

Aa

abolish • verb

When you abolish something, you put an end to it.

I would like to abolish pollution.

abundant • adjective

Something is abundant when you have a lot of it.

The farmer's corn crop was so abundant that his grain silo was filled to the top.

accurate • adjective

Something is accurate if it has no mistakes.

John was accurate in his spelling of all the words and got an A on his test.

adjustable • adjective

Something is adjustable if it can be changed to make it fit or work better.

An adjustable chair can go up or down to fit people of different heights.

admire • verb

If you respect and look up to someone, you admire him or her.

I admire people who can play a musical instrument.

advise • verb

When you advise someone, you give suggestions that will help him or her to make a decision.

Jamie advised me to buy the red shirt because it went better with my jacket.

ancestor • noun

An ancestor is a family member who lived long ago, even before your grandparents.

My mother's ancestors came from Spain, and my father's came from Russia.

ancient • adjective

If something is ancient, it is extremely old.

The king wore an ancient crown that had been handed down in his family for generations.

announce • verb

When you announce something, you make it known to the public.

The birth of my little sister was announced in our local paper.

annual • adjective

An annual event happens every year.

Our family gathers every June for the annual Chávez family reunion.

anticipate • verb

If you anticipate something, you expect it to happen and are prepared for it.

The weather forecast said to anticipate a storm, so we got our rain gear ready.

anxious • adjective

If you are anxious to do something, you are waiting eagerly for it to happen.

Kim was anxious for the circus to come to town because she loved to watch the trapeze artists.

applaud • verb

You applaud by clapping your hands to show that you liked something.

The crowd applauded when the firefighter brought the child out of the building.

appliance • *noun*

An appliance is a household machine that is used for a special purpose.

Our toaster is the oldest appliance in our kitchen. The microwave is the newest.

appropriate • *adjective*

When something is appropriate, it is right for that situation.

It's appropriate to wear nice clothing to a wedding.

ascend • *verb*

When you ascend, you go up.

The airplane took off and ascended through the clouds.

associate • *verb*

When we associate, we think of things that go together.

We associate hearts and flowers with Valentine's Day.

assume • *verb*

If you assume, you decide that something is true without asking or checking it.

I assumed it was okay to borrow my sister's shirt, but I was wrong.

astonish • *verb*

If you greatly surprise someone, you astonish them.

We were astonished when the magician pulled ten rabbits out of his hat.

Bb**babble** • *verb*

When you babble, you make sounds that don't have any meaning.

When the baby started to babble, we knew it wouldn't be long before she'd say her first real words.

banquet • *noun*

A banquet is a big, formal meal for many people on a special occasion.

The chef prepared lots of food and a beautiful cake for the wedding banquet.

braggart • *noun*

A braggart is someone who talks a lot about how good he or she is.

The braggart couldn't stop showing off his prize and talking about how great he was.

browse • *verb*

You browse when you look at something in a casual way.

My mom didn't want to buy any books at the bookstore; she just wanted to browse.

Cc**canine** • *noun*

An animal that belongs to the dog family is a canine.

It's not hard to see that dogs and wolves are both canines.

carpenter • *noun*

The job of a carpenter is to build things from wood.

My parents hired a carpenter to build some bookcases in my bedroom.

category • *noun*

A category is a group of items that are similar in some way.

Apples, oranges, and kiwis are in the fruit category.

cautious • adjective

When you're very careful and don't take any chances, you're being cautious.

We had to be cautious on the drive to school because there were many potholes.

characteristic • noun

A characteristic is a trait or a feature that someone or something has.

A long neck is one of the giraffe's most noticeable characteristics.

charity • noun

A charity is a group that collects money or things to help needy people.

The children gave some toys to a charity that sends them to sick children.

cherish • verb

When you cherish something, it is special to you and you treasure it.

My mother cherishes the tea set her mother gave her when she was a little girl.

coax • verb

When you use gentle words and actions to convince someone to do something, you coax him or her.

We used a dish of milk to coax the kitten down from the tree.

commence • verb

When you commence, you begin something.

When the players have finished warming up, the ballgame will commence.

conduct • noun

Your conduct is the way you act or behave.

The children's conduct at the assembly was so good that they were given extra recess time.

considerate • adjective

A considerate person is kind to others and thoughtful.

The considerate boy brought his mother tea when she was sick in bed.

content • adjective

When you are content, you are happy and satisfied.

The kitten was so content as she sat on my lap that she began to purr.

convenient • adjective

Something is convenient if it's useful, easy to use, and no trouble.

It's very convenient to heat food in a microwave because it's so fast.

cooperate • verb

When people work together to do a task, they cooperate.

If we all cooperate, we can clean up the classroom very quickly.

creative • adjective

A creative person uses his or her imagination to come up with new ideas.

My creative brother should be a writer, since he is always thinking up wild stories.

Dd

deliberately • *adverb*

Something done on purpose is done deliberately.

Rupert deliberately turned up his music while I was reading just to bug me.

demand • *verb*

You demand something when you ask firmly for it or order it to be done.

The teacher demanded to know who threw the paper airplane.

demolish • *verb*

If you demolish something, you knock it down or destroy it.

The builders had to demolish the old library so that they could build a new one.

destination • *noun*

The destination is the place where someone or something is going.

This year, the destination for our family vacation is Hawaii.

diminish • *verb*

If something diminishes, it becomes smaller or less.

Our food supply will diminish if the blizzard continues and we can't get to the store.

disaster • *noun*

A disaster is something that causes much damage or loss.

It was a disaster when the tornado destroyed all the buildings on the main street of town.

discourage • *verb*

You discourage someone if you try to get the person to not do something.

My dad discouraged us from climbing the tree because it was too high.

dismal • *adjective*

Something dismal is dark and gloomy.

Our day at the beach turned dismal after the fog rolled in.

disposable • *adjective*

Something is disposable if you can throw it away after using it.

It's better for the environment to clean up spills with cloth towels instead of disposable paper towels.

doze • *verb*

When you doze, you fall into a light sleep for a short time.

The movie was so boring that I started to doze off.

drought • *noun*

A drought is an unusually long period of dry weather.

After months of drought, all of the farmer's crops died.

Ee

ecstatic • *adjective*

If you're ecstatic, you are extremely happy and excited about something.

When our teacher said we were going to have a play day on Friday, the class became ecstatic and started cheering.

edible • adjective

Something that can be eaten is edible.

Rhubarb stalks are edible, but their leaves can be poisonous.

elderly • adjective

A person is elderly if he or she is quite old.

The elderly woman was 85 when she took her first airplane trip!

eliminate • verb

If you get rid of something, you eliminate it.

After we rake the leaves, we can eliminate that chore from our list.

encourage • verb

You encourage someone if you give praise and support to help the person believe in themselves.

Jill didn't think she could finish the race, but her coach encouraged her and she made it!

essential • adjective

If something is essential, it's absolutely necessary.

Chocolate is one of the essential ingredients in brownies.

expand • verb

When you expand something, you make it bigger.

You could see the flat tire expand as air was pumped in.

Ff

feeble • adjective

Someone or something that is feeble is very weak or frail.

After recovering from a long illness, the feeble man had to walk with a cane.

fiction • noun

Fiction is writing that tells about characters and events that are not real.

I wrote a story about a princess and a magic chicken for the fiction contest.

fidgety • adjective

Someone who is fidgety has trouble staying still.

The toddlers could sit still for only a few minutes before they got fidgety.

flexible • adjective

If you are flexible, you are willing and able to make changes.

Dad can pick us up after school because his schedule is flexible.

fragile • adjective

Something fragile is delicate and easily broken.

The fragile vase broke when it fell on the tile floor.

fragrance • noun

A fragrance is a sweet, pleasant smell.

As we walked through the rose garden, we enjoyed the fragrance of the many open blossoms.

function • noun

The purpose or job of something is its function.

The function of the microwave is to cook or heat food.

Gg**gallant • adjective**

A gallant person is brave and fearless.

The gallant knight rescued the princess from the fire-breathing dragon.

Hh**hardship • noun**

A hardship is a difficult situation.

The first settlers in America faced many hardships, including illness and hunger.

headquarters • noun

Headquarters is the main office where members of a group meet and decisions are made.

The police officer called headquarters to request help from more officers.

hesitate • verb

If you pause for a short time before you do something, you hesitate.

Bud hesitated a minute before jumping into the cold lake.

hubbub • noun

A hubbub is loud, confused noise.

The blue jays made such a hubbub outside my window that they woke me up.

Ii**impatient • adjective**

An impatient person is always in a hurry and finds it hard to wait.

The impatient man left the bank because the line was too long.

include • verb

When you make something part of something else, you include it.

I plan to include all my classmates in my birthday celebration.

increase • verb

You increase something when you make or get more of it.

My dad said he'd increase my allowance if I started doing more chores.

independent • adjective

When you think and act for yourself, you're being independent.

My 90-year-old great-grandma is still independent. She lives alone and cooks and cleans for herself.

inflate • verb

If you fill something with air or gas, you inflate it.

The coach forgot to inflate the ball, so it was too flat to bounce.

insist • verb

You insist when you make a demand about something and won't change your mind.

Katie insisted on hiking in a dress even though her mother suggested she wear jeans.

instruct • neglect

instruct • verb

When you instruct, you teach something to someone.

My uncle is a lifeguard, so he can instruct me on pool safety.

irritable • adjective

An irritable person is grumpy and gets mad easily.

I get irritable when I'm tired and hungry. It's best to leave me alone when I'm like that!

Kk

knowledge • noun

Knowledge is what you know and what you learn.

My science teacher loves sharing her knowledge of nature with us.

Ll

landscape • noun

A landscape is a painting of natural outdoor scenery.

The art museum had a special exhibit of landscapes last spring.

launch • verb

When you set a vehicle in motion into the water or air, you launch it.

The space shuttle will launch into space next week if the weather is clear.

locate • verb

When you find something, you locate it.

I couldn't locate my favorite shirt, but then I found it in a basket of clean laundry.

Mm

mechanic • noun

A mechanic knows all about how machines work and can repair them.

When our car wouldn't start, we took it to a mechanic, who soon got it running again.

milestone • noun

A milestone is an event of great importance.

The baby's first birthday was a milestone that was celebrated with a big party.

mob • noun

A mob is a large, often disorderly crowd.

Police officers tried to control the mob that was waiting for the rock star to arrive.

motion • noun

Motion is any kind of movement.

The rocking motion of the ship made it hard to walk without falling.

mumble • verb

When you mumble, you don't speak clearly.

After the dentist numbed her mouth, Ariana could only mumble.

Nn

neglect • verb

When you do not take good care of something, you neglect it.

He neglected his plants all summer, so they died.

nonsense • noun

Nonsense is something silly that has little or no meaning.

It's nonsense to think you can fly if you jump high enough.

nourishment • noun

Nourishment is the food that a person, animal, or plant needs to stay healthy.

The newborn puppies got their nourishment from their mother's milk.

Oo

observe • verb

You observe something when you watch or study it carefully.

An astronomer observes the stars to learn new information about them.

opponent • noun

An opponent is someone who is trying to beat you in a contest or an election.

Sue's opponent in the tennis match scored the last point and won the trophy.

opportunity • noun

An opportunity is a chance to do something.

My dad has the opportunity to get a great new job, so we might have to move.

optimistic • adjective

An optimistic person always believes that things will turn out well.

Even though Jay had a broken arm, he was optimistic that it would heal in time for baseball season.

orbit • noun

The path that the Earth or another planet travels around the sun is its orbit.

Scientists learn more about a planet by observing its orbit.

Pp

parched • adjective

You are parched if you are extremely hot and dry and need water.

We ran out of bottled water and were totally parched by the time we had driven across the desert.

peer • noun

A person who is in your age group is a peer.

Mario worked with a group of his peers to clean up the school garden.

persevere • verb

You persevere when you keep trying and don't give up even if it's difficult.

The hikers felt like giving up after an hour, but they persevered and made it to the top of the mountain.

perspire • verb

When you perspire, you sweat.

After you do a lot of exercise and perspire, it's a good idea to drink some water.

persuade • verb

You persuade someone when you give him or her reason to do as you say.

Janie persuaded me to choose fruit for dessert because it's healthier than cake.

pollution • quench

pollution • noun

Pollution dirties the pure air, water, and land of our planet.

Electric and solar-powered cars are good for our planet because they don't create air pollution.

ponder • verb

You ponder something when you think about it carefully.

Scientists ponder the existence of life on other planets, but no one has proven it yet.

positive • adjective

You're positive about something when you are absolutely certain of it.

I'm positive I left my coat on the playground, because I took it off to swing on the bars.

possession • noun

Something that belongs to you is your possession.

I keep my possessions on my side of the room, and my sister keeps hers on her side.

postpone • verb

When you postpone something, you put it off until later.

We had to postpone the picnic until next weekend because of the rain.

praise • noun

Words that express approval or admiration are praise.

The teacher was full of praise for her class because of their great singing performance at the school concert.

prepare • verb

You prepare when you get ready for something.

I studied my math problems to prepare for the test.

prompt • adjective

Someone who is prompt is always on time.

A prompt student is always in class when the bell rings.

pursue • verb

When you pursue something, you follow or chase it in an attempt to get it.

She is going to pursue her dream of being a doctor, no matter how long it takes.

Qq

qualify • verb

You qualify when you reach a level of skill or knowledge that allows you to do something.

Our team had to win three games in order to qualify to go to the finals.

quarrel • verb

If you quarrel with someone, you argue with words.

My brother and I usually get along, but sometimes we quarrel over our chores.

quench • verb

When you quench your thirst, you drink until you are no longer thirsty.

On a hot summer's day, there's nothing like ice-cold lemonade to quench my thirst.

Rr

rapid • adjective

Something that's very fast is rapid.

My heartbeat became very rapid after I ran a mile.

reasonable • adjective

Something that is fair and makes sense is reasonable.

The produce prices at the farmers' market are more reasonable than supermarket prices.

recreation • noun

Activities that people do in their free time are called recreation.

For recreation, my dad likes to play tennis on his days off work.

request • verb

When you request something, you ask for it politely.

Margo called the radio station to request that they play her favorite song, and they did!

reserve • verb

If you arrange to have something held so that you may use it at a later time, you reserve it.

We will call the restaurant to reserve a table for dinner tonight.

respond • verb

When you answer or reply, you respond.

The invitation said to respond by phone if you planned to attend the party.

restrain • verb

When you prevent someone from doing something, you restrain him or her.

Joe had to restrain his dog so it wouldn't take off and chase the neighbor's cat.

route • noun

The path you take to get somewhere is the route.

The road was blocked, so we had to take another route to get to school.

Ss

satisfactory • adjective

Something that is good enough is satisfactory.

Her first book report was satisfactory, but the next one she wrote was outstanding.

scold • verb

When you scold someone, you tell the person in an angry way that he or she did something wrong.

The teacher had to scold her students for their rude behavior during the assembly.

secluded • adjective

A secluded place is quiet and out of sight.

The pirates hid the treasure in the most secluded part of the island.

significant • adjective

If something is significant, it has importance.

My mom writes about all the significant events in my life in my baby book: my first steps, my first loose tooth, my first day of school, and others.

similar • tattered

similar • adjective

Two things are similar if they are very much alike.

My brother and I like similar sports, but the books we like are totally different.

solution • noun

A solution is the answer to a question or the explanation of a problem.

The detective found the solution to the mystery by studying the clues.

spectacular • adjective

Something that is unusually amazing is spectacular.

The glowing orange sunset was the most spectacular I'd ever seen.

statement • noun

You make a statement when you tell about or explain something.

Everyone waited for the president to make a statement about the peace agreement.

stoop • verb

You stoop when you squat down or bend over.

Natalie had to stoop to pick up the pencil that she dropped on the floor.

strenuous • adjective

A strenuous activity takes a lot of energy and effort.

After his strenuous exercise, the athlete needed to relax and drink some water.

strive • verb

When you strive, you make your best effort to do something.

I strive to walk a little farther every day on my morning walk.

struggle • verb

When you work hard at something that is difficult, you struggle.

I had to struggle to learn my spelling words, but now I never misspell them.

stubborn • adjective

If you are stubborn, you like to have things your way and do not like to give in or change.

The stubborn child refused to let go of the ball in the toy store.

surface • noun

The surface is the outer layer of something.

Before you paint a picture, cover the top of your desk with newspaper to keep the surface clean.

Tt

task • noun

A task is a small job or chore.

My sister's task every night is to set the table for dinner.

tattered • adjective

Something is tattered if it's old and torn.

Among the things in my great-grandma's trunk in the attic were some tattered clothes and antique jewelry.

theme • noun

A theme is the topic or subject of something.

Ana's party had a rainforest theme, so all the party favors were rainforest animal toys.

thorough • adjective

A thorough job is complete and leaves nothing out.

Grace did such a thorough job of cleaning that there wasn't a speck of dirt left.

transparent • adjective

Something is transparent if light goes through it and you can see through it.

We watched the fish at the aquarium through a large transparent window.

Uu

unanimous • adjective

When a decision is unanimous, everyone agrees with it.

Everyone in the class voted to go to the zoo, so the unanimous decision was approved by the teacher.

unfortunate • adjective

Something that is unfortunate is unlucky.

It was unfortunate that Abby forgot to bring her swimsuit to the pool.

Vv

vanish • verb

If you disappear suddenly, you vanish.

The moon vanished behind the clouds.

verdict • noun

A verdict is a decision made by a jury.

The twelve members of the jury discussed the case for hours before reaching a guilty verdict.

Ww

withdraw • verb

When you withdraw something, you take it away or remove it.

I'm not allowed to withdraw money from my savings account at the bank. I can only add money to it.

Yy

youth • noun

You are a youth after childhood and before adulthood.

My grandpa delivered newspapers on his bicycle when he was a youth.

Zz

zest • noun

When you have zest, you show enjoyment and enthusiasm.

The clowns performed with such zest that the crowd got excited, too.