



Butte County
2012 Spelling Bee



PRACTICE WORD LIST

**BUTTE
COUNTY**
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DON McNELIS
SUPERINTENDENT

1.	aardwolf	A striped hyena like mammal of southern and eastern Africa that feeds chiefly on carrion and insects <i>"Termites are the favorite food of the aardwolf."</i>
2.	abacus	A calculating instrument for performing arithmetical processes by sliding counters by hand on rods or in grooves <i>"The grocer used an abacus instead of a modern cash register."</i>
3.	abeyant ə-ˈbā-ən(t)	Existing in a temporarily inactive form or state <i>"Jeff was in the hammock and abeyant for several hours after spending the morning chopping fire wood."</i>
4.	abracadabra	Confused or unintelligible language; nonsense <i>"Despite the abracadabra in the poem "Jabberwocky," its message is rather clear."</i>
5.	absolutely	In an absolute manner or condition —often used as an intensive; with respect to absolute values <i>"Let me make it absolutely clear that we will have a test at the end of each chapter."</i>
6.	accessible	Easy to approach <i>"The mailbox was accessible from all directions."</i>
7.	accommodate	To do a kindness or a favor to; oblige <i>"The receptionist will accommodate all requests for water."</i>
8.	accordion	A musical instrument <i>"The accordion is popular in polka bands."</i>
9.	accrued	Collected; accumulated <i>"Helen has accrued 30 days of personal leave at work."</i>
10.	acre	Any of various units of land area <i>"Miriam had to cross a 10-acre field to get to her favorite swimming hole."</i>
11.	adamantine	Rigidly firm; unyielding <i>"Debra's adamantine chain of logic bedazzled her philosophy professor."</i>
12.	adequate	Equal to, proportionate to, or fully sufficient for a specified or implied requirement; often; narrowly or barely sufficient; no more than satisfactory <i>"Michael was surprised when his supervisor told him that his job performance was merely adequate."</i>
13.	adjacent	Living nearby or sitting or standing relatively near or close together <i>"Citizens of Centerville and its adjacent communities banded together to form a volunteer fire department."</i>
14.	adolescence	A period of life from puberty to maturity terminating legally at the age of majority <i>"MsMonroe wonders if her nerves will survive her daughter's adolescence."</i>
15.	aerobatics	Spectacular flying feats and maneuvers (as rolls and dives) <i>"Brian enjoyed the exhibition of aerobatics at the Labor Day festival."</i>
16.	aerogramme	A pre-stamped, lightweight paper that folds into its own envelope <i>"Instead of buying a greeting card she chose an aerogramme so she could share the important news."</i>
17.	affectation	Manner of speech or behavior not natural to one's actual personality or capabilities <i>"The pauper carried himself with the affectation of royalty."</i>
18.	affliction	A state of pain, distress, or grief <i>"Joan's affliction caused her a lot of pain."</i>
19.	algorithm	A set of rules for solving a problem <i>"John found a new algorithm for solving the assignment problem."</i>

20.	alignment	An arrangement in a straight line <i>"Most decorators recognize the importance of artwork alignment."</i>
21.	alliteration	The repetition usually initially of a sound that is usually a consonant in two or more neighboring words or syllables (as in "daring deed") <i>"The alliteration wasn't entirely correct, but it made me laugh."</i>
22.	allocution	A formal speech <i>"The judge listened intently to the clients heartfelt allocution."</i>
23.	altigraph	An instrument that measures height and is equipped with a recording mechanism <i>"Nora stored the readings of the altigraph in a folder in her backpack."</i>
24.	amendment	The process of changing or modifying in any way for the better (as a motion, bill, act, or constitution) <i>"A well-drafted constitution will provide for its own amendment."</i>
25.	amphora	An ancient Greek jar or vase having a large oval body, narrow cylindrical neck, and two handles that rise almost to the level of the mouth <i>"Divers recovered an unblemished amphora from the bottom of the bay."</i>
26.	anecdote 'a-nik-dōt	A usually short narrative of an interesting, amusing or curious incident <i>"The speaker's presentation ended with a touching anecdote."</i>
27.	annexation	The act of incorporating (a country or other territory) within the sovereign domain of a state <i>"The annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845 was one of the causes of the Mexican War."</i>
28.	annulment	The declaration that cancels a marriage <i>"An annulment can only be granted under certain circumstances."</i>
29.	anthology	A usually representative collection of selected literary pieces or passages <i>"John hopes to find 'The Raven' in his mom's anthology of American literature."</i>
30.	anticlimax	The usually sudden transition in writing from a significant idea to one trivial by comparison <i>"Dickens disliked the stupendous silliness of three stanzas with an anticlimax at the end of each."</i>
31.	apostrophe	A mark used to indicate omission of one or more letters or figures or to mark the possessive case of English nouns <i>"Use of the apostrophe when forming plural nouns is a common error."</i>
32.	appalling	Inspiring dismay; shocking <i>"There was something about the night that was mysterious and appalling."</i>
33.	appellate	Of or pertaining to appeals <i>"The new judge was assigned to the appellate court division."</i>
34.	applique	An ornamentation applied to a material <i>"Instead of throwing the sweater away she covered the hole with an applique."</i>
35.	arbuscle är,bəsəl	A dwarf tree or treelike shrub <i>"The gardener recommended that Micah purchase an arbuscle to plant next to the house."</i>
36.	ardent	Extremely loyal; devoted, faithful <i>"Bickford was an ardent supporter of environmental causes."</i>
37.	argumentative	Given to or fond of disagreement; contentious <i>"Jill is so argumentative that no one likes to sit beside her on the bus."</i>
38.	armoire	A large wardrobe or movable cupboard <i>"The antique oak armoire looks perfect in the living room."</i>

39.	ascertained	Made sure of; discovered "Julie ascertained the truth by talking to her teacher."
40.	askance ə-'skan(t)s	With a side look; sideways, obliquely "Juan's cat has a habit of looking askance at a toy for a long while before pouncing on it."
41.	assign	Appoint (one) to a post or duty "The school principal will assign seniors to cafeteria and hall monitor positions in October."
42.	asunder	Into parts; into different pieces "The wind was so violent Justin feared his tent would be torn asunder ."
43.	atrium	The central room of an ancient Roman house "The downtown building has a beautifully designed atrium ."
44.	audacity	Daring boldness with assurance, presumption or open disdain of restraint "Any player who has the audacity to spit at an official will be suspended from the game."
45.	automaton	Another word for a robot "Suzie created an automaton model that opened jars."
46.	autonomy o-'tä-nə-mē	The quality or state of being independent, free and self-directing "After years of fighting the colonial government, the island was finally granted autonomy ."
47.	avionics	Electrical and electronic devices for use in aviation, especially electronic control systems for aircraft and airborne weapons "Jack works for a large company that supplies avionics equipment to many commercial aircraft designers."
48.	axiom	A proposition, rule, or maxim that has found general acceptance or is thought worthy thereof "Early to bed, early to rise' is Uncle Abdul's favorite axiom ."
49.	azimuth 'az-məth, 'a-zə-	An arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object "Using a compass, the navigator took the magnetic azimuth of the star."
50.	babblative	Given to excessive talking "The babblative waitress called everyone at our table 'sweetheart.'"
51.	baboon	A large monkey found in Africa or Arabia "The visitor was a little nervous seeing the baboon close to its cage door."
52.	bacciferous	Bearing or producing berries "The bacciferous vine was ready early for harvest."
53.	badgers	Any of certain strong sturdily-built carnivorous mammals "Ivar always said that the badgers had cleaner houses than people, and that when he hired a housekeeper her name would be MrsBadger."
54.	balloonist	One that ascends in a balloon (as for exhibition purposes) "The aerial photograph of the town was taken by a balloonist more than a hundred years ago."
55.	bandalore	A toy with an automatically winding cord by which it is brought back to the hand when thrown "Jeffrey brought a bandalore for show-and-tell."
56.	bantam	Small; easily handled "Accustomed to bantam automobiles in Europe, Frank regarded American cars as too large and unwieldy."
57.	barrette	A clasp used to hold a girl's hair in place "The diamond barrette was more expensive than she expected."

58.	bassoon	A large woodwind instrument <i>"Every large school band should have a bassoon."</i>
59.	bazaar	A marketplace, especially in the Middle East <i>"The cruise ship tour stopped at each port's bazaar."</i>
60.	beagle	One of a breed of small hounds having long ears, short legs, and a usually black, tan, and white coat <i>"Jon has a pet beagle named mac."</i>
61.	beneficence	The doing of good <i>"The family's beneficence has been communicated through popular customs and traditions."</i>
62.	bereavement	Deprivation; especially; loss of a loved one by death <i>"Some scientific studies have shown that bereavement, such as the loss of a spouse, can affect one's immunity to illness."</i>
63.	bevy	A usually large group or collection <i>"A bevy of reporters crowded around the gold medal winner."</i>
64.	bewitched	Cast a spell over <i>"Some say a sorceress bewitched the valley during the early days of settlement."</i>
65.	billowy	Characterized by rolling or swelling surges <i>"The warm sun and billowy breezes dried them as they went."</i>
66.	biscotti	Crisp cookies of Italian origin flavored usually with anise and filberts or almonds <i>Angela usually has several biscotti with her morning coffee.</i>
67.	biscuit	A quick bread made in a small shape from dough that has been rolled and cut or dropped and that is raised in the baking by a leavening agent other than yeast <i>"The hot biscuit with butter and honey was the best part of the lunch."</i>
68.	bizarre	Markedly unusual <i>"The old bridge was painted a bizarre shade of orange."</i>
69.	blather	Voluble, foolish, or nonsensical talk <i>"Matt's announcement consisted of 10 percent information and 90 percent blather."</i>
70.	bonsai	A tree that has been dwarfed, as by pruning <i>"Many bonsai are grown outside rather than indoors."</i>
71.	bough 'bau	A branch of a tree <i>"The Christmas bough on the neighbors door almost blew off."</i>
72.	bouillon	A clear usually seasoned broth <i>"The market sells bouillon in cube form."</i>
73.	boutonniere	A flower worn by a man in his lapel <i>"The silk boutonniere was so beautifully made many believed it was real."</i>
74.	bribery	The act of influencing the action of another by a reward, gift or favor bestowed or promised <i>"Though they might not admit it, most parents occasionally use bribery to make their young children behave."</i>
75.	brougham	A light closed carriage with seats inside for two or four <i>"The brougham was once a common sight on the streets of London."</i>
76.	bulbous	Resembling or suggesting a bulb especially in roundness or in the gross enlargement of a part <i>"The turnip had an odd bulbous shape to it."</i>
77.	bumbershoot	A name for an umbrella <i>"She left her bumbershoot on the bus by accident."</i>

78.	bursar	A treasurer or business officer "The bursar located the huge file for the auditor."
79.	cache	A hiding place "Children are known to create a cache in very unique spots."
80.	calabash	The common bottle gourd "A calabash with a hole cut in it makes a unique birdhouse."
81.	calisthenics ,ka-ləs-'the-niks	Gymnastic exercises "Runners use calisthenics as a way to stretch before a competition."
82.	camaraderie	Good fellowship "The camaraderie of the hockey players was encouraging to the coach."
83.	campaign	A military operation for a specific objective "The world news channel shared details of the Navy's recent South American campaign ."
84.	canard	An airplane having the horizontal stabilizing and control surfaces in front of the main supporting surfaces "Tommy wants his next model airplane to be a canard ."
85.	candlelight	The light of a candle "CJsat by candlelight in his study reading his evening newspaper."
86.	canvass	The determining of votes, subscriptions, opinions "John set up a table in the lunch room to canvass students about naming the basketball team."
87.	capillary	The occurring in or as if in a tube of fine bore, resembling a strand of hair; hairlike; smallest vessels of the blood-vascular system "The major function of a capillary is to deliver vital materials to the cells."
88.	capitatum ,kapə-'tā-təm -ta-	Levied or granted at so much per head "Collecting an affordable capitatum fee for civic pool use will not cover operating costs."
89.	capitulate kə-'pi-chə-,lāt	Surrender, often according to terms agreed on "Tony's friends will never let him forget the day he had to capitulate when he arm-wrestled Sarah."
90.	cardiomegaly ,kərd-ē-ō-'meg-ə-lē	Enlargement of the heart "Severe anemia can result in cardiomegaly."
91.	caribou	Any of several large deer of northern North America "While in Montana, Jill photographed a caribou silhouetted on a high ridge."
92.	cartouche kär-'tūsh	A surface for receiving a painted decoration "The monument on the corner had an ideal cartouche for the plaque."
93.	cascade	A fall of water over steeply slanting rocks (as in a river or brook) "The swiftly moving mountain stream became a cascade as it rushed toward the valley below."
94.	catastasis kə'tas-tə-sēs	The dramatic complication immediately preceding the climax of a play "As the catastasis progressed, the tension mounted, culminating in the inevitable clash of characters."
95.	cavalcade	A procession of riders or carriages "The king led the cavalcade proceeding toward the bridge."
96.	cavity	A three-dimensional discontinuity in the substance of a mass or body "The cranial cavity is the space within the skull occupied by the brain and its coverings and fluids."
97.	cellist 'che-(,)list	A person who plays a cello "The high school band cellist won an award last year."

98.	ensorious	Marked by or given to an inclination to discover and severely condemn especially social, moral or artistic errors <i>"Helen was in one of her ensorious moods at the reception."</i>
99.	championship	Designation as champion; the act of championing; a contest held to determine a champion <i>"The high school team hasn't won a championship in over 7 years."</i>
100.	chandelle shan-'del, shä ⁿ -	An abrupt climbing turn of an airplane <i>"Sylvester almost fainted when the plane pitched into a sudden chandelle."</i>
101.	chauffeur	A person employed to drive an automobile <i>"It is a must for a chauffeur to have a great sense of direction."</i>
102.	chimpanzee	An anthropoid ape of equatorial Africa that is smaller and more arboreal than the gorilla <i>"The chimpanzee shows inventiveness in making and using tools."</i>
103.	chivalrous	Courage, courtesy and loyalty; considerate and courteous to woman; gallant <i>"Chivalrous behaviors of previous generations are less common in today's atmosphere of equal rights for women."</i>
104.	citizenship	The status of being a citizen; membership in a community (as a college); the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community <i>"In MrsMarks class the students are learning the value of good citizenship."</i>
105.	clamorous	Marked by din or outcry; noisy <i>"The clamorous ovation brought the director back on-stage for an encore performance."</i>
106.	cliche 'klē-shā 'klē-, ,kli-'	A trite, stereotyped expression <i>"Her daughter didn't like hearing the cliche that all woman love shoes."</i>
107.	colloquy 'kă-lə-kwē	A conversational exchange, dialogue <i>"During our colloquy we were able to solve the scheduling issue."</i>
108.	colobus	Any of a genus of slender long-tailed African monkeys <i>"In the colobus the thumb is either absent or greatly reduced in size."</i>
109.	commemorate	To serve as a reminder of <i>"The marker on the fence will commemorate the 15th anniversary of the beloved neighborhood mail carrier."</i>
110.	competitive	Of or relating to a contest between rivals <i>"Tom's family is fiercely competitive when they play board games."</i>
111.	conciliatory	Tending to win over from a state of hostility or distrust <i>"None off Nathan's conciliatory gestures gained Joel's forgiveness."</i>
112.	condescended	Stooped or bent to action or speech less formal or dignified than is customary in one's social rank <i>"Tony condescended graciously to talk with us about four cylinder cars instead of jet planes."</i>
113.	consomme ,kän(t)-sə-'mā	A clear soup <i>"The doctor told him to only have consomme for dinner."</i>
114.	contemplation	Thoughtful observation or meditation <i>"After much contemplation, the Principal decided to retire from his position and spend his spare time on a beach."</i>
115.	contraband	Goods or merchandise of which the importation, exportation, or sometimes possession is forbidden <i>"The customs officer checked each passenger's carry-on to make sure that no contraband would be transported on board the railway."</i>

116.	contrivance kən-ˈtrī-vən(t)s	Artificial arrangement or mechanical assembling as opposed to natural or logical development “At times in Patrick’s story, contrivance is obvious and so are upcoming events.”
117.	cordillera ,kor-d ^ə l-ˈyer-ə -də-ˈler- kor-ˈdi-lə-rə	A group of mountain ranges forming a mountain system of great linear extent “The Andean cordillera extends along the west coast of South America.”
118.	countenance	The expressive appearance of one’s face; look, expression “Be friendly with all and have a smiling countenance always.”
119.	coyote kī-ˈō-tē ˈkī,ōt	A smaller, wolf-like animal “The coyote made his way through the brush to the stream for a much needed drink of water.”
120.	credulity kri-ˈdū-lə-tē -ˈdyü-	Belief or readiness of belief especially on slight or uncertain evidence “Marco’s personality was a strange mixture of shrewdness and credulity .”
121.	crescent	Resemblance of a segment of a ring tapering to points at the ends “Seeing a crescent moon makes me think of the picture used in nursery rhyme books.”
122.	crocodile	Any of several thick-skinned long-bodied aquatic reptiles of tropical and subtropical waters including certain voracious forms that do not hesitate to attack humans “The huge crocodile in the zoo is one that was caught by the late Steve Irwin.”
123.	croquet	A game played by knocking balls through metal wickets with a mallet “We learned how to play croquet when we were young.”
124.	crypt	A subterranean chamber or vault “Archeologists spend a lot of time researching items found in the crypt .”
125.	cuisine	A style or quality of cooking “The Italian restaurant on the corner served a uniquely modern cuisine .”
126.	cumbersome	Of an excessive size, shape, or length; unwieldy “Sam dragged his cumbersome duffel bag by its strap.”
127.	cumbrous ˈkəm-b(ə)rəs	Giving trouble “A swarm of cumbrous gnats followed the hikers all day long.”
128.	cursor	A movable symbol on a computer “I shared with my optometrist the reason for my visit was that I was having trouble seeing the cursor .”
129.	cymbal	A concave plate that produces a sharp, ringing sound when struck, played in pairs “After the concert, my ears hurt like someone was banging a cymbal repeatedly near my head.”
130.	dachshund ˈdäks-,hunt -hund ˈdäk-sənt ˈdak-sənd	A long, German dog “Many dachshund owners install ramps so their pets can climb easily.”
131.	dawdler daw"dlər	One who wastes time in idle lingering “Lauren was such a dawdler that she often missed the school bus.”
132.	debris	The remains of things broken down or destroyed “The amount of debris from raking the yard was enormous.”

133.	declivity di-'kliv-ət-ē	Inclining downward; sloping "They hiked through the woods for several hours until they came to a gentle declivity leading down to a stream."
134.	decorum di-'kor-əm	Propriety and good taste especially in conduct, manners or appearance; correctness "Alison's behavior did not reflect the decorum expected of someone with her upbringing."
135.	delicacy	Something pleasing to eat that is accounted rare or luxurious "Hot chocolate with marshmallows is a delicacy during the holidays."
136.	demure	Marked by quiet modesty, sedate reserve, restraint, or sobriety; retiring, shy "Sandra's classmates mistook her demure conduct for a bad attitude."
137.	depravity di-'pra-və-tē -'prā-	The quality or state of being marked by debasement, corruption, perversion or deterioration "The inherent depravity of man was a major doctrine of the Puritan religion."
138.	derailleur di-'rā-lər	A mechanism for shifting gears on a bicycle that operates by moving the chain from one set of exposed gears to another "Joseph's pants kept getting caught in the derailleur of his bicycle."
139.	desiccate 'de-si-,kāt	To dry thoroughly "Sandy used a fan to desiccate shopping carts that were left in the rain."
140.	desman	An aquatic mammal of Russia that resembles a mole "At one end the desman has a long, flared snout and at the other end a long, flattened tail."
141.	desolate	Characterized by abandonment, isolation, or barrenness "The irrigation project revived the once desolate farming community."
142.	despair	Utter loss of hope " Despair overcame Gerald as he stared at his French exam."
143.	diacritic	A modifying mark over, after, under or through an orthographic or phonetic character indicating a phonetic or semantic value "While proofreading, Roland found a misplaced diacritic and a few other errors."
144.	dichotomy dī-'kā-tə-mē də-	The division into two parts "The dichotomy of the hotel was easy to navigate with the elevator located in the middle of the lobby."
145.	diffraction di-'frak-shən	A modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits in which the rays appear to be deflected and produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands "One consequence of diffraction is that sharp shadows are not produced."
146.	dimension	A measurable aspect such as length or width "Height is one dimension of a cube."
147.	dingo	A wild dog of Australia "Many Australian farmers erect high fences to protect their sheep against the dingo ."
148.	dinosauric	Huge "Angela was astounded by the dinosauric size of the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial."
149.	disagreeable	Causing discomfort, displeasure, or repugnance "Mary was so disagreeable that after the first day or two nobody would play with her."

150.	disappearance	The act or an instance of ceasing to appear or to be perceived; a vanishing "With the disappearance of the snow, bicycles replaced sleds and skates in the town's park."
151.	disconsolate	Hopelessly sad; being beyond comfort "Mary felt disconsolate when all the flowers were removed and pavement was installed."
152.	disentangle	Straighten out; unravel "MrsLuce helped David disentangle the strands of the plot in 'Hamlet.'"
153.	dismal	Marked by gloom, dejection, somberness, or depression of spirits "The children who forgot their gloves spent a dismal recess looking out the window at the snow."
154.	distressing	Subjecting to great strain or difficulties "Ulrich had a distressing day at the office."
155.	divergent	Differing from each other "Hannah's ability to reconcile divergent opinions makes her a master of compromise."
156.	dominant	Commanding, controlling or having supremacy or ascendancy over all others by reason of superior strength or power "The king's forces proved dominant after a short battle."
157.	ductility 'dæk-t ^ə l-(e)-tē	The quality or state of being capable of being drawn out into wire "The ductility of platinum is such that it has been drawn into a wire less than two thousandths of an inch in diameter."
158.	durable	Able to exist for a long time; lasting "Jimmy brought along a pair of durable hiking boots for his trek through the mountainous terrain."
159.	eavesdropper	One who listens secretly to what is said in private "An eavesdropper often misinterprets what is overheard."
160.	eerie	Uncanny, weird "There was an eerie silence when passing the vacant house."
161.	effusive	Expressing or marked by unrestrained emotion; unduly demonstrative "Andy, not being able to control his gratitude, was uncharacteristically effusive to his Grandpa for the car that he gave him for his birthday."
162.	elocution	The art of oratorical or expressive public speaking "The senator's mastery of elocution impressed his listeners."
163.	emblazon	Set off conspicuously (as by rich or brilliant decorations) "Andrea asked the seamstress to emblazon the sweater with flowered embroidery."
164.	emphatically	In a markedly forceful manner "At the school board meeting, Jonah spoke emphatically in favor of requiring students to wear uniforms."
165.	enterprising	Characterized by a bold daring energetic spirit or by independence or originality of thought; ready to undertake or experiment "An enterprising thinker, Emma was a valuable member of her school's Future Problem Solving team."
166.	enthusiastic	Filled with or marked by eagerness, impatience, unleashed energy "Stan wasn't wildly enthusiastic about spelling tests on Monday mornings."
167.	entourage	A group of attendants or associates "The mama duck had a long entourage of chicks following her to the pond."

168.	entrepreneur	The organizer of an economic venture; especially one who organizes, owns, manages, and assumes the risks of a business <i>"Ariel is an entrepreneur who runs a cookery school and a company that manufactures kitchen equipment."</i>
169.	enumerated	Related one after another; listed <i>"The museum enumerated all the paintings currently available for viewing."</i>
170.	environs	Vicinity; neighborhood <i>"Residents of the subdivision and its immediate environs are eligible to join the neighborhood pool association."</i>
171.	envisage in-'vi-zij en-	Have a mental picture of in advance of realization <i>"Benjamin could scarcely envisage the scale of the project, so he broke it down into smaller, more manageable units."</i>
172.	enzyme	One of various proteins <i>"Lack of a particular protein enzyme can cause health concerns."</i>
173.	ephemeral i-'fem-rəl -fēm- -fe-mə- -fē-\	Lasting a very short time <i>"The county fair lasted an ephemeral time, and Sandy was very said to have missed it."</i>
174.	epithet 'e-pə-,thet -thət	A disparaging or abusive word or phrase <i>"Donnie apologized for shouting an epithet at MrGaribaldi."</i>
175.	equilibrist ē-kwə-li-brist e- i-'kwi-lə-brist	One who balances himself in unnatural positions and performs hazardous movements <i>"Of all the acts in the circus, Yancy liked the equilibrist best."</i>
176.	erudition	An extensive knowledge acquired chiefly from books <i>"The schoolmaster was a man of great erudition."</i>
177.	escutcheon is-'kə-chən	A shield on which a coat of arms is depicted <i>"On the right a brass door handle, finger plate and keyhole escutcheon original fireplaces are in place throughout."</i>
178.	etiquette 'e-ti-kət -,ket	The conventional requirements to social behavior <i>"The knowledge she gained from the etiquette class she attended in high school gave her extra confidence."</i>
179.	excavator	A worker who digs out material or digs cavities (as in quarrying or for building construction) <i>"The excavator gasped when the side of the pit gave way to reveal a dark chamber."</i>
180.	exception	The act of excluding or omitting <i>"The zoo is usually open to the public only on Mondays from two to four, but since you've traveled so far, we'll have to make an exception."</i>
181.	exploit	Deed, act <i>"Sarah's first exploit in baking resulted in a burned pie in the oven."</i>
182.	extraordinarily	In a manner beyond what is usual, regular, common, or customary <i>"DrMiller told us that the kitten was extraordinarily frisky this morning."</i>
183.	exude	Undergo diffusion; emanate <i>"The flowers from the shrubs around Mary's patio exude fragrant odors."</i>
184.	facetious fə-'sē-shəs	A joke made about something serious; not to be taken seriously <i>"I'm sure you realized I was only being very facetious!"</i>

185.	fantasize	Create or develop imaginative and often fantastic views, ideas, or explanations <i>"After Calvin was elected to the student council, all he ever did was fantasize about becoming president of the United States."</i>
186.	fatigue fə-ˈtēg	The weariness from exertion <i>"His fatigue was obvious as he walked away from the marathon."</i>
187.	faucet	A device to control the flow of liquid <i>Plumbers learn early the rules of changing a faucet."</i>
188.	feasible	Capable of being done <i>"The unification of Europe seemed far more feasible now than in the 1920s."</i>
189.	feint	A movement made to deceive an opponent <i>"Looking at a printed copy of the sun's image you should be able to see feint outlines of hotspots."</i>
190.	feral	Lacking a human personality due to being reared in isolation from all or nearly all human contacts <i>"The television executive rejected the idea of another series about a feral child trying to adjust to modern culture."</i>
191.	feud	A relationship of aggressive hostility; quarrel <i>"A feud over the property boundaries developed between the two families."</i>
192.	fiasco	A complete disaster <i>"The party was a complete fiasco because it rained and no one showed up."</i>
193.	finesse	The extreme delicacy or skill in performance <i>"His style combines graphic finesse with an almost spiritual quality of calm."</i>
194.	flammeous ˈflāmēəs	Consisting of or resembling the color of flame <i>"Flammeous maple leaves carpeted the lawn of the new house."</i>
195.	flaunting	Seeking to attract attention especially by appearing or acting brash and brazen <i>"During the party Tom seemed to be flaunting his ability to play piano."</i>
196.	fledgling	A young bird or an inexperienced person <i>"Over the years sixteen young fledglings have been produced."</i>
197.	flocculent ˈflä-kyə-lənt	Like a clump of wool <i>The flocculent leaf of the desert plant was studied by Don's science class."</i>
198.	flourish	The ability to thrive <i>"Many are amazed by plants that thrive on very little light."</i>
199.	fortification	Something that defends or strengthens; especially works erected to defend a place or position <i>"The fortification at the bridge kept enemy tanks from entering the town."</i>
200.	fortnight	The space of 14 days; two weeks <i>"Lewis had hoped to stay at the lodge for a fortnight, but he had to return early."</i>
201.	fulgorant ˈful-g(y)ə-rənt ˈful-jə-fəl-	Flashing like lightning; dazzling <i>"Emily's fulgorant diamond brooch attracted many eyes at the dinner party."</i>
202.	furiously	In an impassioned manner; angrily <i>"The soldiers furiously pursued the raiders but could not catch them."</i>
203.	galloping	Marked by a bounding and fast natural three-beat gait of a horse <i>"A galloping horse splashed through the waves on Sunset Beach."</i>

204.	gerund 'jer-ənd 'je-rənd	A verb functioning as a noun <i>"The use of a gerund in conversation is extremely common."</i>
205.	ghastly	Giving rise to terror; frightening <i>"The gnarled trees appeared ghastly in the moonlight."</i>
206.	gherkin	The immature fruit of a cucumber, used in pickling <i>"The recipe involves everything from chopping a gherkin to grating the cheese."</i>
207.	giddiness	The quality or state of being exuberant, impulsive, or thoughtless <i>"The soccer team's giddiness resulted from winning the match."</i>
208.	gigabyte	Approximately one billion groups of usually eight adjacent binary digits <i>"Caitlin's downloaded photos of Justin Bieber took up nearly one gigabyte of her hard drive's disk space."</i>
209.	gigantic	Greater in size than the usual or expected <i>"The American flag flying over the service station is so gigantic that it can be seen from a mile away."</i>
210.	gimmick	A new and ingenious device, scheme, or idea for solving a problem or achieving an end <i>"Jonathan came up with a new advertising gimmick that he hoped would increase user traffic at his online game store."</i>
211.	giraffe	A large fleet African mammal <i>"Each giraffe has its own unique pattern of coat markings."</i>
212.	globular	Round like a ball; spherical <i>"A globular lamp hung from the center of the ceiling in Gretchen's dining room."</i>
213.	gourmet	A connoisseur of fine food and drink <i>"Cuisine in the warm south of France seems to offer the gourmet the best of everything."</i>
214.	grampus	A cetacean of temperate and tropical seas having a blunt snout and teeth in the lower jaw only <i>"Squid and octopus are the main foods of the grampus."</i>
215.	grandiloquent	Marked by a lofty, extravagantly colorful <i>"With a grandiloquent gesture, Mona left the ballroom."</i>
216.	grievous	Causing or characterized by severe pain, suffering, or sorrow <i>"Jason screamed as if the scratch on his leg were a grievous wound."</i>
217.	grotesqueness	The quality or state of being ridiculously ugly <i>"Each horror movie seems to be trying to outdo the others in grotesqueness."</i>
218.	guenon 'gwe-nən gə-'nōn	Any of various long-tailed chiefly arboreal African monkeys <i>"The guenon is a favorite zoo monkey because of its bright markings, good nature and its habit of grimacing at observers."</i>
219.	hackney	Any of a breed of compact high-stepping English horses; a carriage or automobile kept for hire <i>"In London, one must obtain the appropriate license in order to promote their hackney services."</i>
220.	harangue hə-'rɑŋ	A scolding or intense verbal attack <i>"I am feeling particularly good this morning, so I shall not harangue the minister."</i>
221.	harried	Kept under constant attack or threat of attack, harassed <i>"A mosquito harried Charlie as he tried to sleep."</i>

222.	hartebeest	A large African antelope with short ringed divergent horns "The hartebeest grazes mainly on the open plains and scrublands of sub-Saharan Africa."
223.	hearsay	Something heard from another; report; rumor "Jody's elaborate account of the argument was based purely on hearsay ."
224.	heartthrob	A sweetheart "Rachel has been Todd's heartthrob since the seventh grade."
225.	hemisphere	The half of the terrestrial globe "He is the most popular head of state in the western hemisphere , probably in the world."
226.	herbarium ,(h)ər-ˈber-ē-əm	A room, building, or institution housing a collection of dried plant specimens "John was looking forward to visiting the herbarium while on vacation."
227.	heretical	Of, relating to, or characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards; unorthodox "A free society allows the expression of all opinions, however heretical they may seem."
228.	hexagonal	Having six angles and six sides, six-sided "A cell of a honeycomb is one of many hexagonal forms in nature."
229.	hoarseness	The quality or state of having a rough-sounding voice "Paul's remedy for hoarseness is hot water with lemon."
230.	horizontal	Placed or operating in a plane parallel to the horizon "Lori wore a sweater with red and blue horizontal stripes."
231.	hosanna	An expression of enthusiastic praise; acclamation "MrWong greeted Susan with a loud hosanna ."
232.	hulking	Of great size or powerful build "One look at the hulking guard would cause anyone to think twice about making him angry."
233.	humane	Marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals "Sharon received an award for her humane treatment of stray pets."
234.	humus	The organic portion of soil "Mario's compost heap provides an annual supply of humus for his garden."
235.	hurling	Throwing with great vigor "For lack of something better to do, Simon spent the afternoon hurling stones into the creek."
236.	hyacinth	A plant of the lily family "Their delicious aroma is reason enough to plant a hyacinth bush in any garden."
237.	hydrangea	A plant with showy flower clusters "The cottage had a purple hydrangea bush to the left of the porch."
238.	hydrolysis	The chemical decomposition by reacting with water "The hydrolysis of salt in the soup recipe added flavor to the broth."
239.	hypertension	Abnormally high arterial blood pressure "Doctors recommend reducing salt intake for patients with hypertension ."
240.	idiosyncrasy	A characteristic or habit peculiar to an individual, incident, or the like "The nanny spent time getting to know the habits and learning at least one little idiosyncrasy of each child."

241.	illumination	A giving of physical light or the state of being lit up <i>"Because of its many windows, Sarah's office always has ample illumination."</i>
242.	impeccable	Faultless or flawless <i>"The waiter provided impeccable service to every customer."</i>
243.	impervious	Not allowing entrance or passage through <i>"To protect the firewood, Ted covered the woodpile with a tarp impervious to water."</i>
244.	impresario	The manager or conductor of an opera or concert company <i>"The impresario was eager to begin his opera company's 10-city tour."</i>
245.	impromptu	Done without previous preparation <i>"Everyone listening felt the comedian's impromptu joke was surprisingly funny."</i>
246.	inapplicable	Not adapted; not suitable <i>"The name Brutus was inapplicable to the small dog."</i>
247.	inclusion	The act of taking in as a part of a larger group, class, or principle <i>"Inclusion of the link on the company's website demonstrated support of the product quality."</i>
248.	indisputable	That is beyond argument; unquestionable <i>"Sam considered the result of his experiment indisputable."</i>
249.	innocence	To be without sin, the state of being innocent <i>"Having been isolated by its island location from contact with humanity, the dodo bird greeted the new visitors with a child-like innocence."</i>
250.	innovation	The introduction of something new <i>"The people of the small village were suspicious of all innovation."</i>
251.	inoculate	Introduce microorganisms, vaccines into a living body to establish immunity to a disease <i>"DrCooper knows that she will inoculate Frank only if she bribes him with a lollipop."</i>
252.	institution	An act of instituting; a significant practice, relationship or organization in a society or culture; something or someone firmly associated with a place or thing; an established organization or corporation, especially of public character <i>"Our class agreed to have a fundraising carwash, but could not agree on a charitable institution to receive the proceeds."</i>
253.	intermittent	Coming and going at intervals; not continuous <i>"The weather forecast warned of intermittent showers for the afternoon."</i>
254.	intricate	Having many complexly interrelating parts or elements; complicated <i>"Jason described the intricate mechanism of the clock as 'awesome.'"</i>
255.	introspect	Considering one's own internal state or feelings <i>"Please be quiet while I introspect my feelings on this matter."</i>
256.	invisible	Of such small size as to be hardly noticeable <i>"Bob felt invisible sitting in the back of the lecture hall."</i>
257.	isthmus	A narrow strip of land with water on both sides, connecting two larger strips of land <i>"The isthmus of Panama is a very busy area."</i>
258.	italicize	To print in italic type <i>"The writer will italicize every keyword phrase."</i>

259.	jalousie	A window, shade, or door formed of overlapping, horizontal slats, or louvers, of wood, metal, or glass that can be adjusted to regulate the air or light coming between them <i>"Each room of the house had jalousie shutters inside the room in addition to floor length curtains."</i>
260.	jeune ji-'jün	Immature, juvenile <i>"Dennis rejected the jeune poems for publication."</i>
261.	julienne	Cut in long thin strips, especially vegetables and fruits <i>"Bruce added julienne cucumber pieces to the salad."</i>
262.	juvenile	A young person, bird, or other animal; describes a person below the age at which ordinary criminal prosecution is possible; adolescent; youth; or teenager <i>The juvenile chimp could not be put into the zoo cage with the adult chimps until it was strong enough to fend for itself.</i>
263.	kaleidoscope	A tubular instrument containing loose bits of colored glass or plastic, reflected by mirrors so that various symmetrical patterns appear when the tube is held to the eye and rotated <i>"Many enjoy discovering the unique patterns a kaleidoscope creates."</i>
264.	kanji 'kän-(,)jē	A Japanese system of writing based on the Chinese one and composed principally of characters borrowed or adapted from Chinese <i>"Evan was awarded the university linguistics prize for his paper on the history of kanji."</i>
265.	Kelvin	Relating to, conforming to, or having a thermometric scale on which the unit of measurement equals the Celsius degree and according to which absolute zero is 0 degrees Kelvin <i>"The Kelvin scale has been adopted as the international standard for scientific temperature measurement."</i>
266.	kerchief	A square of cloth worn usually folded by women as a head covering <i>"Before Eileen went out to tend to her garden, she put on a blue and white kerchief."</i>
267.	kielbasa	A smoked sausage <i>"Alice ordered a half-pound of potato salad and a kielbasa."</i>
268.	lackadaisical	Lacking life, spirit, or zest; devoid of energy or purpose <i>"John's piano teacher criticized him for his lackadaisical performance in the recital."</i>
269.	laconic lə-'kä-nik	Using few words, being concise <i>"Companies agree on the laconic rule for email communications."</i>
270.	larynx 'ler-inj(k)s 'la-rinj(k)s	The structure in which the vocal cords are located <i>"Research of the larynx has provided insight regarding a dog's bark."</i>
271.	laser	A device that utilizes the natural oscillations of atoms or molecules between energy levels for generating coherent electromagnetic radiation <i>"The surgeon used a laser to make the incision."</i>
272.	laud	Sing the praises of <i>"The proud parents would laud their child's slightest accomplishment."</i>
273.	layette	An outfit of clothing or bedding for a newborn baby <i>"Jackie found an adorable teddy bear layette for her sister's baby."</i>
274.	leapfrog	A game in which one player bends down on all fours and another places his or her hands on the first player's shoulders or back and leaps over the first player <i>"Only children under the age of 13 can enter the leapfrog races."</i>

275.	legible	Capable of being read or deciphered with ease "It seems common that more doctor's signatures are far from legible ."
276.	legitimately	According to law or rules "Mabel legitimately owned the automobile, even though she couldn't locate her title or registration."
277.	leopard	A large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa that is adept at climbing and is usually tawny or buff with black spots "The so-called 'black panther' is actually a black-coated form of the leopard ."
278.	leprechaun	A dwarf or sprite in Ireland "A leprechaun is synonymous for luck."
279.	levity	Excessive or unseemly lack of seriousness; lack of importance; lack of steadiness "Taylor views the tossing of graduation hats at commencement as levity unbecoming to the institution."
280.	liberalism	A political philosophy based on the belief in freedom for the individual and on the belief of governmental guarantees of human rights and civil liberties "Alex believes that persons attracted to liberalism are often more compassionate than practical."
281.	lieutenant	A military rank "He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the marine corps."
282.	litotes 'lī-tə-, tēz 'li- lī-'tō-, tēz	Understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by a negative of the contrary (as in "He's not a bad ball player") "Rupert loved to use the litotes 'not bad' to convey high praise."
283.	lucent	Giving off light; shining "Mark's dream was to snorkel in the lucent waters of the blue lagoon."
284.	ludicrous	Meriting derisive laughter or scorn; absurd "The jury was instructed to disregard the ludicrous remarks made by the defendant."
285.	lugubrious lu-'gū-brē-əs -'gyū-	Expressive of, marked by, or giving rise to grief or sorrow "The funeral director spoke in lugubrious tones as she explained the arrangements."
286.	luminary	One that is an inspiration to others "Mr Jones was introduced as a luminary in the field of poster design."
287.	lyric	Characterized by or expressive of direct, usually intense personal emotion "The lyric quality of Sue-Lynn's poetry was tremendously powerful."
288.	magnificently	Grandly; impressively "At her coronation, the queen was magnificently dressed in a robe of purple velvet and ermine."
289.	magnitude	Greatness of size or extent; vastness "The magnitude of the shift from previous policies left all members of the organization unsure of their roles."
290.	mahogany	A tree or a reddish-brown color " Mahogany is a popular wood used for making desks."
291.	malediction ,ma-lə-'dik-shən	Curse, evil talk about someone "The villain's last words were a malediction on the entire royal family."
292.	malleable 'ma-lē-ə-bəl 'mal-yə-bəl 'ma-lə-bəl	Capable of being shaped or changed, whether physically or mentally "John was someone whose opinions are not easily malleable ."

293.	mammoth	Gigantic <i>"Clarence specialized in growing mammoth vegetables and held several records for his specimens."</i>
294.	manacle 'ma-ni-kəl	A shackle for the hand; handcuffs <i>"Some dog leashes look more like a manacle than a harness."</i>
295.	maneuver	A planned movement of troops or warships <i>"It was a thing of beauty to watch the dolphin maneuver in the water."</i>
296.	mansard 'man-,sərd -sərd	A roof having two slopes on all sides with the lower slope steeper than the upper one <i>"The mansion was topped with an elegant mansard."</i>
297.	marmoset	Any of numerous small, soft-furred South and Central American monkeys with claws instead of nails on all the digits except the great toe <i>"The chisel-like incisors of the marmoset are used for gouging trees to obtain gums and saps."</i>
298.	marmot	A stout-bodied short-legged rodent that has coarse fur, a short bushy tail and very small ears, lives in burrows, and hibernates in winter <i>"When sensing danger, the marmot sits upright and gives an alarm whistle."</i>
299.	marsupial	Any of an order of mammals having a pouch for carrying the young, including kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots, and opossums <i>"The common stereotype of a marsupial is a female kangaroo with a large young one in her pouch."</i>
300.	masquerade	A party of people wearing masks and other disguises <i>"John had a hard time recognizing his friends during the masquerade party."</i>
301.	mastodon	Someone or something of gigantic size or unusually large size; giant <i>"Mrs Campbell's automobile collection ranges from a tiny two-seater to an antique mastodon."</i>
302.	meagerness	The quality or state of being small, thin, or inadequate <i>"The meagerness of supporting evidence rendered the politician's book and speeches unconvincing to Albert."</i>
303.	medallion	A large piece of any of a large group of usually malleable substances such as gold, bronze, or silver with an inscription or other device issued to commemorate a person, action, or event or awarded for heroic deeds, meritorious service, or excellence <i>"Charlie bought a World War II medallion at a neighborhood garage sale."</i>
304.	melancholy	A gloomy state of mind <i>"Usually she looked happy, but during the hike Sarah had a melancholy attitude."</i>
305.	mesomorph 'me-zə-,morf 'mē- -sə-	An individual with a robust, muscular body build <i>"Being a mesomorph is a great advantage to a football player who needs to have sturdy strong bones and highly developed muscles."</i>
306.	metaphor	A figure of speech in which a term is applied to something to which it isn't literally applicable, as in a mighty fortress is our god <i>"Jane used a metaphor to help describe sandcastles in her new book."</i>
307.	meteor	A streak of light in the night sky produced by the passage through Earth's atmosphere of one of the countless small particles of solid matter in the solar system <i>"Hans accidentally captured a meteor on film as he was trying to take pictures of lightning."</i>

308.	millennium	A period of 1,000 years <i>"The class project was to create a presentation showing science discoveries during one millennium."</i>
309.	minstrels	Professional musical entertainers of a kind originating in medieval times <i>"Off to one side a group of minstrels sang songs to the delight of all."</i>
310.	minuscular 'mi-nəs-kyül-ər mi-'nəs-	Very small in size or importance <i>"A minuscular speck of dirt on Alison's frock was enough to bother her."</i>
311.	misinterpret	Give an incorrect explanation to; explain wrongly <i>"Rachel's mom says that only clueless persons misinterpret the body language conveyed by the rolling of one's eyes."</i>
312.	molecule	A tiny bit; fragment, fraction <i>"Every tone is a molecule of music."</i>
313.	monomaniacal 'mä-(,)nō-mə-'nī-ə-kəl	Relating to, characterized by, or affected with such concentration on a single object or idea as to suggest mental derangement <i>"Stuart's obsession with racing cars seems almost monomaniacal to his friends."</i>
314.	monotonous	Having no change or variety; wearisomely uniform <i>"The sky became quite gray and the whole countryside seemed to lose its color and assume the same monotonous tone."</i>
315.	mosquito	Any of numerous two-winged insect that punctures the skin of animals to suck the blood <i>"John heard the buzz of the mosquito but was unable to see it."</i>
316.	muenster	A white cheese made from whole milk <i>"Muenster is popular yet hard to find at a sandwich shop."</i>
317.	muse	Become absorbed in thought <i>"When he was a boy, Howard used to sit on the porch and muse on what he would do with his life."</i>
318.	myriad	A very great or indefinitely great number <i>"The zoo held a myriad of animals including many rare beetles."</i>
319.	myth	A traditional story that is usually of unknown origin and that serves to explain some practice, belief, institution, or natural phenomenon <i>"The Greek myth about Persephone explains the coming of winter weather."</i>
320.	narrate	Tell or recite the happenings of (a story) <i>"After much consideration, the teacher has decided that Jacob will narrate the slide show."</i>
321.	nebulosity ,ne-byə-'lä-sə-tē	The quality or state of being unclear, hazy, or indistinct <i>"The author's nebulosity invited several different interpretations of his work."</i>
322.	nectarine	A peach that has a smooth-skinned fruit <i>"Jason prefers a nectarine to a common peach."</i>
323.	nexus	A means of connection; a tie; a link <i>"The base of the brain has a complex nexus of nerves."</i>
324.	nickelodeon	An early motion-picture theater <i>"The nickelodeon had a curtain that drew back when the movie started."</i>
325.	nonchalant	To be coolly unconcerned, unexcited <i>"Even though the crowd roared in excitement, Jane was nonchalant but smiling."</i>
326.	nonnegotiable	That is not open to discussion or question or dispute <i>"The bakery on the corner is nonnegotiable about their prices for cakes."</i>

327.	nutritiously	In a manner that promotes growth and development <i>"Judging from the kinds of foods that George likes, it is not going to be easy to get him to eat nutritiously."</i>
328.	obdurate 'äb-də-rət -dyə- äb-'dur-ət əb- -'dyur-	Resistant to persuasion or softening influences; unyielding <i>'Frank is maintaining an obdurate opposition to the newly improved highway bypass."</i>
329.	obvious	Readily and easily perceived, being in the way or front, discovered, seen or understood <i>"Jan's doctor immediately noticed the obvious signs of the flu bug."</i>
330.	occasionally	Now and then; here and there <i>"Occasionally she would take her favorite book from the shelf and read to us."</i>
331.	octahedron ,äk-tə-'hē-drən	A solid bounded by eight plane faces <i>"Meg bought a music box in the form of an octahedron for her new grandson."</i>
332.	olympiad	One of the four-year intervals between Olympian games by which time was reckoned in ancient Greece <i>"It is widely thought that the first olympiad began in 776 B.C."</i>
333.	ooze	A soft deposit that resembles mud, covers large areas of the ocean bottom, and is composed largely or mainly of the shells or other hard parts of minute organisms <i>"Scientists in the oil industry map the locations of different types of ooze to predict where oil deposits will occur."</i>
334.	opacity	The quality or state of a body that renders it impervious to the rays of light; lack of transparency or translucency <i>"The envelope's opacity made it impossible for Garnet to see if there was a check inside."</i>
335.	opalesce	To exhibit a play of colors like that of the opal <i>"Raindrops caught in a sunbeam seem to opalesce."</i>
336.	optimism	An inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and happenings; to minimize adverse aspects, conditions, and possibilities; or to anticipate the best possible outcome <i>"Their optimism of better weather came from seeing new patches of blue sky after the storm."</i>
337.	oscillate	To swing or move to and fro, as a pendulum <i>"If the area is small enough the fan doesn't need to oscillate."</i>
338.	otitis	Inflammation of the ear <i>"Jeff's earache was diagnosed as a symptom of otitis of the middle ear."</i>
339.	oxymoron	A combination for epigrammatic effect of contradictory words <i>"William feels that the phrase 'jumbo shrimp' is an oxymoron."</i>
340.	pachyderm	One of a group of thick-skinned mammals (as an elephant or rhinoceros) <i>"When the circus came to town, it usually featured at least one pachyderm."</i>
341.	pantomime	The art of conveying things through gestures, without speech <i>"The local theater group will perform a holiday pantomime."</i>
342.	paprika	A red, powdery spice <i>"If we are out of paprika we will sprinkle the stuffed eggs with a little pepper."</i>

343.	parable	A usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle <i>"Ella's Sunday school teacher began every class with a parable."</i>
344.	paraffin	A substance used in candles or to waterproof paper <i>"Candle makers rely heavily on paraffin as a key ingredient."</i>
345.	parfait	A dessert of ice cream and fruit, or ice cream and syrup <i>"It was easy to see the layers of the parfait by the glass it was served in."</i>
346.	parody	A writing in which the language and style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule often with certain peculiarities greatly heightened or exaggerated <i>"Jackie's parody of Mickey Spillane won her first place in the essay contest."</i>
347.	partridge	Any of several game birds belonging to the same subfamily as the bobwhite <i>"A partridge fluttered out of the tall grass and startled Kathy."</i>
348.	patella	The kneecap <i>"Twisting or pulling the patella can be especially painful and take some time to recover from."</i>
349.	pathetic	Someone or something that brings or is capable of bringing about feelings of pity, or sorrow <i>"Sally apologized for the pathetic excuses she gave for not staying in touch with her dear friend."</i>
350.	paunchy	Having a large and protruding belly <i>"The baby panda's paunchy belly made him even more adorable to the visiting children."</i>
351.	pedestrian	A person who goes on foot <i>"While on a crosswalk and following traffic signs, a pedestrian has the right of way when crossing a street."</i>
352.	penguin	Any of various short-legged flightless aquatic birds of the Southern Hemisphere <i>"The zoo gave a birthday party for its oldest penguin."</i>
353.	peninsula	A portion of land nearly surrounded by water and connected with a larger body by an isthmus <i>"Florida is actually a very large peninsula."</i>
354.	pensive	Absorbed or engrossed in or given to sober thoughtfulness <i>"Lori appeared pensive on the last day of vacation."</i>
355.	perceived	Became aware of through the senses <i>"Because of the thick fog, Steve perceived danger and he slowed the car down."</i>
356.	perihelion ,per-ə-'hēl-yən	The point at which a planet is closest to the sun <i>"The perihelion passage has yet to be travelled successfully by a satellite."</i>
357.	perilous	Full of, attended with or involving danger <i>"Walking too close to the edge of the cliff could prove perilous."</i>
358.	periphery	The external boundary of any area <i>"From the island kingdom, Finland has always been in Europe's northern periphery."</i>
359.	perseverance	Doggedness, steadfastness <i>"The perseverance of the shipwreck survivors amazed their rescuers."</i>
360.	personify	To think or speak of (a thing) as having life or personality <i>"Johnny strove to personify the perfect Boy Scout."</i>
361.	pertinacious ,pər-tə-'nā-shəs	Stubbornly unshakable <i>"Julie's pertinacious manner made her someone very reliable."</i>

362.	phalanx 'fā-,lanʒ(k)s 'fa-	A body of heavily armed troops, a massed arrangement of persons, animals, or things <i>"A solid phalanx of white knights stood in front of the castle drawbridge."</i>
363.	phenomenon	An observable rare or significant fact, or event; exceptional, unusual, or abnormal person, thing, or occurrence <i>"Because of a phenomenon known as the Lombard effect, people speak louder in cars to compensate for the background noise of the car."</i>
364.	philologist fə-'lä-lə-jēst fī-	A scholar concerned with human speech as the vehicle of literature and as a field of study that sheds light on cultural history <i>"Hannah wants to become a philologist and study ancient Russian dialects."</i>
365.	piccolo	A small flute sounding an octave higher than an ordinary flute <i>"Everyone was afraid the sound from the piccolo would shatter glass."</i>
366.	picturesque	Visually charming or quaint <i>"We visited the picturesque fishing harbor in the ancient town capital."</i>
367.	piqued 'pēk-d	Excited by a provocation, challenge or rebuff <i>"Perry's loud voice piqued the dogs barking."</i>
368.	pirouette	A whirling about on one foot or on the points of the toes, as in ballet dancing <i>"The dance teacher did not instruct the class on how to perform a pirouette until much later into their training."</i>
369.	plateau	A land area having a relatively level surface considerably raised above adjoining land <i>"She was able to rest from the steep hike when they stopped on the plateau."</i>
370.	platypus	A small egg-laying aquatic mammal of southern and eastern Australia and Tasmania having a fleshy bill resembling that of a duck, dense blackish brown fur, five-toed webbed feet, and a broad flattened tail <i>"Cindy has asked for a platypus for her birthday."</i>
371.	poised	Marked by easy composure of manner or bearing <i>"The poised skater performed her routine with great precision and self-assurance."</i>
372.	pomander 'pō-,man-dər pō-'man-dər	A mixture of perfumed or aromatic substances usually made in a ball and enclosed in a perforated bag or box <i>"Mom's clothes always smelled of the pomander she kept in her closet."</i>
373.	ponderous	Unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size <i>"Roy could barely lift the ponderous ancient weapon."</i>
374.	portentous	Of, relating to, or constituting something that foreshadows; a grave or serious matter; excessive <i>"An eerie and portentous stillness hung over the camp the night before the battle."</i>
375.	possessed	Influenced or controlled by something (as an evil spirit or a passion) <i>"During the race the winning horse ran as if he were possessed."</i>
376.	potentate 'pō-t ^ə n-,tāt	One who possesses great power or sway; ruler <i>"Barry acts more like a potentate than a leader in his role as class president."</i>
377.	praline	A round patty of creamy brown sugar containing pecan meats <i>"The praline is a favorite candy of the southern United States."</i>
378.	precipitated	Caused to move or act very rapidly <i>"The rain precipitated the concert ending early."</i>

379.	preface	The author's introduction to a book usually explaining the object and scope of what follows; a foreword <i>"In her preface, the author explained how she got involved in the study of gorillas."</i>
380.	preferable	Having greater value or desirability <i>"To Ginny, having math class first thing in the morning is preferable to having it in the afternoon."</i>
381.	prevaricate	Deviate from the truth; speak equivocally or evasively; lie <i>"Emmy tends to prevaricate whenever the teacher questions her behavior."</i>
382.	privilege 'priv-lij 'pri-və-lij	A right or immunity granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor; a right or immunity attached specifically to a position or an office <i>"Our high school band had the privilege of being invited to perform at Disneyland."</i>
383.	proprieties	The customs and manners of polite society; conventionally correct behavior <i>"Not one to bother with proprieties, Luke is considered by most people to be downright rude."</i>
384.	psalmody 'sä-mə-dē 'säl- 'so- 'sol	The act, practice, or art of singing sacred songs in worship <i>"Although the New England Puritans did away with church organs and instruments, they kept their psalmody."</i>
385.	pulverized	Destroyed by or as if by smashing into fragments; disintegrated, demolished <i>"The nightly news began with footage of beach homes pulverized by Hurricane Fran."</i>
386.	puritanical	Morally rigorous, strict <i>"MrsLangley is a puritanical woman who tolerates no nonsense from her students."</i>
387.	pyrethrum pī-'rē-thrəm 're-	Any of various chrysanthemums with finely divided and often aromatic leaves <i>"The pyrethrum is a source of a natural insecticide."</i>
388.	quandary	A state of uncertainty <i>"Sam was in a nervous quandary while he waited to see how he did on the test."</i>
389.	quest	An act or instance of search, expedition, pursuit, or venture <i>"Sam shared his lifelong quest for knowledge when he became a teacher."</i>
390.	quizzical	Questioning; curious <i>"The speller's expression became quizzical when hearing the unfamiliar word."</i>
391.	quokka	A stocky Australian reddish or chestnut brown wallaby with a short tail — also called a shorttailed wallaby <i>"Judy's pet quokka wanted to follow her everywhere."</i>
392.	radicchio ra-'di-kē-ō	A chicory of a red variety with variegated leaves that is used as a salad green <i>"Instead of lettuce, Angela always uses radicchio in her salads."</i>
393.	rambunctious	Excessively exuberant; wild; uncontrollable <i>"Nothing pleases a group of rambunctious youngsters more than a good pillow fight."</i>

394.	raspberry	Any of various usually black or red sweet juicy edible berries consisting of numerous small one-seeded fruits crowded upon a fleshy receptacle from which they are easily separated when ripe <i>"The raspberry is highly prized for making jams, preserves, pies and pastries."</i>
395.	ratatouille ,ra-,ta-'twē ,rā-,tā- -'tū-ē	A stew made of eggplant, tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and sometimes meat <i>"Jane used vegetables from her own garden to make the ratatouille."</i>
396.	rebuttal	The act of contradicting <i>"Dennis' convincing rebuttal sent Oscar home in a huff."</i>
397.	recommended	Advised, counseled <i>"Oddly, the waiter recommended the least expensive item."</i>
398.	redoubtable	Inspiring awe or reverence <i>"Mount Rushmore is a fitting memorial to four redoubtable statesmen."</i>
399.	refugee	A person who flees his country in time of upheaval or war <i>"America has always been a haven for the refugee."</i>
400.	reliquary 're-lə-,kwē-ē	A casket, shrine, or container for keeping or exhibiting relics <i>"According to the guidebook, the reliquary contains one of her pet's treats."</i>
401.	repetition	The act or instance of repeating something that one has already spoken <i>"The repetition in the epic poem was anything but boring."</i>
402.	reputed	Held in estimation <i>"Bob is employed by one of the most reputed computer companies in the state."</i>
403.	reservoir	A place where water is collected or stored <i>"They enlarged the reservoir because the town had increased in size."</i>
404.	resolute	Having or characterized by a decided purpose; determined <i>"Jody remained resolute in his decision to resign from the committee."</i>
405.	resplendence	The quality or state of shining brilliantly <i>"The resplendence of the sunset over Loon Lake enticed Eric to stay one more day."</i>
406.	rhapsodic rap-'sä-dik	Ecstatic or extravagantly enthusiastic <i>"The band played a very popular rhapsodic piece."</i>
407.	rhesus 'rē-səs	A pale brown Asian monkey often used in medical research <i>"A rhesus was the first monkey to be rocketed into the stratosphere."</i>
408.	ricotta	A white unripe whey cheese of Italian origin that resembles cottage cheese <i>"Angela's favorite Italian recipe calls for ravioli stuffed with ricotta."</i>
409.	ritual	A prescribed or established procedure <i>"Having a glass of milk before going to bed is a daily ritual for Mary."</i>
410.	roil	To disturb or disquiet <i>"The roil of sand at the bottom of the tidepool made it very hard to see the starfish"</i>
411.	ruminate	Muse upon; contemplate over and over <i>"Luke likes to ruminate in the yard while chewing on a stem of grass."</i>
412.	rumormonger	One that spreads unconfirmed pieces of information <i>"If Joe doesn't learn to hold his tongue, he's going to earn a reputation as a rumormonger."</i>
413.	sagely	In a wise or prudent manner <i>"Vera sagely invested her savings."</i>

414.	salvo	A sudden eruption or explosion (as of laughter, cheers or handclaps) <i>"When the villain met with doom after an intense struggle, the movie theater was filled with a salvo of applause."</i>
415.	sauerkraut	Cabbage allowed to ferment until sour <i>"During the fair her job was to add the sauerkraut mixture to the center of each roll."</i>
416.	savours	Pleasurable to the taste; flavorful <i>"Mabel prepared a savours Thanksgiving dinner for her family."</i>
417.	sciatic sī-'a-tik	Pertaining to the back of the hip <i>"The sciatic pain in her leg caused her to sometimes walk with a limp."</i>
418.	semester	Either of the two periods of instruction commonly 18 weeks in length into which an academic year is usually divided <i>"Tammy was delighted with her grades for the first semester."</i>
419.	sensibility	Awareness of and responsive feeling toward something (as emotion in another) <i>"Joanne's natural sensibility plus her trustworthiness make her the perfect confidante."</i>
420.	sententious sen-'ten(t)-shəs	Terse, aphoristic or moralistic in expression; pithy <i>"The sitcom's drop in popularity was attributed to its growing tendency toward sententious sermonizing."</i>
421.	serendipity	Good fortune or luck <i>"We all have experienced the serendipity of good things happening just when we least expected it."</i>
422.	serenely	In a calm or peaceful manner <i>"The hot air balloon ride was serenely enjoyable."</i>
423.	sermonize	Address at length in a solemn manner <i>"Everyone is hoping that Dad won't find something to sermonize about when he chaperones the school dance."</i>
424.	sheathe	To put a sword into a sheath <i>"Practicing to use a sheathe helped the fencing class master a new skill."</i>
425.	shrewish	Resembling or having the characteristics of an ill-tempered, scolding woman <i>"Because Sara is naturally ill-tempered, she had no difficulty acting the part of the shrewish neighbor."</i>
426.	sibilant	Having, containing or producing the sound of or a sound resembling that of the "s" or the "sh" in sash <i>"She sells sea shells down by the seashore' is a sibilant tongue twister."</i>
427.	silhouette	A two-dimensional representation of the outline of an object <i>"Instead of seeing the silhouette of a plane, he only saw the wing."</i>
428.	simile	A figure of speech where two unlike things are compared, generally by using the word like or as <i>"Sam shares the simile to the class describing his pet dog Spot being like a brick wall."</i>
429.	simultaneous	Occurring or operating at the same time <i>"The simultaneous cooking in both ovens will produce two meals."</i>
430.	siphon	A tube bent into legs of unequal length, for getting liquid from one container to another <i>"Fire engines have equipment that can be used to siphon water from local ponds."</i>

431.	sirenian sī-ˈrē-nē-ən	Any of an order of aquatic herbivorous mammals including the manatee, dugong and Steller's sea cow <i>"The future of the sirenian in Florida is in doubt because of the increasing boat traffic."</i>
432.	skimpiness	The quality or state of being deficient in supply or execution <i>"The skimpiness of Mary's budget did not allow for many luxuries."</i>
433.	slantindicular ,slant-ən-ˈdi-kyə-lər	A blend of slanting and perpendicular <i>"The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade."</i>
434.	sluice	An artificial channel for conducting water <i>"The sluice paddle gate has survived being buried for 30 years."</i>
435.	solarium	A glass-enclosed porch or living room <i>"Lacey moved her sunlight-starved fern from her bedroom to the solarium."</i>
436.	solfatara ,sōl-fə-ˈtār-ə	A volcanic area or vent that yields sulfur gases and hot vapors and represents a late stage of volcanic activity <i>"Harry noticed a rotten-egg odor coming from a solfatara on the north side of the previously inactive volcano."</i>
437.	sonnet	A fixed verse form of Italian origin consisting of 14 lines <i>"Thomas remembered memorizing in high school a sonnet about a prince."</i>
438.	sorbet	A frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits <i>"Jon ate sorbet between his eight course meal to cleanse his palate."</i>
439.	souvenir	A usually inexpensive reminder of a place visited <i>"Fitting each souvenir carefully in our luggage became a challenge."</i>
440.	sovereign	One possessing or held to possess supreme political power; one that exercises supreme authority within a limited sphere; any of various gold coins of the United Kingdom <i>"Under the Articles of Confederation, each state remained more or less a sovereign entity."</i>
441.	spaghetti	A pasta made in solid strings of small diameter but larger than vermicelli <i>"The specialty of the restaurant was spaghetti with meat sauce."</i>
442.	sprawling	Lying or sitting with arms and legs stretched out carelessly or awkwardly <i>"The bucking of the horse sent the cowboy sprawling on the ground."</i>
443.	stationary	Fixed in a place, position, course, or mode <i>"The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position."</i>
444.	stratified	Formed, deposited, or arranged in layers <i>"Mike pointed out the stratified rock formations revealed by erosion."</i>
445.	stratus	The type of gray cloud found at low altitudes and consisting of a uniform layer of water droplets and sometimes ice crystals <i>"The stratus near the foothills was quite visible from the front porch."</i>
446.	sturgeon	A large fish, valued as a source of caviar <i>"Frank and Bill leave tomorrow for their sturgeon fishing expedition."</i>
447.	subpoena	The usual writ for the summoning of witnesses <i>"The couple was not shocked to receive the court subpoena in support of their friend."</i>
448.	succession	The order in which or the conditions under which one person after another succeeds to a property, dignity, title, or throne; a; the act or process of following in order; a number of persons or things that follow each other in sequence <i>"As first in the line of succession, Michael took the throne in 1832."</i>

449.	suffice	Be enough; meet or satisfy a need <i>"After trying several versions of the recipe the chef decided one teaspoonful of salt would suffice for the stew."</i>
450.	sukiyaki	Meat, soybean curd, onions, bamboo shoots and other vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake and sugar <i>"Joyce watched with fascination as the Japanese cook prepared sukiyaki right at the table."</i>
451.	superstitious	Having or based on a belief, conception, act, or practice resulting from ignorance, unreasoning fear of the unknown, or a false conception of causation <i>"Joe is superstitious in his thinking, inventing causes that don't exit."</i>
452.	surrey	A light carriage for four persons <i>"The surrey displayed at the fair was in remarkable condition for its age."</i>
453.	surveillance	A watch kept over a person or group <i>"Some dedicated shoppers appear to keep their favorite store on surveillance for sales."</i>
454.	taciturnity 'ta-sə-,tərn-ə-tē	The quality or state of being disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse <i>"Gene and Leo's taciturnity about the cause of the scuffle resulted in a trip to the principal's office."</i>
455.	talisman	An object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune <i>"Bill showed us his rabbit's foot, which he claimed was an effective talisman."</i>
456.	tambourine	A small drum consisting of a circular frame with skin stretched over it and several pairs of metal jingles attached <i>"Almost every popular band of the 60's era had a tambourine player."</i>
457.	tangential tan-'jen(t)-shəl	Being in the direction of a line touching at a single point <i>"Jack graphed the equation of a line tangential to the circle."</i>
458.	tapir 'tā-pər 'tā-,pīr tə-'pīr	Any of a genus of chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals of tropical America and Myanmar to Sumatra that have the snout and upper lip prolonged into a short flexible proboscis <i>"The tapir is both a browser and a grazer."</i>
459.	tariff	A schedule of duties (fees) imposed by a government on imported or exported goods <i>"The tariff on steel imports has been removed."</i>
460.	tattletale	One that blabs or tells secrets <i>"Erica's title is 'social reporter,' but Bob considers her a tattletale."</i>
461.	taut	Drawn to the limit; not slack; high-strung <i>"Dad instructed his young daughter to keep her fishing line taut to feel any fish biting."</i>
462.	tenacious	Holding fast <i>"Lions are extremely tenacious, often chasing their prey to the end."</i>
463.	tenement	A single room or set of rooms for use by one tenant or family; apartment, flat <i>"Polly grew up in a tenement on the west side of the city."</i>
464.	terrarium	A usually transparent enclosure for keeping or raising plants or usually small animals (as turtles) indoors <i>"Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium."</i>
465.	testimony	A solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official <i>"According to Victoria's testimony, she had just returned from vacation when she discovered that the statue was missing."</i>

466.	thermometer	An instrument for determining temperature “The thermometer giving a temperature reading from one's ear is now used widely.”
467.	thesaurus	A dictionary of synonyms and antonyms “It is common for a teacher to recommend that every student own a dictionary and thesaurus .”
468.	titanic	Colossal, gigantic “World War II brought political change on a titanic scale to Europe.”
469.	tobacco	The leaves of a plant of the genus Nicotiana prepared and processed for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff “At an early age, Amy vowed never to use tobacco .”
470.	tonsillectomy	The operation removing one or both tonsils “The doctor performed the tonsillectomy yesterday so Bill had time to recover before his planned vacation.”
471.	topography	The art or practice of graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations “Identifying the remote missile sites will require an expert in topography .”
472.	toupee	A man's wig “Paul wore a toupee , and it was so natural that most did not know it wasn't his own hair.”
473.	trachea	The windpipe “Oxygen is transported through the body by tiny tubes called trachea .”
474.	traversed	Moved to and fro over or along “Jim serenely traversed the frozen pond in his new ice skates.”
475.	triumph	An occasion of victory especially such as to elicit satisfaction, exultation, or acclaim; a decisive victory “The champion speller's triumph was rewarded with several prizes.”
476.	umbrella	A small portable usually cloth canopy that is fastened to a frame with hinged ribs radiating from a center pole, has a circular convex shape when open, can be opened or closed by means of a sliding catch, and provides protection against the weather “Jack loses, on average, one umbrella every six months.”
477.	unanimous	Being of one mind; agreeing in opinion, design, or determination “The advice given the candidate by those in his confidence was unanimous .”
478.	unconscious	To be without awareness or cognition “He was unconscious of his habit to tap the desk during phone calls.”
479.	uncouth	Lacking in polish and grace “Last night we watched a movie about turning an uncouth high school student into a princess.”
480.	unfavorable	Opposed, contrary “Lisa decided the time was unfavorable for her to tell her mother the news.”
481.	valiantly	In a brave or bold manner courageously “Debby tried valiantly to swim the English Channel.”
482.	vehemence ‘vē-ə-mən(t)s	Frenzy or fervor “The entire audience showed their vehemence in reciting the pledge.”
483.	vellication vəl- ə-‘kā-,shən	The act of twitching or of causing to twitch “While dissecting a frog in biology class, Sam noticed vellication of the legs.”

484.	verbatim	Word for word; in the same words “Mary can recite the entire Gettysburg Address verbatim .”
485.	verbosity	The excessive use of words “Because Jan had a penchant for verbosity , her essays were twice as long as those of her classmates.”
486.	vermicelli	A form of pasta “The recipe noted to cook the vermicelli in hot water for 3-4 minutes.”
487.	versatile	Having a wide range of skills, aptitudes, or interests “Hannah is a versatile athlete, having participated in many different sports.”
488.	vertebra	The bones composing the spinal column “The chi machine can adjust the whole spine all the way up to the cervical vertebra .”
489.	vertiginate	Whirl dizzily around; twirl “Young children love to vertiginate until they fall down.”
490.	vicissitude	An unpredictable change in your luck or circumstances “Because of the vicissitude in the weather this time of year, it is difficult to plan extended travel.”
491.	vintage	Marked by an advanced age; dating from the past; archaic “On eBay Don found a vintage automobile that was the perfect specimen for his next restoration project.”
492.	viscount	A nobleman just below an Earl or Count “Promotion fees would only be paid as the barons became viscounts .”
493.	vorago və'rá,gō	An engulfing chasm; abyss “Before he knew it, Jack had crossed the bridge over the vorago .”
494.	vulnerable	Capable of being wounded; defenseless against injury “Maggie's sensitive nature made her vulnerable to cross remarks.”
495.	widgeon	A common, freshwater duck “Julie was excited to see the widgeon diving for fish on the lake.”
496.	wield	To exercise power or authority “He decided to wield the opportunity to compliment the waitress.”
497.	woebegone	Exhibiting a condition of suffering, great distress, sorrow, or misery “The children's woebegone faces began to brighten as they saw the ice cream and cookies.”
498.	wrestle	Contend by grappling with and striving to trip or throw down an opponent “Bobby and Alan often wrestle on the living room floor even though their mother forbids them from doing it.”
499.	wretched	Deeply distressed or unhappy, miserable, dismal “After the flood, the whole neighborhood looked wretched .”
500.	yokel	An unpolished, naïve, or gullible inhabitant of a rural area or of a small town “The theater group performed a comedy about the misadventures of a yokel in the big city.”