).

Corroborate
Means to confirm or make more certain.

Coterie
A group that meets socially; an exclusive circle of people with common purpose.

Countenance
Give sanction or support to; tolerate or approve (for example: If someone will not countenance something, they do
not agree with it and will not allow it to happen).

Credulous
Having a tendency to believe on slight evidence; easily imposed upon; unsuspecting and very gullible.

Curtail
Reduce in extent or quantity; terminate or abbreviate before its intended or proper end.

Dearth
Means scarcity, shortage of food, famine from failure or loss of crops.

Decorous
Characterized by propriety and dignity and good taste.
Deference
Means a polite or gentle regard for people’s feelings.

Deft
Very skillful, capable.

Delectable
Delightful; delicious; extremely pleasing to the sense of taste.

Delineate
Portray; depict; draw or trace outline of; sketch out.

Delinquent
Means failing in duty, offending by neglect of duty. A delinquent person behaves in a way that is illegal or not acceptable to most people.
**Demeanor**  
The way a person behaves toward other people.

**Denigrate**  
To speak damagingly of; to criticize something in a way that shows you think it has no value/importance at all.

**Denounce**  
Condemn openly; criticize; make known in formal manner.

**Deprivation**  
Is the lack (or feeling of lack) of material benefits considered to be basic necessities in a society; the lack of something considered to be a necessity in general (sleep deprivation, food deprivation, etc.; as an example,
plants experiencing water deprivation will shrivel up and die).

**Depute**
Means transfer power to someone; appoint or instruct (someone) to perform a task for which one is responsible.

**Deterrent**
Means something immaterial that interferes with action or progress (for example: *The stop sign on the corner is supposed to be a deterrent that discourages speeding*).

**Deviant**
(from the Latin word *deviare* (meaning “to turn out of the way”)) is a term used to describe
a person or behavior that is not usual and is generally considered to be different and unacceptable.

**Diatribe**
Is an angry speech or article which is extremely critical of someone’s ideas or activities.

**Didactic**
Instructive; intended to teach, especially excessively.

**Digression**
The act of turning aside, straying from the main point, esp. in a speech or argument.

**Diligent**
Having or showing care and integrity in one’s work or duties.
**Disclose**
Expose to view as by removing a cover; to make something known publicly, or to show something that was hidden.

**Disconsolate**
Sad; cheerless; gloomy; hopeless or not expecting.

**Discordant**
Not in agreement or harmony.

**Disdain**
Means to regard with scorn or contempt. If you disdain to do something, you do not do it, because you feel that you are too important to do it.
Disparage
Express a negative opinion of (for example: *He never missed an opportunity to disparage his competitors*).

Dispassionate
Able to be rational and make fair judgments or decisions that are not influenced by personal feelings or emotions.

Docile
Easily handled or managed; submissive; ready to accept control or instruction.

Doctrine
(from Latin *doctrina* (meaning “teaching, instruction”)) is a belief or set of beliefs, especially political or religious ones that
are taught and accepted by a particular group.

**Dour**
Means hard; inflexible; obstinate; gloomy in manner or appearance.

**Downshifting**
Is the practice of simplifying one’s lifestyle and becoming less materialistic; the act of leaving a well-paid but difficult and stressful job (escaping from “work and spend cycle”) to do something that gives you more time and satisfaction, but less money.
Dualism
(from the Latin word *duo* (meaning “two”)) is the belief that things are divided into two often very different or opposing parts.

Duplicity
Means dishonest behavior that is intended to trick someone.

Ebullient
Overflowing with fervor, enthusiasm, or excitement; high-spirited.

Eclecticism
Is a combination of dissimilar, internally unrelated and possibly incompatible attitudes, ideas, concepts, styles, etc. The essence of eclecticism is the use
of disparate elements to create something new.

**Effrontery**
Audacious behavior that you have no right to; extreme rudeness.

**Egregious**
Conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible.

**Eloquent**
Expressing what you mean using clear and effective language; fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing.

**Elucidate**
Means to explain something or make something clear.
Emancipation
Means any effort to procure economic and social rights, political rights or equality, often for a specifically disenfranchised group, or more generally, in the discussion of such matters.

Embellish
To decorate, to add details to, enhance.

Embezzle
Means to steal money/wealth that people trust you to look after.

Empirical
Means something that is based on investigation, observation, experimentation, or experience. If knowledge is empirical, it’s
based on observation rather than theory.

**Enervate**
Cause (someone or something) to feel drained of energy; weaken.

**Enigma**
Means a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand.

**Ennui**
Is a feeling of being bored and having no interest in anything.

**Epigram**
Means a brief, interesting, memorable, and sometimes surprising or satirical statement; a short saying or poem which
expresses an idea in a very clever and amusing way.

**Epitome**
Is the typical or highest example of a stated quality. If you say that a person or thing is the epitome of something, you are emphasizing that they are the best possible example of a particular type of person or thing (*This hotel was the epitome of British colonial elegance in Jamaica; Maureen was the epitome of sophistication*).

**Ephemeral**
Means momentary, transient, fleeting; lasting for a very short time.
Equivocation
(“calling two different things by the same name”) is an informal fallacy resulting from the use of a particular word/expression in multiple senses throughout an argument leading to a false conclusion. For example:
“All jackasses have long ears.”
“Carl is a jackass.”
“Therefore, Carl has long ears.”
Here, the equivocation is the metaphorical use of “jackass” to imply a simple-minded or obnoxious person instead of a male donkey.

Euphemism
(from Greek euphemia (meaning “the use of words of good omen”)) is a polite word or expression that is used to refer
to taboo topics (such as disability, sex, excretion, and death). For example, “passed away” is a euphemism for “died”. It also may be a replacement of a name or a word that could reveal secret or holy and sacred names to the uninitiated.

**Evanescent**
Quickly fading, short-lived, especially an image.

**Exaggeration**
Is a representation of something in an excessive manner. People exaggerate things because they have strong feelings about something. People may exaggerate to make people listen to what they say. They may do it
to emphasize something. They may also exaggerate just to sound funny.

**Exemplify**
Means to clarify by giving an illustration of.

**Extemporize**
Perform or speak without preparation.

**Extrapolate**
In general, it means using facts about the present or about one thing or group to make a guess about the future or about other things or groups. When you extrapolate, you use specific details to make a general conclusion. For example, if you travel to Canada and encounter
only friendly, kind natives, you might extrapolate that all Canadians are friendly.

**Facetious**
Treating serious issues with intentionally inappropriate humor; flippant.

**Fallacious**
Containing or based on incorrect reasoning; not correct.

**Fastidious**
Giving careful attention to detail; very attentive.

**Foible**
Means a slight weakness in someone’s character (for example: *The minor foible in the woman’s character made her*
unsuitable for the career she really wanted).

**Forbearance**
Self-control; patience; restraint (for example: *His forbearance to reply was alarming*).

**Fortuitous**
Happening by luck, fortunate.

**Frenzy**
Is a state or period of uncontrolled excitement or wild behavior. Frenzy is often used when talking about a group of people (or animals) who get worked up at the same time about the same thing.
Fret
Be constantly or visibly anxious; to be nervous or worried.

Frivolous
Not serious in attitude or behavior; not having any serious purpose or value.

Frugal
Means thrifty, cheap; simple and plain and costing little.

Frustration
Can be described as the feeling of being upset or annoyed as a result of being unable to change or achieve something. There are two types of frustration: internal and external. *Internal frustration* may arise from challenges in fulfilling personal
goals, desires, instinctual drives and needs, or dealing with perceived deficiencies, such as a lack of confidence or fear of social situations. *External* causes of frustration involve conditions outside an individual’s control.

**Galvanize**
Means to shock or affect someone enough to produce a strong and immediate reaction, typically into taking action.

**Gestalt**
Something that has particular qualities when you consider it as a whole which is not obvious when you consider only the separate parts of it.
**Gluttonous**
Means a person who eats or consumes immoderate amounts of food and drink; excessively greedy.

**Grandiloquent**
Style or way of using language in very complex way, in order to attract admiration and attention; big words used in a overly self-assured way.

**Grimace**
Contort the face to indicate a certain mental state.

**Gullible**
Easily persuaded to believe something.
**Hackneyed**
Means something cliche that has been overused or done too much.

**Harangue**
Is a loud pompous statement expressed by strong emotions.

**Haughty**
Means arrogant and condescending. When you’re haughty, you have a big attitude and you behave as if you are better than others.

**Hitherto**
Means up to this point; until the present time.
**Ignominious**
Deserving or bringing disgrace or shame.

**Impecunious**
Having little or no money.

**Impetuous**
Means rash, impulsive, acting without thinking.

**Impregnable**
Resistant to capture or penetration; strong enough to resist or withstand attack; not to be taken by force. If you describe a building or other place as impregnable, you mean that it cannot be broken into or captured.
Inauguration
Is the act of putting a service, system, etc. into action, or an occasion when this happens.

Incensed
Angered at something unjust or wrong (for example: Teacher was incensed at his lack of concentration).

Inchoate
Not completely developed or clear. If something is inchoate, it is new or not yet properly developed.

Inconsequential
Unimportant, trivial (for example: His work seems trivial and inconsequential).
**Indelible**
Not able to be removed or erased. An example of indelible is ink that cannot be washed out of a shirt.

**Indolent**
Wanting to avoid activity or exertion; lazy, slothful.

**Inexorable**
Incapable of being persuaded or placated; continuing without any possibility of being stopped.

**Infatuation**
A foolish and usually extravagant passion or love.

**Infuse**
Means to instill a quality of; to fill someone or something with
an emotion or quality; add scent or flavor by steeping ingredients in it.

**Ingrate**
A person who shows no gratitude; ungrateful.

**Initiation**
(from Latin *initium* (meaning “entrance or beginning”)) is a rite of passage marking entrance or acceptance into a group or society.

**Injunction**
Is a judicial remedy to prohibit a party from doing something.

**Insinuate**
To say something which seems to mean something unpleasant
without saying it openly; to suggest indirectly or subtly.

**Insurgent**
A rebel or revolutionary; in opposition to a civil authority or government.

**Interpolation**
Is an interruption or an addition inserted into something spoken or written. If you tell a story and then add some new parts, those are interpolations.

**Intervention**
Is an orchestrated attempt by one or many people - usually family and friends - to get someone to seek professional help with an addiction or some kind of traumatic event or crisis,
or other serious problem; when a group of friends gets together to help out another friend who has a problem, like drugs, manic depression, beating his wife, etc. usually involves an informal get-together during which the friends all sit down and talk with the person having problems.

**Intransigent**
Refusing to compromise, often on an extreme opinion (for example: *The company is intransigent and rejects any notion of a settlement*).

**Intrepid**
(from Latin *intrepidus*, formed from the prefix *in* (not) + *trepidus* (alarmed)) - extremely brave and showing no fear of
dangerous situations; fearless; adventurous (often used for rhetorical or humorous effect).

**Inveterate**
Habitual; someone who does something very often.

**Jejune**
Understanding or describing something in a way that is too simple, naive, or simplistic.

**Jubilation**
Is a feeling of great happiness, triumph or joy.

**Juxtaposition**
Means two things placed beside each other for the sake of implicit comparison.
**Laudable**
Deserving praise and commendation. Laudable refers to something or someone who does the right thing or the morally proper action.

**Lobbying**
Is the act of trying to persuade governments to make decisions or support something. Lobbying can be done by many sorts of people, alone or in groups. These people are called lobbyists.

**Longevity**
Is the fact of having a long life or existence.
Loquacious
Talking or tending to talk a great deal or freely; talkative; garrulous.

Ludicrous
So foolish, stupid, unreasonable, or inappropriate as to be amusing; ridiculous.

Lucid
Very clear and easy to understand.

Maddening
Means extremely annoying or displeasing.

Memorandum
Is a short written report prepared specially for a person or group of people that contains
information about a particular matter.

**Mercurial**
Characterized by rapid change or temperament; sudden or unpredictable changes of mood or mind.

**Metaphor**
Is a figure of speech that directly refers to one thing by mentioning another for rhetorical effect. It does not use a word in its basic literal sense. Instead, it uses a word in a kind of comparison.
“*I beat him with a stick*” - literal meaning of “beat”.
“*I beat him in an argument*” - metaphorical meaning of “beat”.


**Mettle**
Means a person’s ability to cope well with difficulties; strong-willed.

**Misalliance**
Means an unsuitable or unhappy alliance (especially with regard to marriage).

**Misanthropy**
(from the Greek *mioso* (hatred) and *anthropos* (man, human)) is a general hatred, dislike, distrust or contempt of the human species or human nature.

**Modicum**
A small quantity of a particular thing (for example: *I was pleased with the overall response and I think we*
collectively felt a modicum of relief).

Moratorium
Is a period of time when there is a suspension of a specific activity until future events warrant a removal of the suspension, or issues regarding the activity have been resolved.

Mundane
Means ordinary, commonplace. Something that is mundane is very ordinary and not at all interesting or unusual. In subcultural and fictional uses, it is a person who does not belong to a particular group, according to the members of that group.
**Mutter**  
To talk indistinctly, usually in a low voice.

**Nomenclature**  
Is a system of names or terms, or the rules for forming these terms in a particular field of arts or sciences. In other words, nomenclature is a system for giving names to things within a particular profession or field.

**Nonchalant**  
Calm, casual, seeming unexcited; behaving in a calm manner, often in a way that suggests you are not interested or do not care.
Novice
A beginner, someone without training or experience.

Nugatory
Worth nothing or of little value/importance.

Obfuscation
Is the act or an instance of making something obscure, dark, or difficult to understand; the obscuring of the intended meaning of a communication by making the message difficult to understand, usually with confusing and ambiguous language.

Oblivion
Is the state of being completely forgotten, unknown, or
destroyed. In philosophy, *eternal oblivion* is the permanent cessation of one’s consciousness upon death.

**Obloquy**
Is a censure, blame, or abusive language aimed at a person or thing, especially by numerous persons or by the society.

**Obsequious**
Means attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery.

**Obstreperous**
Noisy, aggressive, and difficult to control.
Odious
Extremely unpleasant and causing or deserving hate.

Opaque
Not able to be seen through; not easily understood. Use the adjective opaque either for something that doesn't allow light to pass through (like a heavy curtain) or for something difficult to understand.

Orthodoxy
(from Greek Orthodoxia (meaning “right opinion”)) is adherence to correct or accepted creeds, especially in religion. In the Christian sense the term means “conforming to the Christian faith as represented in the creeds of the early Church”.
Ostentation
Is a show of something such as money, power, or skill that is intended to impress people.

Outbreak
Is a sudden occurrence of something unwelcome, such as war or disease. This term most commonly used in epidemiology. When more cases of a disease than expected are recorded in one area an outbreak is declared.

Outlier
Means an extreme deviation from the mean; a person, thing, or fact that is so different that can’t be used for general conclusions.
Outmoded
No longer in fashion; old-fashioned.

Oxymoron
Is a combination of two words used together that have, or seem to have, opposite meanings. Some examples of an oxymoron: *Great Depression; cruel to be kind; painfully beautiful; alone together; wise fool; true myth,* etc.

Paradigm
Is a model of something, or a very clear and typical example of something; a distinct set of concepts or thought patterns, including theories, research methods, postulates, and standards for what constitutes
legitimate contributions to a field.

**Paradigm shift** - a concept identified by the American physicist and philosopher *Thomas Kuhn* (1922-1996) - means a fundamental change in the basic concepts and experimental practices of a scientific discipline.

**Parched**
Shriveled; dried out because of too much heat and not enough rain.

**Parsimonious**
Excessively unwilling to spend money or use resources.
**Peremptory**
Speaking or behaving rudely, as if you expect other people to obey/submit you immediately and without any questions.

**Perfidious**
Faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy. If you describe someone as perfidious, you mean that they have betrayed someone or cannot be trusted.

**Perpetual**
Continuing forever or indefinitely; never ending or changing.

**Pert**
Characterized by a lightly saucy or impudent quality.
**Placate**
Means to make (someone) less angry or hostile; to appease or pacify, especially by concessions or conciliatory gestures.

**Plethora**
Means a very large amount of something, especially a larger amount than you need, want, or can deal with.

**Polemic**
An aggressive argument against a specific opinion, doctrine, etc.

**Postulate**
Means something assumed without proof as being self-evident or generally accepted, especially when used as a basis for an argument; a fundamental
element; a basic principle. Sometimes postulates are not obviously correct, but are required for their consequences.

**Pragmatic**
Dealing with the problems that exist in a reasonable and logical way instead of depending on theories.

**Prattle**
Means to talk in a silly way for a long time about things that are not important or without saying anything important.

**Preamble**
(from the Latin *praetambulum* (meaning “walking before”)) is an introductory statement in a document that explains the
document’s purpose and underlying philosophy, and clarifies the meaning of the operative part of the text in case of an ambiguity or dispute.

**Precipitate**
Means to make something happen quickly, suddenly or sooner than expected.

**Preponderance**
Exceeding in heaviness; the largest part or greatest amount. If there's a preponderance of something, there is a lot of it.

**Presumption**
Is the act of believing that something is true without having any proof. In the law of evidence, a presumption of a
particular fact can be made without the aid of proof in some situations.

**Prevaricate**
Means to avoid telling the truth by not directly answering a question.

**Procrastination**
Is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished; the behavior of putting off actions or tasks to a later time. Sometimes, procrastination takes place until the “last minute” before a deadline. A *procrastinator* is a person who delays or puts things off (like work or other actions).
Proliferation
Is a rapid increase in the number or amount of something.

Prosaic
Dull, commonplace; without interest, imagination, and excitement.

Prostration
Is the placement of the body in a reverentially or submissively prone position as a gesture; the action of lying with the face down and arms stretched out, especially as a sign of respect or worship.

Protract
Lengthen in time; cause to be or last longer. If you have a
disagreement with a friend that you continue for days, you are protracting the argument.

**Prudent**
Careful, cautious; avoiding risks.

**Puerile**
Behaving in a silly way; childish.

**Quaff**
Means to swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught.

**Querulous**
Often complaining; irritable.

**Quintessence**
Is the most typical example of something. For example, *the Parthenon* in Greece was considered the quintessence of
the perfectly proportioned building.

**Quixotic**
Hopeful or romantic in a way that is extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical.

**Rancorous**
Means hateful. A rancorous argument or person is full of bitterness and anger.

**Ratification**
Is the act of voting on a decision or signing a written agreement to make it official.

**Reclusive**
Preferring to live in isolation; avoiding the company of other people.
**Recondite**
Means something that is difficult or impossible for most to understand, or that most people don't know about.

**Refurbish**
Renovate and redecorate something; improve the appearance or functionality of.

**Refute**
Prove to be wrong or false; overthrow by argument, evidence, or proof.

**Relativism**
Is an idea that views are relative to differences in perception and consideration. There is no universal, objective truth according to relativism; rather
each point of view has its own truth.

**Renovation**
Repair, making something new again.

**Repudiate**
Refuse to accept, acknowledge, ratify, or recognize as valid.

**Resilient**
Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions; bounce back.

**Rubicon**
Is a point of no return; to cross/pass the Rubicon means to take a decisive, irrevocable step.
**Sacrosanct**
Holy, something that should not be criticized.

**Sanctum**
A sacred place, especially a shrine within a temple or church.

**Sardonic**
Means a disdainfully or ironically humorous; scornful, cynical and mocking.

**Schism**
Division of a group into opposing factions. When there is a schism, a group or organization divides into two groups as a result of differences in thinking and beliefs.
**Scrupulous**
Characterized by extreme care and great effort; extremely attentive to details; very concerned to avoid doing wrong.

**Scrutinize**
To look at something very closely or very carefully.

**Shatter**
Means to break suddenly into very small pieces, or to make something break in this way.

**Spurious**
Means plausible but false; not being what it purports to be; fake.
**Stagnation**
(from Latin *stagnatum* (meaning “standing water, pond, and swamp”)) is the state of lack of activity, growth, or development.

**Status quo**
Is a Latin phrase meaning the existing state of affairs, particularly with regard to social or political issues. In the sociological sense, it generally applies to maintain or change existing social structure and values.

**Strident**
Means unpleasantly loud and harsh.
Superficial
Appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely.

Supplicant
Is a person who asks someone who is in a position of power for something in a very humble way. If you pray every night to be accepted to your dream college, you can call yourself a supplicant.

Synecdoche
Is a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa. If you buy a car and you say to your friends that you just got a new set of wheels, you’re using synecdoche - you’re using the wheels, which are part of a car, to refer to the
whole car ("a pair of hands" is a synecdoche for "a worker"; "the law" for "a police officer").

Synergy
Is the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately.

Taboo
Is a vehement prohibition of an action based on the belief that such behavior is either too sacred or too accursed for ordinary individuals to undertake.

Taciturn
Means uncommunicative. Someone who is taciturn does
not speak often and does not say very much.

**Tautology**
Is the use of different words to say the same thing twice in the same statement. The word tautology is derived from the Greek word *tauto* (meaning “the same”) and *logos* (meaning “a word or an idea”). For example, “*They spoke in turn, one after the other*” is considered a tautology because “*in turn*” and “*one after the other*” mean the same thing.

**Teeming**
Abundantly filled or swarming with something, as with people (for example: *The Internet is teeming with viruses*).
Tenacious
Determined to do something and unwilling to stop trying even when the situation becomes difficult, keeping a firm grip on.

Terrestrial
Of or relating to the earth or its inhabitants. An example of a terrestrial is a person who lives on the planet.

Tortuous
Indirect; winding; with many turns and changes of direction.

Transcendental
Literally means beyond the limits of cognition and earthly experience. Transcendental describes anything that has to
do with the spiritual, non-physical world.

**Unkempt**
Not properly maintained or cared for (for example: *His hair was unkempt and dirty*).

**Utilitarianism**
Is the system of thought which states that the best action or decision in a particular situation is the one that brings more advantages to the most people.

**Vacillate**
Means to waver between different opinions or actions.

**Venerate**
To regard with great respect.
Verisimilitude
Being believable, or having the appearance of being true (for example: *You can improve your game by using the real sounds of the ocean, to create verisimilitude*).

Vicarious
Experienced as a result of watching, listening to, or reading about the activities of other people, rather than by doing the activities yourself. For example, lots of people use television as their vicarious form of social life.

Vicissitude
Is a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwanted or unpleasant.
Vilify
Spread negative information about something or someone.

Vindicate
To clear from blame or suspicion; to prove that what someone said or did was right or true, after other people thought it was wrong.

Vitriolic
Harsh, bitter, or malicious in tone. Vitriolic language or behaviour is cruel and full of hate.

Volatile
Likely to change rapidly and unpredictably (for example: A volatile person can suddenly become angry or violent).
**Wanton**  
Undisciplined, lustful. A wanton action deliberately causes harm, damage, or waste without having any reason to.

**Watershed**  
Literally means a region of land within which water flows down into a specified body; but also describes a critical point that marks a division or a change of course; a turning point.

**Wry**  
Humorously sarcastic or mocking; showing that you think something is funny but not very pleasant, often by the expression on your face.
**Zeal**
Is a strong feel of interest and enthusiasm that makes someone very eager or determined to do something (*Zealous* - filled with eagerness in pursuit of something).

**Zeugma**
Is the use of a word to modify or govern two or more words usually in such a manner that it applies to each in a different sense or makes sense with only one (*She broke his car and his heart*; *He opened his mind and his wallet at the movies*; *He fished for compliments and for trout*).
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