

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

Senior General Level 2

abet

(say uh-**bet**)

verb to help or encourage in committing something, usually something bad:

The children were wrong to aid and abet each other in the deception.

actual

(say **ak**-chooh-uhl)

adjective real or true:

The actual results of the survey won't be known for two more days.

agency

(say **ay**-juhn-see)

noun an organisation which acts on behalf of other people:

Monica set up an agency to find publishers for writers.

astray

(say uh-**stray**)

adverb away from the proper path:

He was led astray by the promise of great rewards.

battery

(say **bat**-uh-ree or **bat**-ree)

noun a container which stores electricity:

I couldn't find the right battery for the torch.

beneath

(say buh-**neeth**)

adverb below, or underneath:

Martha hid beneath the table in a game of hide and seek.

bogus

(say **boh**-guhs)

adjective not real or true:

He used a bogus name to conceal his real identity.

capsule

(say **kap**-shoohl)

noun a very small container that has powdered medicine inside it:

Mum prefers to take medication in the form of a capsule rather than a tablet.

chafe

(say chayf)

verb to wear down or make sore by rubbing:

The handcuffs started to chafe against the prisoner's wrists.

civil

(say **siv**-uhl)

adjective polite or courteous, although perhaps not particularly friendly:

She's not overly friendly, but she's always been perfectly civil to me.

compass

(say **kum**-puhs)

noun an instrument with a magnetic needle pointing to north which is used to find directions:

We always take a compass with us when we go walking in the bush.

contort

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kuhn-**tawt**)

verb to twist something out of shape:

Try not to contort your face when you eat Grandma's quiche.

courage

(say **ku**-rij)

noun the strength a person has inside them to do something they find frightening:

She showed great courage when she saved the child from the fire.

crumb

(say krum)

noun a small piece of bread, cake or other dry food:

We watched as the ant struggled under the weight of a crumb.

damage

(say **dam**-ij)

verb to harm or spoil something:

Eating too much sweet food can damage your teeth.

debt

(say det)

noun anything that you owe someone else:

He has paid back all his loans and does not have a single debt.

despair

(say duh-**spair**)

noun a feeling of hopelessness:

She looked with despair at the still smouldering remains of her home.

drawer

(say draw)

noun a container shaped like a box that slides in and out of furniture such as cupboards or desks:

I keep my pens in the top drawer.

earnest

(say **er**-nuhst)

adjective serious or sincere:

Is she earnest about wanting to play the violin?

embellish

(say em-**bel**-ish)

verb To **embellish** something is to make it beautiful by decorating it:

They used precious jewels to embellish the crown.

except

(say uhk-**sept**)

preposition leaving or taking out:

Everyone went to the beach except Sam, who was sick.

explode

(say uhk-**splohd**)

verb to blow up or burst into pieces with a loud noise:

We watched the fireworks explode over the water and make a beautiful display of colours.

federal

(say **fed**-uh-ruhl or **fed**-ruhl)

adjective relating to a union of states under a central government:

Australia has a federal government.

firebreak

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(say **fuy**-uh-brayk)

noun a strip of land which has been cleared of grass and trees to stop a fire from spreading:

The firebreak was a sensible precaution against bushfires.

fondue

(say **fon**-doooh or **fon**-dyoooh)

noun a meal cooked at the table in which pieces of food are speared on the end of long forks and cooked in melted cheese or hot oil:

Fondue is a popular way of eating in Switzerland.

frequent

(say **free**-kwuhnt)

adjective happening often:

The charity makes frequent appeals for donations.

gecko

(say **gek**-oh)

noun a small lizard which is active at night, with special pads on its toes which help it stick to things:

We shone a torch up the tree and spotted a gecko high up the trunk.

giraffe

(say juh-**rahf**)

noun an African animal with spots, a very long neck and long legs:

A giraffe can reach the leaves that other animals can't.

handful

(say **hand**-full)

noun as much or as many as the hand can contain:

Billy picked up a handful of peanuts as he walked out of the kitchen.

hazard

(say **haz**-uhd)

noun a risk or danger:

The hole in the footpath is a hazard for pedestrians.

justice

(say **jus**-tuhs)

noun the quality of being just and fair:

It is important to uphold justice in a society.

kneel

(say neel)

verb To **kneel** is to go down on your knees:

Could you please kneel down and see if my book is under the chair?

metallic

(say muh-**tal**-ik)

adjective relating to or consisting of metal:

There was a loud metallic clang as my keys fell down the drain.

opinion

(say uh-**pin**-yuhn)

noun what you think or decide:

In my opinion, we should have more sport at school.

ordinary

(say **aw**-duhn-ree)

adjective If something is **ordinary**, it is usual or normal:

Emily didn't have any news because she had had a very ordinary day.

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particle

(say **pah**-tik-uhl)

noun a very tiny piece or amount:

A particle of dust flew into her eye.

patient

(say **pay**-shuhnt)

adjective If you are **patient**, you are willing to wait calmly for something to happen:

If you are patient, you might see a platypus.

practical

(say **prak**-tik-uhl)

adjective If something is **practical**, it has to do with actually doing things, rather than with ideas:

You need practical skills to do this job.

reindeer

(say **rayn**-dear)

noun a kind of deer with large antlers:

The reindeer lives in the cold northern areas of the world.

scheme

(say skeem)

noun a plan of action:

The children worked out a scheme for raising money.

slather

(say **sladh**-uh)

verb to use thickly or in large quantities:

Before we were allowed to go to the beach we had to slather on lots of sunscreen.

strength

(say strength)

noun the quality of being strong:

He did a lot of exercises to increase the strength of his muscles.

tempt

(say temt)

verb If you **tempt** someone, you try to make them do something that is wrong:

Don't tempt me into going to the movies, as I've got too much work to do.

torpedo

(say taw-**pee**-doh)

noun (plural **torpedoes**)

a cigar-shaped missile containing explosives, which can travel by itself under water when fired by a submarine:

The torpedo struck the stern of the ship.

turnstile

(say **tern**-stuy1)

noun a turning gate that allows one person to pass at a time:

Only one person could go through the turnstile at a time.

udder

(say **ud**-uh)

noun the part of the body which produces milk in some female animals, such as cows and goats, usually hanging and bag-like and with more than one teat:

On our visit to the dairy farm we were shown how to draw milk from an udder.

virtue

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(say **ver**-chooh)

noun a good quality:

The debate was about whether cleanliness or honesty was the most important virtue.

voucher

(say **vow**-chuh)

noun a piece of paper that shows what you are entitled to receive:

Each club was given a \$200 voucher to buy new sports equipment.

wireless

(say **wuy**-uh-luhs)

adjective not using telephone lines, cables, etc:

Wireless technology allows people the freedom to sit in a shady park and access the internet.

yearling

(say **year**-ling)

noun an animal one year old or in the second year of its age:

The horse had arrived in Australia as a yearling from Ireland.

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Senior General Level 3

aboriginal

(say ab-uh-**ri**j-uh-nuhl)

adjective having to do with the earliest inhabitants of a country:

The Inuit is the name given to the aboriginal people of Alaska in the USA.

accidental

(say ak-suh-**den**-tuhl)

adjective happening by accident or by chance:

Turning up to the party in the same outfit as my best friend was purely accidental.

accountant

(say uh-**kown**-tuhnt)

noun someone whose job is to examine and record all the money that is earned and spent in a business:

It is important to be good at maths if you want to be an accountant.

accurate

(say **ak**-yuh-ruht)

adjective Something is **accurate** if it is exact:

Her first shot was accurate and hit the centre of the dartboard.

adept

(say uh-**dept**)

adjective skilful:

He is a reasonably adept tennis player.

admirable

(say **ad**-muh-ruh-buhl)

adjective so good that you admire it:

We thought that the marathon runner put in an admirable effort.

adversity

(say uhd-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun hardship or misfortune:

The drought is a time of great adversity for farmers.

agenda

(say uh-**jen**-duh)

noun the list or plan of what has to be done or talked about, especially at a meeting:

They reserved the issue of junk food for the next meeting's agenda.

alibi

(say **al**-uh-buy)

noun a defence by someone that they were somewhere else when a crime was committed:

Geoffrey was no longer considered a suspect because he had an alibi.

angular

(say **ang**-gyuh-luh)

adjective having a pointed or sharp shape like an angle:

Her sharp, angular features had softened as she aged.

apparent

(say uh-**pa**-ruhnt)

adjective able to be seen or understood:

Her red face made it apparent that she was embarrassed.

arduous

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(say **ah**-jooh-uhs)

adjective needing a lot of hard work:

Alice complained about the arduous walk home up the hill.

aromatic

(say a-ruh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having a pleasant smell:

We used an aromatic oil in our oil burner.

assertive

(say uh-**ser**-tiv)

adjective given to asserting; positive; dogmatic:

She liked her employees to be assertive, but not too pushy.

banquet

(say **bang**-kwuht)

noun a large formal dinner for many guests, usually held for a special occasion:

The visiting president attended a banquet at Parliament House.

bazaar

(say buh-**zah**)

noun a market with stalls selling many different kinds of goods:

We bought some colourful scarves at the bazaar.

boycott

(say **boy**-kot)

verb If you **boycott** something, you refuse to go to it:

She decided to boycott the meeting as a protest against the new policy.

brochure

(say **broh**-shuh)

noun a small book with a paper cover, containing information or advertisements:

The travel agent offered me a brochure about my hotel.

budget

(say **buj**-uht)

noun a plan showing what money you will earn and how you will spend it:

I've got a budget so that I can save up for a new bike.

bureau

(say **byooh**-roh)

noun a government office where people can get information:

We went to the tourist bureau to get a map of the area.

bypass

(say **buy**-pahs)

noun a road built to take traffic around the edge rather than through a town or a busy traffic area:

We had to use the bypass because there was an accident on the main road.

calamari

(say kal-uh-**mah**-ree)

noun squid when it is used as food:

I love crumbed calamari with chips.

callous

(say **kal**-uhs)

adjective showing no concern for another person's feelings:

Ignoring his cry for help was both callous and cruel.

carafe

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(say kuh-**rahf**)

noun a glass bottle used for serving water, wine or fruit juice at a meal:

The waiter poured the wine into a carafe before serving it.

ceiling

(say **see**-ling)

noun the inside lining that covers the top of a room:

An old chandelier hung from the ceiling.

cellular

(say **sel**-yuh-luh)

adjective relating to a cell:

Using a microscope, we could see the cellular structure of the leaf.

census

(say **sen**-suhs)

noun an official recording of all the people who live in a place or country to gather information about them:

The government conducts a census of the whole country every five years.

chemist

(say **kem**-uhst)

noun A **chemist** is someone whose job is to make and sell medicines:

The chemist sold Sarah a new medicine for headaches.

cheque

(say chek)

noun a written order asking a bank to pay a certain amount of money to a particular person:

He wrote out a cheque for the full amount.

citizen

(say **sit**-uh-zuhn)

noun a member of a nation who has certain rights and duties:

A baby born to Australian parents is automatically an Australian citizen.

cleanse

(say klenz)

verb When you **cleanse** something, you make it clean or pure:

The nurse started to cleanse the wound with a mild antiseptic.

coleslaw

(say **kohl**-slaw)

noun a salad made with sliced raw cabbage:

We always have coleslaw when we have a barbecue.

colleague

(say **kol**-eeg)

noun someone you work with:

She had a meeting with a colleague to discuss the new plans.

commodity

(say kuh-**moh**-duh-tee)

noun something useful, especially something that is bought and sold:

With the internet, information has become a commodity.

condemn

(say kuhn-**dem**)

verb If you **condemn** someone or something, you strongly express your disapproval of them:

The government moved quickly to condemn the actions of the vandals.

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consulate

(say **kon**-syuh-luht)

noun the offices of a consul, who is a representative of a foreign government:

Before flying to Beijing, we had to get our visas from the Chinese consulate.

contradict

(say kon-truh-**dikt**)

verb If you **contradict** someone, you say the opposite to what they have just said:

Whatever he says, you contradict him.

coroner

(say **kor**-uh-nuh)

noun an official who is in charge of trying to discover the cause of sudden or unexplained deaths:

There was insufficient evidence so the coroner called the death an accident.

courier

(say **koo**-ree-uh)

noun someone who carries messages or parcels for others:

A courier delivered the important documents.

currency

(say **ku**-ruhn-see)

noun the type of money in current use in a country:

He changed his American dollars into Australian currency.

decoy

(say **dee**-koy)

noun something or someone that tricks you, especially into danger or into a trap:

The police used a sports car as a decoy to catch the car thieves.

delicacy

(say **del**-uh-kuh-see)

noun a tasty or expensive food:

Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.

depot

(say **dep**-oh)

noun a place where buses or trams are kept:

By midnight all the buses were back at the depot.

detergent

(say duh-**ter**-juhnt)

noun powder or liquid used for cleaning:

We always try to buy environmentally friendly dishwashing detergent.

dexterity

(say deks-**te**-ruh-tee)

noun skill or cleverness, especially in using your hands:

It takes great dexterity to juggle three balls.

diesel

(say **dee**-zuhl)

noun a type of fuel used in some cars, trucks, boats and other machines:

This truck runs on diesel, not petrol.

dilemma

(say duh-**lem**-uh or duy-**lem**-uh)

noun a difficult situation in which you have to choose between two different things:

His dilemma was that if he went to the football game he would miss the party.

dinosaur

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(say **duyn**-uh-saw)

noun any of a number of very large lizard-like animals which died out millions of years ago:

The brontosaurus was a herbivorous dinosaur.

dissect

(say duh-**sekt** or duy-**sekt**)

verb to cut something up carefully to examine it:

In our science class we watched the teacher dissect a sheep's heart to show us how it worked.

dungeon

(say **dun**-juhn)

noun a dark, small prison or cell, usually underground:

The soldiers were held captive in the cold, dark dungeon of the castle.

dynasty

(say **din**-uh-stee)

noun a series of rulers who are members of the same family:

The Ming dynasty ruled in China for hundreds of years.

embargo

(say em-**bah**-goh)

noun an order, usually made by a government against trade of some kind:

The world cannot afford to impose an embargo on oil exports.

emphatic

(say em-**fat**-ik)

adjective showing or highlighting the importance of something:

The manager's instruction to the staff was emphatic -- we should arrive at work on time.

engineer

(say en-juh-**near**)

noun someone who is trained to design and build things and to use machinery:

His father was an engineer who designed roads and bridges.

enzyme

(say en-zuym)

noun a protein in the body which produces a chemical change:

Each enzyme aids the digestion of food in the stomach.

epidemic

(say ep-uh-**dem**-ik)

noun a lot of cases of an illness in a short period of time:

Before vaccinations, an epidemic of flu could kill thousands of people.

exceed

(say uhk-**seed**)

verb To **exceed** is to go outside a limit of some kind:

Mum was careful not to exceed the speed limit on the expressway.

existence

(say uhg-**zis**-tuhns or ig-**zis**-tuhns)

noun the state or fact of existing; being:

That house is no longer in existence.

extremity

(say uhk-**strem**-uh-tee or ek-**strem**-uh-tee)

noun the extreme point or part of something:

The lighthouse was located at the furthest extremity of the promontory.

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faculty

(say **fak**-uhl-tee)

noun (plural **faculties**)

one of the powers that you are born with:

Hearing and sight are very important faculties.

fatigue

(say fuh-**teeg**)

noun severe mental or physical tiredness:

The rescued bushwalkers were suffering from fatigue.

fiasco

(say fee-**ass**-koh)

noun an embarrassing or ridiculous failure:

Without a net the game of beach volleyball was a complete fiasco.

fibre

(say **fuy**-buh)

noun the part of food that cannot be digested, but is very good for you:

Baked beans are full of fibre.

flamboyant

(say flam-**boy**-uhnt)

adjective dazzlingly bright and showy:

The peacock is known for its flamboyant display.

foreign

(say **fo**-ruhn)

adjective Someone or something **foreign** is from a country other than your own:

Can you speak any foreign languages?

fracas

(say **frak**-ah or **frak**-uhs)

noun a noisy disturbance or fight:

The police were called to break up the fracas outside parliament.

frolic

(say **frol**-ik)

noun happy play:

The puppies were having a frolic on the grass.

gnash

(say nash)

verb If you **gnash** your teeth, you grind them together noisily, usually because you are angry or upset:

Lions gnash their teeth when they are disturbed.

gourd

(say gawd)

noun the shell of a climbing plant's fruit, dried and used as a bottle, bowl or container:

The gourd was filled with rainwater.

gracious

(say **gray**-shuhs)

adjective showing kindness and good manners:

They were gracious enough to invite him in despite his shabby appearance.

gruelling

(say **grooh**-uh-ling)

adjective very tiring:

Cycling up the steep mountain was a gruelling part of the race.

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haggard

(say **hag**-uhd)

adjective looking worn out from hunger, sickness or worry:

The worry of her husband's illness had left her looking haggard.

havoc

(say **hav**-uhk)

noun great damage or destruction:

The cyclone caused havoc all along the coast.

heifer

(say **hef**-uh)

noun a young cow that has not had a calf:

There was only one heifer in the herd of cows.

herbicide

(say **herb**-uh-suyd)

noun a chemical that kills plants:

As an organic farmer, he was determined not to use any herbicide.

hydrant

(say **huy**-druhnt)

noun a point where a hose can be connected to a water main:

Every fire hydrant in our area has been marked.

incisor

(say in-**suy**-zuh)

noun a tooth in the front part of the jaw, used for cutting or biting:

When the ball hit her in the mouth, her left incisor was knocked loose.

inquest

(say in-**kwest**)

noun an official examination of the facts surrounding a death, to try to find out how the death occurred:

The coroner ordered an inquest into the death.

insomnia

(say in-**som**-nee-uh)

noun a condition in which you have difficulty sleeping:

Insomnia can lead to lack of concentration and weariness.

interfere

(say in-tuh-**fear**)

verb If you **interfere** in something that has to do with other people, you say or do things that have to do with it, although they do not want you to:

We could have finished this work already if you didn't always interfere.

iodine

(say **uy**-uh-deen)

noun a chemical element which can be used as an antiseptic to clean cuts or sores:

The nurse put iodine on my cut to kill the germs.

jaundice

(say **jawn**-duhs)

noun a disease in which the skin and the whites of the eyes become yellow:

The jaundice was easy to diagnose because his skin was yellow.

juror

(say **joo**h-ruh or **joo**h-uh-ruh)

noun a member of a jury:

He was selected as a juror for the next court case.

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kimono

(say **kim**-uh-noh or kuh-**moh**-noh)

noun a wide-sleeved Japanese robe which is tied at the waist:

My friend brought me back a red silk kimono from Tokyo.

lacerate

(say **lass**-uh-rayt)

verb to tear roughly or cut:

There are sharp rocks on the reef that could lacerate your feet.

lattice

(say **lat**-uhs)

noun a frame made of crossed wooden strips, used as a screen or as a support for plants:

The lattice was covered in jasmine.

ledger

(say **lej**-uh)

noun an account book used to record money that is paid out and paid in:

The accountant tallied the figures in a leather-bound ledger.

legume

(say **leg**-yoohm)

noun any of a family of flowering plants which have pods as fruits, such as peas, beans, and so on:

They planted green peas and other legumes in the vegetable patch.

leopard

(say **lep**-uhd)

noun a large, fierce, spotted animal of the cat family:

I would not like to meet a leopard in the dark.

lichen

(say **luy**-kuhn)

noun a moss-like plant that grows in patches, usually on rocks or tree trunks:

The lichen on the rocks made a pretty pattern.

loathe

(say lohdh)

verb If you **loathe** someone or something, you hate them:

I loathe washing up.

lustre

(say **lust**-uh)

noun a soft shine:

Satin has a beautiful lustre.

lychee

(say **luy**-chee)

noun a small Chinese fruit with a thin shell covering a sweet jelly-like pulp:

He peeled the lychee and popped it into his mouth.

mackerel

(say **mak**-uh-ruhl)

noun a shiny, greenish fish which is used for food:

The mackerel was served with chips and a wedge of lemon.

maize

(say mayz)

noun a tall cereal plant with heads of yellow grain:

We had a bumper maize crop this year.

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mammoth

(say **mam**-uhth)

noun a type of large, hairy elephant with long, curved tusks, that died out a long time ago:

The cave painting depicted a mammoth and a sabre-toothed tiger fighting.

marzipan

(say **mah**-zuh-pan)

noun a sweet made of crushed almonds and sugar:

The wedding cake was covered with a layer of marzipan.

meagre

(say **mee**-guh)

adjective small and not enough to satisfy:

To cut down on the amount we had to carry, we took only meagre supplies on our camp.

measles

(say **mee**-zuhlz)

noun a type of infectious disease occurring mostly in children, with a fever and rash:

Many children are vaccinated against measles these days.

medicine

(say **med**-uh-suhn or **med**-suhn)

noun a substance used in treating sickness:

Take some cough medicine and you'll feel better.

merciless

(say **mers**-uh-luhs)

adjective without mercy or pity:

It was a merciless attack on a village full of innocent people.

minimum

(say **min**-uh-muhm)

noun the smallest number or amount possible:

You need a minimum of ten test tubes to complete this experiment.

mohair

(say **moh**-hair)

noun fabric made from the coat of an Angora goat:

I wear my mohair jumper when I'm really cold.

momentum

(say muh-**men**-tuhm)

noun the force with which something is moving:

It was hard to stop the billycart once it had picked up momentum.

mosque

(say mosk)

noun a place of worship for Muslims:

We had to take off our shoes when we went into the mosque.

mussel

(say **mus**-uhl)

noun a type of shellfish which has two black shells hinged together, and which you can eat:

At the beach we climbed across the rocks and I cut my foot on a mussel.

negligent

(say **neg**-luh-juhnt)

adjective If someone is **negligent**, they do not take enough care over what they are

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doing:

She was negligent in looking after the dog and he ran away.

neutral

(say **nyoooh**-truhl)

adjective If someone remains **neutral** in a discussion or debate, they do not enter into the argument:

She took a neutral position in the discussion, refusing to take sides.

newsagency

(say **nyooohz**-ay-juhn-see)

noun A newsagency is a shop where you can buy newspapers, pens, magazines and books:

The newsagency opens early in the morning for people who want to read their paper on the way to work.

nonplussed

(say non-**plust**)

adjective puzzled:

The speaker was nonplussed when the audience started to shout at her.

occupy

(say **ok**-yuh-puy)

verb

If you **occupy** yourself in doing something, that is how you spend your time:

My grandfather used to occupy himself with calligraphy.

omission

(say oh-**mish**-uhn or uh-**mish**-uhn)

noun the act or fact of failing to include something:

The omission of your name from the invitation list was just an oversight.

opportune

(say **op**-uh-choohn)

adjective Formal favourable or appropriate:

She waited for an opportune moment to interrupt the discussion.

ostrich

(say **os**-trich)

noun a large bird with long legs, that lives in Africa:

An ostrich can run fast, but it cannot fly.

ottoman

(say **ot**-uh-muhn)

noun a low padded seat without a back or arms:

He chose to sit on the ottoman instead of the armchair.

paprika

(say **pap**-ri-kuh or puh-**pree**-kuh)

noun powder made from a red pepper, used as a spice:

Paprika spiced up the casserole.

paraffin

(say **pa**-ruh-fuhn)

noun in chemistry, any one of a series of saturated hydrocarbons:

We watched a video on how candles are made from paraffin.

pastime

(say **pahs**-tuym)

noun something you do to make time pass pleasantly:

The best pastime at the beach is looking in rock pools.

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pathology

(say puh-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of body tissues or blood, using laboratory tests, to find out what is wrong with someone:

The doctors are waiting for the pathology results before deciding how to treat the patient.

peculiar

(say puh-**kyooh**-lyuh)

adjective If someone or something is **peculiar**, they are strange or unusual:

What is that peculiar smell? It's a bit like burning rubber.

perceptive

(say puh-**sep**-tiv)

adjective quick in perceiving:

His perceptive answer showed that he had summed up the situation immediately.

periphery

(say puh-**rif**-uh-ree)

noun the outside edge of an area or thing:

Police officers stood around the periphery of the crowd.

perishable

(say **pe**-rish-uh-buhl)

adjective likely to decay quickly:

Perishable food should be kept in the refrigerator.

pewter

(say **pyooh**-tuh)

noun a special mix of metals, including tin, used for making dishes and so on:

We gave Dad a special mug made from pewter for his birthday.

phantom

(say **fan**-tuhm)

noun an image appearing in a dream or in the mind only:

The diplodocus he saw walking down the street was really just a phantom.

pittance

(say **pit**-uhns)

noun a very small amount of money:

They were existing on a pittance and could not afford new clothes.

plaque

(say plahk)

noun a metal plate, such as one fastened to a wall, with a name, profession or memorial date on it:

A plaque on the gatepost commemorated the soldiers who had died in the war.

pliable

(say **pluy**-uh-buhl)

adjective flexible or easily bent:

He rubbed oil into the leather until it was soft and pliable.

polyester

(say pol-ee-**es**-tuh)

noun a synthetic material:

These sheets are made of a mixture of polyester and cotton.

possessive

(say puh-**zes**-iv)

adjective wanting to possess or control something or someone all by yourself:

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The collector was possessive of all his model ships and wouldn't let anyone touch them.

precinct

(say **pree**-singkt)

noun a place or area with definite limits:

There is a post office in the shopping precinct.

precision

(say pruh-**sizh**-uhn)

noun exactness; accuracy:

The gymnast had to perform his routine with precision or else he would lose points.

prehistoric

(say pree-his-**to**-rik)

adjective belonging to the time before history was written or records were kept:

We can find out about prehistoric times by examining fossils.

prestige

(say pres-**teezh**)

noun high reputation or standing:

He thought the expensive car would add to his prestige.

prevalent

(say **prev**-uh-luhnt)

adjective widespread:

Snakes seem to be more prevalent this summer.

prognosis

(say prog-**noh**-suhs)

noun a doctor's opinion on how a disease will develop:

The doctor gave her a good prognosis.

prominent

(say **prom**-uh-nuhnt)

adjective If something is **prominent**, it is very noticeable:

The posters were placed in prominent positions around the city.

protective

(say pruh-**tek**-tiv)

adjective having the quality of, or designed for, protecting:

I always put a protective coating on my shoes so they won't mark.

proviso

(say pruh-**vuyz**-oh)

noun (plural **provisos**)

a condition or stipulation:

His parents told him he could have a dog on the proviso that he looked after it.

pumice

(say **pum**-uhs)

noun a light, spongy form of volcanic stone used for rubbing or smoothing things:

Pumice can be used for smoothing dry skin.

pungent

(say **pun**-juhnt)

adjective having a sharp taste or smell:

The pungent odour of acid hurt my nostrils.

putrid

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(say **pyooh**-truhd)

adjective decaying or rotten, especially when having a horrible smell:

The food we left in the fridge was putrid when we got back from our holidays.

quarry

(say **kwo**-ree)

noun (plural **quarries**)

a large, open pit where stone used for building is got out of the ground:

Large trucks transported chunks of marble from the quarry.

radiation

(say ray-dee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the sending and spreading out of rays, particles or waves, especially by a radioactive substance:

The nuclear tests have exposed many people to harmful radiation.

rampage

(say **ram**-payj)

noun violent or angry behaviour:

The mob's rampage ended suddenly.

rancid

(say **ran**-suhd)

adjective having a sour, unpleasant smell or taste from lack of freshness:

We caught some yabbies using rancid meat as bait.

recipe

(say **res**-uh-pee)

noun instructions on how to cook something:

We followed the recipe exactly and made the best lamingtons ever.

reckless

(say **rek**-luhs)

adjective If someone is **reckless**, they do not care about danger to the point where it is foolish:

Some of his sailing exploits have made him seem reckless.

redundant

(say ruh-**dun**-duhnt)

adjective If an employee is made **redundant**, they are dismissed from their job because the employer no longer needs someone to do that job:

Norman was made redundant because a computer could do his work in a fraction of the time.

refrigerate

(say ruh-**frij**-uh-rayt)

verb To **refrigerate** food is to keep it cold or frozen to keep it from going bad:

Food lasts much longer if you refrigerate it.

reluctant

(say ruh-**luk**-tuhnt)

adjective If you are **reluctant** to do something, you do not want to do it:

We were reluctant to go out because it was so cold.

renovate

(say **ren**-uh-vayt)

verb To **renovate** something is to repair it or bring back it to good condition:

We plan to renovate the new house before we move in.

replenish

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(say ruh-**plen**-ish)

verb If you **replenish** a supply, you refill or restore it:

We had to replenish the paper supply for the printer.

republic

(say ruh-**pub**-lik)

noun A **republic** is a country which does not have a king or queen as its leader.

Usually the leader of the country is a president who is chosen by the people:

Australia is not a republic but the United States is.

resolution

(say rez-uh-**looh**-shuhn)

noun a decision, especially one made by a group or committee:

The new resolution means that after-school care will be free.

reticent

(say **re**-tuh-suhnt)

adjective not inclined to speak freely:

She seemed very reticent on the topic of where the money had come from.

ricotta

(say ruh-**kot**-uh)

noun a soft fresh white cheese with a delicate flavour:

My father likes to eat ricotta with pears and apples.

rummage

(say **rum**-ij)

verb If you **rummage**, you search by moving everything around:

She started to rummage through her bag for her lost keys.

scavenge

(say **skav**-uhnj)

verb to search through rubbish to find something you can take and use:

We watched the ants scavenge among the decaying fruit.

scrutiny

(say **skrooh**-tuh-nee)

noun close examination:

The procedures at the mine were under scrutiny after the accident.

semblance

(say **sem**-bluhns)

noun *Formal* an appearance or likeness:

She tried to arrange her thoughts into some semblance of order.

serpentine

(say **ser**-puhn-tuyn)

adjective moving in a winding course, like a snake:

We had to drive more slowly on the serpentine roads because there were so many turns.

settee

(say set-ee)

noun a long, padded seat for two or more people, with a back and two sides:

Marissa and her dog cuddled up on the settee.

shepherd

(say **shep**-uhd)

noun someone who looks after sheep:

A shepherd has a lonely job, with only the sheep and his dogs for company.

sinuous

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(say **sin**-yooh-uhs)

adjective winding like a snake:

We followed the sinuous course of the old river bed.

skewer

(say **skyoo**h-uh)

noun a long pin of wood or metal, especially one for holding meat while it is being cooked:

Each of us threaded pieces of meat and vegetables onto our own skewer.

solicitor

(say suh-**lis**-uh-tuh)

noun a lawyer who advises people about legal matters and prepares cases to be presented in court:

We consulted a solicitor when we wanted to sell our house.

sorcery

(say **saw**-suh-ree)

noun magic, especially when used for evil purposes:

Many chants and charms are used in witchcraft and sorcery.

souvenir

(say sooh-vuh-**near**)

noun something you keep as a memory of a place or event:

I brought home a big shell as a souvenir of my holiday on the island.

spectre

(say **spek**-tuh)

noun a ghost:

They say a strange spectre appears in the garden every night at midnight.

squalid

(say **skwol**-uhd)

adjective dirty or filthy:

The squalid living conditions in the slum shocked us.

squawk

(say skwawk)

verb to make a loud unpleasant cry:

The smaller birds started to squawk when they saw the crows.

sternum

(say **ster**-nuhm)

noun a bone or series of bones extending along the midline of the front of the chest and attached to the ribs:

The injury felt like whiplash and was diagnosed as bruising between the collarbone and sternum.

stylus

(say **stuy**-luhs)

noun (plural **styli** or **styluses**)

a pointed tool for drawing or writing:

He marked his initials in the clay with a stylus.

subsidiary

(say suhb-**sij**-uh-ree)

noun something of lesser importance:

This small company is a subsidiary of a larger one.

sumptuous

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(say **sump**-chooh-uhs)

adjective rich and luxurious:

She was soon bored of the sumptuous hotel and just wanted to go for a simple walk in the bush.

surgeon

(say **ser**-juhn)

noun a doctor who performs surgery:

The surgeon was able to remove my cousin's appendix before it burst.

sushi

(say **soosh**-ee or **sooh**-shee)

noun a Japanese dish of rice, usually with fish, vegetables, etc., rolled in a sheet of dried seaweed:

I love sushi, but I find it very hard to eat with chopsticks!

syrup

(say **si**-ruh-p)

noun a thick, sweet, sticky liquid:

I love strawberry syrup on my ice-cream.

tactile

(say **tak**-tuyl)

adjective having to do with the sense of touch:

Many lifts have tactile buttons with raised patterns so that visually impaired people can use them.

theorem

(say **thear**-ruhm)

noun a statement containing something to be proved in mathematics:

Our maths teacher showed us two different ways to prove the theorem.

thyme

(say tuym)

noun a common garden herb that is used in cooking:

In a small bowl combine shallots, thyme and bay leaves with salt and pepper.

treasury

(say **trezh**-uh-ree)

noun a place where money or valuables are kept:

The treasury was protected by heavily armed guards.

tremendous

(say truh-**men**-duhs)

adjective very large or important:

She was offered a tremendous opportunity to work overseas.

tumult

(say **tyooh**-mult)

noun a mental or emotional disturbance:

A tumult of thoughts and memories crowded through his mind.

turbine

(say **ter**-buyn)

noun a turning motor in which a wheel with blades is driven by a liquid or gas passing through it:

The turbine was propelled by water.

twilight

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(say **twuy**-luyt)

noun the weak light in the sky just after sunset, before it becomes completely dark:

In the twilight he could just make out the boat as it came back into the harbour.

typhoon

(say tuy-**foohn**)

noun a violent storm like a cyclone or hurricane:

The typhoon ripped across the island, destroying everything in its path.

typist

(say **tuyp**-uhst)

noun someone who is employed to type on a typewriter or word processor:

She was a superb typist as well as being competent and precise.

ultimate

(say **ul**-tuh-muht)

adjective final or most important:

The ultimate objective is to get to the finals.

undertow

(say **un**-duh-toh)

noun any strong current below the surface of water, moving in a direction different from that of the surface current:

You need to be careful when you're swimming at the beach because an undertow can carry you out to sea.

urgency

(say **er**-juhn-see)

noun a sense that something is pressing and requiring immediate action or attention:

There was a sense of urgency to get to the airport on time.

utility

(say yoooh-**til**-uh-tee)

noun a small truck:

A utility is very useful if you have to transport large items.

vacancy

(say **vay**-kuhn-see)

noun (plural **-cies**)

an unfilled office or position:

There is a vacancy in this department.

vacuum

(say **vak**-yoohm)

noun a space that has absolutely nothing in it:

Because there was a vacuum in the bottle, the flame went out.

vegetarian

(say vej-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

noun someone who does not eat meat or fish and lives mainly or totally on vegetable food:

Our visitor was a vegetarian so we cooked mushrooms and pasta.

ventilate

(say **ven**-tuh-layt)

verb If you **ventilate** a room, you replace the air in it with fresh air:

We opened all the windows to try to ventilate the room.

venture

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(say **ven**-chuh)

noun something you set out to do, especially something which has risks attached:

It was an exciting venture even though it had potential problems.

vertigo

(say **ver**-tuh-goh)

noun a feeling of dizziness, often experienced when looking down from a high place:

People who suffer from vertigo shouldn't go close to the edges of cliffs.

villain

(say **vil**-uhn)

noun a wicked person:

Everyone hissed when the villain came onto the stage.

void

(say voyd)

adjective If something is **void** it is without legal force:

The contract was declared void because a major provision was breached.

voltage

(say **vol**-tij)

noun electromotive force or potential expressed in volts:

There was a sign by the power station warning people to keep away because of high voltage.

weir

(say weer)

noun a small dam across a river:

The entire district was dependent on the weir for irrigation.

whereas

(say **wair**-az)

conjunction while on the other hand:

Peter came, whereas the others didn't.

woeful

(say **woh**-fuhl)

noun very bad:

The orchestra hadn't had time to rehearse and the performance was woeful.

yearn

(say yern)

verb If you **yearn** to do something, you want to do it very much:

Jane and her sister yearn to travel to remote parts of the world.

yeti

(say **yet**-ee)

noun (plural **yetis**)

a human-like creature supposed to live in the mountains of Tibet:

The yeti is sometime called the Abominable Snowman.

Senior General Level 4

abdicate

(say **ab**-duh-kayt)

verb to give up a position of power and responsibility, especially the right to be king or queen:

When King Edward decided to abdicate, his brother became King.

abrasion

(say uh-**bray**-zhuhn)

noun a sore that is caused by a scrape:

He had a nasty abrasion on his knee after the fall.

absolute

(say **ab**-suh-looht)

adjective something that is complete or perfect:

There was absolute silence after the teacher reprimanded the class.

absorbent

(say uhb-**saw**-buhnt or uhb-**zaw**-buhnt)

adjective able to absorb moisture:

We used absorbent paper towels to clean up the spilt milk.

abysmal

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(say uh-**biz**-muhl)

adjective so bad that it could not be worse:

Unfortunately, my attempt to cook a pavlova was an abysmal failure.

accommodation

(say uh-kom-uh-**day**-shuhn)

noun somewhere to stay, as at a hotel:

It was very hard to find accommodation during the holidays.

accomplice

(say uh-**kum**-pluhs)

noun someone who helps in a crime:

The thief's accomplice kept watch on the corner.

acne

(say **ak**-nee)

noun a rash with a lot of pimples, especially on the face:

Alana was very self-conscious about the acne on her face.

adhere

(say uhd-**hear**)

verb to stick to something:

You must adhere strictly to the rules.

admissible

(say uhd-**miss**-uh-buhl)

adjective allowed as evidence in a court of law:

That evidence is hearsay, so is not admissible in this court case.

adventurous

(say uhd-**ven**-chuh-ruhs)

adjective wanting to take part in adventures:

Jodie was very adventurous -- she was always exploring new places.

advocate

(say **ad**-vuh-kuht)

noun someone who speaks in favour of a person or cause:

She was an advocate for peace.

aerosol

(say **air**-ruh-sol)

noun a substance made up of tiny particles mixed into a gas:

To protect us against insects on the bushwalk, we took an aerosol as well as a cream insecticide.

affectionate

(say uh-**fek**-shuh-nuht)

adjective having or showing great love or affection:

The puppy is very affectionate and is always trying to lick the children's faces.

affinity

(say uh-**fin**-uh-tee)

noun a natural liking or sense of closeness:

She is a very successful horse trainer because of her affinity with horses.

affirmative

(say uh-**fer**-muh-tiv)

adjective agreeing:

We were pleased with our mother's affirmative response to our idea.

alias

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(say **ay**-lee-uhs)

noun (plural **aliases**)

a false name:

The magazine writer produced a column under the alias of 'Lady Jane'.

amicable

(say **am**-ik-uh-buhl)

adjective friendly:

I hope the meeting will be amicable.

amputate

(say **am**-pyuh-tayt)

verb to cut off (a limb, arm, etc.) by a surgical operation:

The surgeon had to amputate his finger after it had been crushed in an industrial accident.

anaconda

(say an-uh-**kon**-duh)

noun a large South American snake of the boa family:

The anaconda often squeezes its prey to death.

anchovy

(say **an**-chuh-vee or an-**choh**-vee)

noun (plural **anchovies**)

a small fish with a very salty taste:

I picked the anchovy off my pizza because it was too salty.

anonymous

(say uh-**non**-uh-muhs)

adjective If a piece of writing is **anonymous**, the writer does not want to tell people who they are:

The poem in the school magazine was anonymous, but we could guess who wrote it.

antonym

(say **ant**-uh-nim)

noun a word which has an opposite meaning to another word:

'Hot' is the antonym of 'cold'.

anxious

(say **ang**-shuhs)

adjective nervous or worried that something bad might happen:

She was very anxious about her sick friend.

apparatus

(say ap-uh-**rah**-tuhs)

noun a collection of tools or machines used for a particular purpose:

We set up the apparatus for the experiment.

apprentice

(say uh-**pren**-tuhs)

noun someone who is learning a trade:

Geoff was an apprentice in the electrical trades.

arbitrary

(say **ah**-buh-truh-ree or **ah**-buh-tree)

adjective If someone does something in an **arbitrary** way, their action is not based on reason or a system but on how they feel at the time:

Her decisions were always so arbitrary we never knew what to expect.

arbitration

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(say ah-buh-**tray**-shuhn)

verb the settling of a disagreement by someone chosen to find a solution:

The neighbours could not resolve their dispute, so they were ordered to go through arbitration to have the matter settled.

ascertain

(say ass-uh-**tayn**)

verb When you **ascertain** something, you find out or determine that it is true:

The detectives managed to ascertain that the suspect had been at the scene of the crime.

asparagus

(say uh-**spa**-ruh-guhs)

noun a plant with long green shoots, used as a vegetable:

Steamed asparagus is tasty with butter and pepper.

aspirin

(say **ass**-pruhn)

noun a drug used to stop pain:

I took an aspirin to relieve my headache.

attribute

(say uh-**trib**-yooht)

verb to consider as an effect to a cause:

I attribute my good marks to the amount of study I did.

autopsy

(say **aw**-top-see)

noun the examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death:

They performed an autopsy on the body found in the alley.

aviation

(say ay-vee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the science or act of flying in an aircraft:

The air force had an exhibition on the history of aviation.

balsam

(say **bawl**-suhm)

noun an aromatic ointment for medicinal or ceremonial use:

I felt much better after rubbing some balsam on my carpet burn.

barnacle

(say **bah**-nuh-kuhl)

noun a crustacean that attaches itself to the bottom of ships, floating timber and marine rocks:

He cut his foot on a barnacle attached to a piece of driftwood on the beach.

basilica

(say buh-**sil**-ik-uh)

noun a large oblong building in Roman times, one of the seven main churches in Rome:

The procession to the basilica was followed by a prayer service.

besiege

(say buh-**seej**)

verb If a group of people, especially soldiers, **besiege** a place, they surround it:

The soldiers planned to besiege the castle.

bitumen

(say **bich**-uh-muhn)

noun a sticky, black mixture, like tar or asphalt, used to make roads and other hard

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surfaces:

We played basketball on the bitumen at lunchtime.

bludgeon

(say **bluj**-uhn)

verb If someone **bludgeons** someone, they hit them with a heavy object:

In the story, the villain threatened to bludgeon the villagers in their sleep.

boutique

(say booh-**teek**)

noun a small shop, especially one that sells expensive or fashionable clothes:

My mother's boutique sells only the latest fashions.

brevity

(say **brev**-uh-tee)

noun shortness or briefness:

The brevity of the lecture surprised and pleased us.

broccoli

(say **brok**-uh-lee or **brok**-uh-luy)

noun a vegetable with thick stems and many small, green flower-like heads:

We added some broccoli to the stir-fry.

bronchial

(say **brong**-kee-uhl)

adjective relating to the passages that lead to your lungs:

Coughing and wheezing are symptoms of a bronchial infection.

bulbous

(say **bul**-buhs)

adjective bulging or shaped like a bulb:

He was very self-conscious about his bulbous nose.

bullion

(say **bull**-yuhn)

noun bars of gold or silver:

Millions of dollars of gold bullion went missing.

cajole

(say kuh-**johl**)

verb to persuade, using pleasantness and flattery:

Joey tried to cajole Mike into helping him with his homework.

calibre

(say **kal**-uh-buh)

noun the ability or character of a person:

A person of such high calibre is not easy to find.

cannibal

(say **kan**-uh-buhl)

noun someone who eats human flesh:

In the story I'm reading, the cannibal put the missionary in a big iron pot.

caramel

(say **ka**-ruh-muhl)

noun a type of sweet, or a colouring or flavouring made from burnt sugar:

The dentist told him that eating too much caramel wasn't good for his teeth.

carpentry

(say **kah**-puhn-tree)

noun the art of working with wood:

Susie hoped to do an apprenticeship in carpentry.

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casualty

(say **kazh**-yooh-uhl-tee)

noun someone hurt or killed in an accident or war:

The only casualty of the accident was taken to hospital in an ambulance.

catalogue

(say **kat**-uh-log)

noun a list, usually in alphabetical order, of names, books or items on sale or display and some information about them:

We browsed through the catalogue of the pieces in the art exhibition.

cathedral

(say kuh-**thee**-druhl)

noun a very big and important church:

We could hear the sound of bells coming from the cathedral.

cavalcade

(say **kav**-uhl-kayd)

noun a procession of people on horseback or in horse-drawn carriages:

An impressive cavalcade followed the queen's carriage.

champagne

(say sham-**payn**)

noun a bubbly white wine:

The waiter poured glasses of champagne for the toast to the bride and groom.

chandelier

(say shan-duh-**lear**)

noun a branched holder for a number of lights, hanging from the ceiling:

The crystal chandelier was extremely difficult to clean.

chivalry

(say **shiv**-uhl-ree)

noun the rules and customs of medieval knighthood, involving courtesy and bravery:

Knights had to obey the rules of chivalry.

cholera

(say **kol**-uh-ruh)

noun an infectious tropical disease of the digestive system which can cause death:

Many people died of cholera in the epidemic.

cinnamon

(say **sin**-uh-muhn)

noun a spice made from the inner bark of certain trees and used in cooking:

The baker made a delicious bread roll flavoured with cinnamon.

circumvent

(say ser-kuhm-**vent** or **ser**-kuhm-vent)

verb *Formal* to get around or avoid:

They chose to circumvent the problem rather than fixing it.

civilian

(say suh-**vil**-yuhn)

noun someone who is not a member of the armed forces:

He was now a civilian after twenty years in the air force.

coax

(say kohks)

verb to persuade someone gently and patiently:

We had to coax the baby to swallow the medicine.

cohesion

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(say koh-**hee**-zhuhn)

noun the state of sticking together or being connected:

Cohesion was needed within the political party to present a united front.

colonel

(say **ker**-nuhl)

noun an officer in the army:

A colonel is ranked lower than a brigadier.

colossal

(say kuh-**loss**-uhl)

adjective very great in size:

The ship looked colossal from our tiny canoe.

community

(say kuh-**myooh**-nuh-tee)

noun a group of people who live in one area, have the same government, and often share a common history or culture:

He is a well-known member of our local community.

complacency

(say kuhm-**play**-suhn-see)

noun (plural **-cies**)

a feeling of quiet pleasure, especially with oneself; self-satisfaction:

She had a feeling of complacency after completing the task by herself.

complicated

(say **kom**-pluh-kay-tuhd)

adjective Something is **complicated** if it has a lot of parts to it and so is difficult to understand:

We had to concentrate because the plot of the thriller was very complicated.

conceited

(say kuhn-**seet**-uhd)

adjective too proud of yourself, your own abilities, etc.:

His huge success as a writer has made him very conceited.

conceptual

(say kuhn-**sep**-chooh-uhl)

adjective relating to the forming of concepts or ideas:

The design of the building is still at the conceptual stage.

conduit

(say **kon**-jooh-uht or **kon**-dyooh-uht)

noun a pipe, tube, etc., for carrying water, gas, etc:

The stormwater drained away through a conduit system.

consequence

(say **kon**-suh-kwuhns)

noun a result:

A consequence of their forgetfulness is that they are now in the rain without a tent.

conspiracy

(say kuhn-**spi**-ruh-see)

noun a secret plot planned by a number of people:

There was a conspiracy to give our teacher a surprise birthday party.

constituent

(say kon-**stich**-yooh-uhnt)

adjective relating to separate things which make up a whole:

To understand this machine, we need to separate it into its constituent parts.

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construe

(say kuhn-**strooh**)

verb to explain, or put a particular interpretation on:

He was wrong to construe her anxiety as an indication of guilt.

contemplative

(say **kon**-tuhm-play-tiv or kon-**temp**-luh-tiv)

adjective considering things in a thoughtful way:

She stared out the window in a contemplative mood.

contingency

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhn-see)

noun something which may happen in the future which you have to be aware of in making plans:

We must think of every contingency.

continuous

(say kuhn-**tin**-yooh-uhs)

adjective keeping on without stopping:

We listened to the continuous roar of the surf.

conundrum

(say kuh-**nun**-druhm)

noun a riddle or puzzle:

Rita was puzzled by the conundrum.

convulsion

(say kuhn-**vul**-shuhn)

noun a twisting of the body caused by violent muscular contractions:

She was trying so hard not to laugh -- she looked as though she was having a convulsion.

corporation

(say kaw-puh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun a business or other united group of people:

My sister works for an international corporation.

couscous

(say **koos**-koos)

noun a type of grain, originating in North Africa, often cooked with spices and meat or vegetables:

I could not eat the couscous because the semolina would upset my stomach.

croissant

(say **krwu**-son)

noun a roll of baked pastry in the shape of a crescent:

I had a croissant and a coffee every morning for breakfast when I was in France.

cuisine

(say kwuh-**zeen**)

noun style of cooking:

The restaurant served modern Australian cuisine.

cumbersome

(say **kum**-buh-suhm)

adjective awkward to handle:

The package was large and cumbersome.

curvature

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(say **kerv**-uh-chuh)

noun a curved condition, sometimes when this is not normal:

She suffered from curvature of the spine.

cylinder

(say **sil**-uhn-duh)

noun a tube-shaped object, either hollow or solid, with circular ends:

A toilet roll is a good example of a cylinder.

deceptive

(say duh-**sep**-tiv)

adjective tending to deceive:

The glossy travel brochures were deceptive -- the seedy little hotel was quite a shock.

decongestant

(say dee-kon-**jess**-tuhnt)

noun a drug that helps clear your nose when it is blocked or your chest if you have a cough:

I went to the chemist to buy a decongestant to help clear my nose.

decrepit

(say duh-**krep**-uht)

adjective made weak or broken down by age:

The old car was so decrepit that we could not get it registered.

deficit

(say **def**-uh-suht)

noun an amount of money lacking:

Unfortunately, there is a small deficit in the club's accounts.

delectable

(say duh-**lek**-tuh-buhl)

adjective delicious:

The food at the wedding reception was delectable.

delicatessen

(say del-uh-kuh-**tess**-uhn)

noun a shop which sells a variety of foods, including cheeses, cold meats, and other prepared goods:

We dropped in at the delicatessen to buy some ham.

delirious

(say duh-**lear**-ree-uhs)

adjective If someone is **delirious**, they are extremely confused, often because they have a fever:

During the illness, he became delirious and we couldn't understand what he was saying.

denominator

(say duh-**nom**-uh-nay-tuh)

noun the number under the line in a fraction which shows how many equal parts it may be divided into:

In the fraction $\frac{3}{4}$ 4 is the denominator.

dermatitis

(say der-muh-**tuy**-tuhs)

noun dryness and redness of the skin which is itchy or painful:

Her dermatitis was so bad she had to wear gloves all the time.

descent

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(say duh-**sent**)

noun the act of coming or going down:

He made a quick descent down the ladder.

deteriorate

(say duh-**teer**-ree-uh-rayt)

verb to become worse:

If the weather continues to deteriorate, we will have to postpone our canoe trip.

diplomacy

(say duh-**ploh**-muh-see)

noun skill in managing relations between nations or people:

Joe's diplomacy made him an excellent mediator.

dispensation

(say dis-pen-**say**-shuhn)

noun the act of giving out or the distribution of something:

My father was responsible for the dispensation of the lollies at the party.

distinguish

(say duh-**sting**-gwish)

verb If you can **distinguish** one thing from another, you can tell the difference between them:

Sometimes I can't distinguish my sister's voice from my mother's on the phone.

domicile

(say **dom**-uh-suyl)

noun someone's home or a place of residence:

Byron Bay had been her domicile for the past five years.

eccentric

(say uhk-**sen**-trik)

adjective behaving in a very different way to most other people:

The fact that he spends most of his day upside down on an exercise machine shows how eccentric he is.

ecstasy

(say **eks**-tuh-see)

noun a feeling of great happiness:

It was ecstasy to lie in the gently rocking boat with not a care in the world.

efficient

(say uh-**fish**-uhnt)

adjective If something is **efficient**, it works well and is practical:

This pump is very efficient -- it gives a strong flow of water.

effusive

(say uh-**fyoo**h-siv)

adjective showing too much feeling:

Her effusive manner often makes people uncomfortable.

electricity

(say uh-lek-**triss**-uh-tee)

noun a form of energy which can be used for heating, lighting, driving a motor, and other things:

The power in our house went out because a tree fell across the wires carrying the electricity.

embarrass

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(say em-**ba**-ruhs)

verb To **embarrass** someone is to make them feel uncomfortable:

My mother's old-fashioned ideas sometimes embarrass me in front of my friends.

equatorial

(say ek-wuh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective relating to or near the equator:

We are studying equatorial rainforests this term.

escalator

(say **es**-kuh-lay-tuh)

noun a continuously moving stairway that carries people upwards or downwards:

They had to use the escalator to reach the higher level.

expenditure

(say uhk-**spen**-duh-chuh)

noun the amount of money spent:

The military consumes over five per cent of the government's total expenditure.

extravagant

(say uhk-**strav**-uh-guhnt)

adjective If someone is **extravagant**, they spend too much money or they are wasteful:

Don't be too extravagant with paper -- think of the environment.

exuberant

(say uhg-**zyoo**h-buh-ruhnt)

adjective full of energy or high spirits:

The exuberant puppy jumped up and licked her face.

facilitate

(say fuh-**sil**-uh-tayt)

verb to make easier:

He took my hand to facilitate my progress up the steep rock.

fanciful

(say **fan**-suh-fuhl)

adjective quaintly odd in appearance:

The dinner set was decorated with a fanciful design of barnyard animals sitting down to tea.

finale

(say fuh-**nah**-lee)

noun the last part of a concert, opera or ballet:

For the finale, the pianist played a spectacularly difficult piece.

frigate

(say **frig**-uht)

noun a type of warship:

The frigate escorted the battleship through the dangerous waters.

frivolous

(say **friv**-uh-luhs)

adjective not serious:

She was dressed in a frivolous outfit for the party.

gangrene

(say **gang**-green)

noun the rotting of flesh on the body caused by the blood supply being cut off:

My grandfather suffered gangrene during the war and lost his left leg.

gazebo

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(say guh-**zee**-boh)

noun a structure having a wide view, especially a turret, pavilion, or summerhouse:

We ate our picnic in the gazebo which looked over the river.

generous

(say **jen**-uh-ruhs)

adjective If you are **generous**, you are ready to give what you have to other people:

Damien is so generous that he shared his lunch with me when I forgot mine.

geometric

(say jee-uh-**met**-rik)

adjective similar to or using the lines or figures of geometry:

The abstract painting was based on a geometric pattern.

gladiator

(say **glad**-ee-ay-tuh)

noun a man in ancient Rome who fought as a public entertainment:

As part of our studies of ancient civilisations, we saw a film about a gladiator.

glimpse

(say glimps)

noun a quick sighting:

I caught a glimpse of him as he ran past.

glutinous

(say **glooh**-tuh-nuhs)

adjective sticky, like glue:

We heated and stirred the sauce until it developed a glutinous texture.

graffiti

(say gruh-**fee**-tee)

noun drawings or words written without permission on walls in public places:

The bus shelter was covered with graffiti.

grandeur

(say **gran**-juh)

noun imposing greatness or grandness:

The grandeur of the opening ceremony was overwhelming.

gregarious

(say gruh-**gair**-ree-uhs)

adjective fond of the company of other people:

She has a gregarious nature and loves meeting new people.

grievance

(say **gree**-vuhns)

noun a cause of anger or annoyance:

His grievance was that all his hard work had been overlooked.

guava

(say **gwah**-vuh)

noun a tropical American tree or shrub with a fruit that you can eat:

She explained that the tree in her front yard was a guava, and we could pick and eat the fruit.

haphazard

(say hap-**haz**-uhd)

adjective not tidily planned or organised:

Bamboo was growing in haphazard clumps all over the yard.

heirloom

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(say **air**-loohtm)

noun something valuable that is handed down from generation to generation in a family:

The antique pendant is a family heirloom.

hepatitis

(say hep-uh-**tuy**-tuhs)

noun a disease of the liver:

Hepatitis can make you sick for a long time.

horizontal

(say ho-ruh-**zon**-tuhl)

adjective parallel, or in line, with the horizon, as opposed to vertical:

He had to leap over a horizontal bar a metre from the ground.

humanitarian

(say hyooh-man-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective concerned with helping people who live in bad conditions or are suffering:

She works with a charity providing humanitarian aid in Africa.

humorous

(say **hyooh**-muh-ruhs)

adjective If something is **humorous**, it is funny:

We thought it was humorous when my little brother said that a caterpillar was a worm in a fur coat.

hypocrite

(say **hip**-uh-krit)

noun someone who pretends that they have certain beliefs or morals that they do not really have:

The outspoken conservationist was branded a hypocrite when it was discovered that she did not recycle her paper and plastic.

icicle

(say **uy**-sik-uhl)

noun a hanging tapering piece of ice formed by the freezing of water falling in drops:

It was so cold that an icicle had formed above the window.

illegible

(say i-**lej**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be read:

His scribble was completely illegible.

imminent

(say **im**-uh-nuhnt)

adjective likely to happen at any moment:

The black sky warned that a storm was imminent.

imperial

(say im-**peer**-ree-uhl)

adjective belonging to an empire:

Elizabeth I sat on her imperial throne.

impervious

(say im-**per**-vee-uhs)

phrase If you are **impervious** to something, you are not moved or affected by it:

I sometimes think my parents are impervious to reason.

inaccurate

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(say in-**ak**-yuh-ruht)

adjective not accurate, or not correct:

The measurements proved to be inaccurate because the equipment was faulty.

incandescent

(say in-kan-**dess**-uhnt)

adjective glowing white:

This metal is so hot it is incandescent.

incredulous

(say in-**krej**-uh-luhs)

adjective not willing to believe something, usually because it is too surprising or shocking:

She explained her theory to an incredulous audience.

incognito

(say in-kog-**nee**-toh)

adverb with your name or appearance changed so you won't be recognised:

The spy travelled incognito.

incoherent

(say in-koh-**hear**-ruhnt)

adjective not arranged or connected properly:

The presentation was incoherent and we had to ask him to explain it all again.

indigenous

(say in-**dij**-uh-nuhs)

adjective native to a particular area or country:

Emus are indigenous to Australia but sparrows are not.

insidious

(say in-**sid**-ee-uhs)

adjective intended to trap or deceive:

They hatched an insidious plot to destroy her reputation.

interference

(say in-tuh-**fear**-ruhns)

noun involvement in something when it has not been invited:

She was fed up with her neighbour's constant interference.

intermittent

(say in-tuh-**mit**-uhnt)

adjective stopping and starting:

There was intermittent rain all day.

intrepid

(say in-**trep**-uhd)

adjective very brave:

The intrepid reporter risked her life by entering the war zone.

intuition

(say in-tyooh-**ish**-uhn or in-chooh-**ish**-uhn)

noun a strong feeling about something without any real reason that you know of:

I have no proof, but my intuition tells me that she's telling the truth.

invigorate

(say in-**vig**-uh-rayt)

verb To **invigorate** someone is to fill them with energy and strength:

It will invigorate you if you go for a swim in the surf.

irrelevant

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(say i-**rel**-uh-vuhnt)

adjective not connected with the current topic or issue:

Try to stay on the subject and don't waste time on irrelevant details.

judicious

(say jooh-**dish**-uhs)

adjective showing good or wise judgement:

The decision to invite the whole family was a judicious one.

larynx

(say **la**-rinks)

noun the box-like space at the top of your windpipe that contains the vocal cords which are used for speaking:

She had an infection in her larynx and couldn't speak at all.

liability

(say luy-uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun something or someone that causes difficulty rather than being helpful:

Having a pet can be a liability when you want to go on holidays.

librarian

(say luy-**brair**-ree-uhn)

noun A **librarian** is someone who looks after the books in a library:

The librarian showed us how to use the internet to find the books that we needed.

lieutenant

(say lef-**ten**-uhnt or looh-**ten**-uhnt)

noun an officer in the army or navy:

After serving in the army for two years she was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

limousine

(say **lim**-uh-zeen)

noun a kind of car, usually large and comfortable, especially one driven by a paid driver:

The limousine was luxurious but difficult to park.

logistics

(say luh-**jis**-tiks)

noun the practical details of a project:

The logistics of moving so many people to a new area have to be worked out carefully.

lozenge

(say **loz**-uhnj)

noun a small sweet, usually used to soothe a sore throat:

Your throat might feel better if you suck on a lozenge.

ludicrous

(say **looh**-duh-kruhs)

adjective so silly as to cause laughter:

Sally looked ludicrous dressed as an egg.

mahogany

(say muh-**hog**-uh-nee)

noun a hard, reddish-brown wood, used for making furniture:

The house was full of old furniture made of cedar and mahogany.

malicious

(say muh-**lish**-uhs)

adjective showing malice or nastiness:

Her bitterness made her say malicious things about the family.

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manufacture

(say man-yuh-**fak**-chuh)

verb To **manufacture** something is to make it with machines in a factory:

A company has been formed to manufacture the new hearing aids.

marquee

(say mah-**kee**)

noun a big tent used for outdoor parties, circuses and so on:

They hired a marquee for the wedding celebration, so it didn't matter if it rained.

masonry

(say **may**-suhn-ree)

noun (plural -ries)

the art or work of someone who builds or works with stone:

Beautiful local sandstone had been used in the masonry of the new house.

maudlin

(say **mawd**-luhn)

adjective tearfully or weakly emotional or sentimental:

She grew tearful listening to the maudlin song.

memoir

(say **mem**-wah)

noun a record of events based on the personal experience of the writer:

The film star's memoir described her childhood love of going to the cinema.

mercurial

(say mer-**kyooh**-ree-uhl)

adjective rapidly changing in mood:

It's hard to predict when he'll be in a bad mood because he has such a mercurial personality.

meteoroid

(say **meet**-ee-uh-royd)

noun any of the small bodies travelling through space:

The astronauts had to be careful of colliding with meteoroids.

metronome

(say **met**-ruh-nohm)

noun an instrument that can be set to beat at a fixed rate and so give the right speed for playing a piece of music:

We practised with a metronome when the conductor couldn't make it to our rehearsal.

miniature

(say **min**-uh-chuh)

noun a very small copy or model of something:

The model castle is a miniature of the real thing.

mischievous

(say **mis**-chuh-vuhs)

adjective You are **mischievous** if you like to do naughty things:

My little brother is very mischievous -- Mum and Dad have to watch what he is doing all the time.

mistletoe

(say **miss**-uhl-toh)

noun an English plant with small, white berries which feeds and grows on the branches of other trees, and is often used for Christmas decorations:

Each Christmas we hang some artificial mistletoe in our doorway.

morphine

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(say **maw**-feen)

noun a strong drug used to stop pain:

The doctor prescribed morphine to take away the pain.

mucus

(say **myooh**-kuhs)

noun thick liquid which builds up in the nose and throat when you have a cold:

The common cold is characterised by sneezing, tiredness and excessive mucus.

myrtle

(say **mer**-tuhl)

noun a shrub of southern Europe with evergreen leaves, sweet-smelling white flowers and berries, used as an emblem of love:

The myrtle growing near the back door always had a nice fragrance.

nefarious

(say nuh-**fair**-ree-uhs)

adjective Formal very wicked:

We reported the thief to the police for his nefarious practices.

negligence

(say **neg**-luh-juhns)

noun the failure to take proper care:

The company was found guilty of negligence in not providing safe working conditions.

negotiation

(say nuh-goh-shee-**ay**-shuhn or nuh-goh-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the discussion and arrangement of some kind of agreement:

The workers and their employer settled the dispute by negotiation.

oasis

(say oh-**ay**-suhs)

noun An **oasis** is a place in a desert where there is water and plants:

Even camels like to come across an oasis.

obelisk

(say **ob**-uh-lisk)

noun a tall pillar of stone, put up as a monument:

An obelisk was erected as a war memorial in the middle of the town square.

obscene

(say uhb-**seen**)

adjective shocking and offensive:

The film was banned because it was thought to be too obscene.

onerous

(say **oh**-nuh-ruhs)

adjective difficult to do:

It was not an onerous task, but it seemed to take ages to finish.

panorama

(say pan-uh-**rah**-muh)

noun a view over a wide area:

The panorama was dotted with dams, farmhouses and apple trees.

parallel

(say **pa**-ruh-lel)

adjective If two lines are **parallel**, they are the same distance from each other at every point along the way:

The two lines of a railway track are parallel.

paranoia

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(say pa-ruh-**noy**-uh)

noun a mental condition in which the patient suffers from delusions such as that of persecution:

A person with paranoia often imagines they are the victim of a conspiracy.

participate

(say pah-**tis**-uh-payt)

verb If you **participate** in an activity, you take part in it:

The teacher stressed that he wanted everybody to participate in the discussion.

pedestrian

(say puh-**dess**-tree-uhn)

noun someone who travels on foot:

We stopped and asked a pedestrian the way to the library.

permeate

(say **per**-mee-ayt)

verb If something **permeates**, it passes or spreads through:

As the tide came in, a feeling of fear permeated the group in the cave.

personification

(say puh-son-uh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun the treating of objects or ideas as if they were people, especially as a special effect in your writing:

'The book was begging to be opened' is an example of personification.

philosopher

(say fuh-**los**-uh-fuh)

noun someone who is well read in philosophy:

They say the philosopher Archimedes was so excited about his discovery, that he ran around the streets naked shouting 'Eureka'.

pinnacle

(say **pin**-uh-kuhl)

noun a high, pointed mountain top:

We cannot be sure if the missing climber ever reached the pinnacle of the Matterhorn.

plaintiff

(say **playn**-tuhf)

noun a person who brings a court case against someone else known as the defendant:

The plaintiff had brought the case against her landlord.

porcupine

(say **pawk**-yuh-puyn)

noun a small animal covered with stiff, sharp spines, found in Europe, Africa, and North America:

Falling onto the porcupine was a nasty experience -- for us both.

predicament

(say pruh-**dik**-uh-muhnt)

noun a difficult or dangerous situation:

It was a real predicament for Rosie the dog when she was accidentally locked in the cupboard.

proficient

(say pruh-**fish**-uhnt)

adjective skilled or expert:

Once we were proficient in hitting the ball, we learned how to aim.

projectile

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(say pruh-**jek**-tuyl)

noun something thrown or fired with great force:

We scattered as projectile after projectile was thrown over the fence by the kids next door.

prosecute

(say **pros**-uh-kyooht)

verb To **prosecute** someone is to accuse them before a court of law:

The police are going to prosecute the person who stole the money from my grandmother.

pulmonary

(say **pul**-muhn-ree or **pull**-muhn-ree)

adjective having to do with the lungs:

The pulmonary artery takes blood from the lungs to the body.

quandary

(say **kwon**-dree)

noun confusion about the best thing to do:

I'm in a quandary about what to wear to this party.

quinine

(say **kwin**-een)

noun a bitter medicine used to treat malaria:

Until recent times quinine was the only treatment for malaria.

rationale

(say rash-uh-**nah**l)

noun a statement of reasons or principles:

We were interested to hear the council's rationale for removing barbecues from the park.

recession

(say ruh-**sess**-uhn)

noun a time when business affairs in a nation are bad:

It's hard to get a job during a recession.

refugee

(say **ref**-yooh-jee)

noun someone who needs shelter or protection from danger or trouble:

He came to Australia as a refugee from the harsh regime in his country.

regalia

(say ruh-**gay**l-yuh)

plural noun the emblems of royalty, as the crown, sceptre, etc:

The exhibition featured all the regalia of Louis VIII, including his royal crown.

reluctantly

(say ruh-**luk**-tuhnt-lee)

adverb unwillingly:

Dad reluctantly agreed to let me have the keys to the car.

repercussion

(say ree-puh-**kush**-uhn)

noun the indirect effect or result of some event or action:

The repercussion of being late for class was that we all had to stay behind at the end of the day.

reprisal

(say ruh-**pruyz**-uhl)

noun an act which causes hurt or damage to someone in retaliation for something they

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have done:

The raids on the government offices appeared to be a reprisal for the military attack.

requiem

(say **rek**-wee-uhm)

noun music composed to honour the memory of the dead:

She composed the requiem in honour of her late brother.

requisite

(say **rek**-wuh-zuht)

adjective needed or demanded:

He has the requisite qualifications for the job.

resilient

(say ruh-**zil**-ee-uhnt)

adjective able to become strong, healthy or happy again after an illness or misfortune:

He showed how resilient he was by returning to work a few days after the accident.

sabotage

(say **sab**-uh-tahzh)

noun damage done on purpose to stop someone else being successful:

The police thought the fire at the laboratory was probably sabotage.

samurai

(say **sam**-yuh-ruy)

noun (plural **samurai**)

a Japanese fighter who lived in medieval times:

A samurai was an expert swordsman.

satellite

(say **sat**-uh-luyt)

noun a body in space, such as a moon, which moves around a larger one, such as a planet:

The moon is the earth's satellite.

scalpel

(say **skal**-puhl)

noun a small, very sharp knife used by doctors in operations:

The surgeon held the scalpel in her steady hand.

scenario

(say suh-**nah**-ree-oh or suh-**nair**-ree-oh)

noun an outline of a general situation or plan:

It was hard to imagine the grim scenario the scientists described if the drought continued.

scissors

(say **siz**-uhz)

plural noun a cutting instrument made of two blades joined together:

My scissors have become too blunt to cut properly.

serrated

(say suh-**ray**-tuhd)

adjective having notches or teeth along its edge:

A bread knife has a serrated blade.

sesame

(say sess-uh-mee)

noun a tropical plant, whose small seeds are used for food and oil:

Oil made from the seeds of sesame is essential for Chinese cooking.

significance

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say sig-**nif**-uh-kuhns)

noun importance or meaning:

Do you know the significance of the different colours on the Aboriginal flag?

simulcast

(say **sim**-uhl-kahst)

noun a program broadcast on both television and radio at the same time:

The concert was to be presented as a simulcast before the end of the year.

skirmish

(say **sker**-mish)

noun any short exchange of arguments between people:

There was a rather unfortunate skirmish between the star and the photographers.

sophisticated

(say suh-**fiss**-tuh-kay-tuhd)

adjective wise and experienced in the interests and pleasures of the world:

When my sophisticated aunt visits, she takes me to plays and fashionable restaurants.

squadron

(say **skwod**-ruhn)

noun a fighting unit in the armed forces, especially in the air force or navy:

Their squadron was sent to provide support.

squander

(say **skwon**-duh)

verb If you **squander** something, you spend or use it wastefully:

He used to squander all his pocket money on pinball machines.

stationery

(say **stay**-shuhn-ree)

noun writing paper and writing materials such as pens and pencils:

We need some more stationery from the newsagency.

strenuous

(say **stren**-yooh-uhs)

adjective needing a great effort:

Weightlifting is a very strenuous exercise.

subservient

(say suhb-**ser**-vee-uhnt)

adjective very submissive:

People took advantage of his subservient nature.

succulent

(say **suk**-yuh-luhnt)

adjective juicy:

A succulent mango is hard to eat without getting covered in juice.

succumb

(say suh-**kum**)

verb To **succumb** is to give in:

She tried not to succumb to the temptation of the chocolates.

sufficient

(say suh-**fish**-uhnt)

adjective all that is needed:

Once they had collected a sufficient number of pippies on the beach, they set off to fish on the rocks.

supplement

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **sup**-luh-muhnt)

noun an extra part of a newspaper on a particular subject:

The newspaper has a supplement with photos of teams playing in the grand final.

supremacy

(say suh-**prem**-uh-see)

noun the state of being supreme or the very best:

The election result signalled an end to the tyrant's supremacy.

suspicion

(say suhs-**pish**-uhn)

noun the condition of being thought to be guilty of something:

He is being held under suspicion of murder.

sustenance

(say **sus**-tuh-nuhns)

noun nourishment gained from what you eat:

There's plenty of sustenance in my diet.

syndrome

(say **sin**-drohm)

noun in medicine, a particular group of signs or a type of behaviour that shows that a disease or a condition exists:

His symptoms pointed to a particular syndrome -- chronic fatigue syndrome.

technology

(say tek-**nol**-uh-jee)

noun the use of practical science in industry, and so on:

The latest advances in medical technology saved the patient's life.

thermometer

(say thuh-**mom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument for measuring temperature:

The doctor took my temperature with a thermometer.

traitor

(say **tray**-tuh)

noun A **traitor** is someone who tells an enemy secrets about their country:

Nobody could believe that he was a traitor to his country.

transitory

(say **tran**-zuh-tree)

adjective Formal or literary lasting for only a certain time, as opposed to eternal:

My enthusiasm for the project was transitory, and was quickly replaced by a distinct reluctance to be involved.

trauma

(say **traw**-muh)

noun an emotional shock which has a lasting effect on the mind:

The family never really got over the trauma of the accident.

ultimatum

(say ul-tuh-**may**-tuhm)

noun a final statement of terms or conditions:

The coach gave an ultimatum that if we didn't come to training, we would not be in the team.

unbridled

(say un-**bruyd**-uhld)

adjective unrestrained or uncontrolled:

He had an unbridled appetite for excitement and daredevil adventures.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

unnatural

(say un-**nach**-ruhl)

adjective not normal, natural or usual:

We couldn't work out what was causing the unnatural light in the sky.

vaccine

(say vak-**seen**)

noun a type of medication which helps you develop immunity to a disease:

Scientists have developed a pneumonia vaccine, which is particularly helpful in winter for elderly people.

vandalism

(say **van**-duh-liz-uhm)

noun intentional destruction or damage of property:

Our art room was wrecked in an act of mindless vandalism.

vehicle

(say **vee**-ik-uhl)

noun a form of transport, such as a car or bicycle:

My brother's favourite type of vehicle is a racing car.

vicious

(say **vish**-uhs)

adjective very cruel or harmful:

It was a vicious attack on her reputation.

vindictive

(say vin-**dik**-tiv)

adjective spiteful or nasty:

Her vindictive remark hurt everybody's feelings.

virtuoso

(say ver-chooh-**oh**-soh)

noun a highly skilled person, especially a musician:

We went to the concert hall to hear a famous violin virtuoso.

volatile

(say **vol**-uh-tuyl)

adjective likely to change suddenly and quickly:

It was a volatile situation which could lead to war.

volunteer

(say vol-uhn-**teer**)

noun A **volunteer** is someone who offers to do something that they do not have to do, and are not paid to do:

He's a volunteer at a home for old people.

vulnerable

(say **vul**-nuh-ruh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **vulnerable**, they are likely to suffer something unpleasant because they are in a weak position:

We felt vulnerable because we did not have a torch with us and the night was pitch black.

whinge

(say winj)

verb to complain constantly or about unimportant things:

If you don't get a good night's sleep, you'll whinge all day tomorrow.

wholesale

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **hohl**-sayl)

adjective having to do with the sale of goods, usually in large quantities, to shop owners rather than directly to the public:

The wholesale price of eggs has increased.

zoology

(say zoh-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the science or study of animal life:

My brother is passionate about animals and is studying zoology at university.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

Senior General Level 5

abhorrent

(say uhb-**hor**-uhnt)

adjective hateful or disgusting:

I find the idea of mistreating animals abhorrent.

abolition

(say ab-uh-**lish**-shuhn)

noun the act of putting an end to something:

Many supported the abolition of slavery.

abstinence

(say **ab**-stuh-nuhns)

noun the habit or practice of abstaining, especially from drinking alcohol:

John practised abstinence from alcohol for one month every year.

accusative

(say uh-**kyooh**-zuh-tiv)

noun referring to the case of a word which is the direct object of a verb, or the object of a preposition:

In 'The cat sits on the mat', the word 'mat' is in the accusative case.

acquisition

(say ak-wuh-**zish**-uhn)

noun the act of acquiring something:

The director was delighted with the museum's acquisition of the ancient Egyptian vase.

acquittal

(say uh-**kwit**-uhl)

noun the state of being found innocent of a crime:

When they heard of his acquittal, the prisoner's family cheered.

acrimony

(say **ak**-ruh-muh-nee)

noun harshness or bitterness:

It's a shame there's so much acrimony between the two rivals.

acronym

(say **ak**-ruh-nim)

noun a word made from the first letters of other words:

'ANZAC' is an acronym from 'Australian and New Zealand Army Corps'.

actuary

(say **ak**-chooh-uh-ree)

noun someone who calculates risks, rates of payment, etc., based on statistics or recorded facts:

She works as an actuary for an insurance company in the city.

adjacent

(say uh-**jay**-suhnt)

adjective lying near or close to:

Most schools have pedestrian crossings adjacent to their entry gates.

adjourn

(say uh-**jern**)

verb to defer or postpone:

The judge decided to adjourn the court case until the next morning.

adjunct

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **aj**-ungkt)

noun something joined to another thing but not essentially part of it:

Telephone counselling is often used as an adjunct to nicotine patches in helping people to give up smoking.

affidavit

(say af-uh-**day**-vuht)

noun in law, a written statement which may be used as a substitute for evidence in court:

She was asked to provide an affidavit describing the events leading up to the accident.

affiliate

(say uh-**fil**-ee-ayt)

verb to bring into association or close connection:

The national association wants to affiliate all the local clubs.

albeit

(say awl-**bee**-it)

conjunction although:

Corinne and Carla organised all the stalls at the school fete -- albeit with a little help from their parents.

algebra

(say **al**-juh-bruh)

noun the branch of mathematics which uses letters to stand for numbers:

We have just started to learn about algebra in maths.

alkali

(say **al**-kuh-luy)

noun a chemical that reduces the effect of acid:

In science today we learned that soap is an alkali.

amalgamate

(say uh-**mal**-guh-mayt)

verb to join together:

The two companies decided to amalgamate and moved to a new location.

ambivalent

(say am-**biv**-uh-luhnt)

adjective unable to make up your mind due to conflicting feelings:

She felt ambivalent about going to the party -- it would be fun, but she was very tired.

ammonia

(say uh-**moh**-nee-uh)

noun a strong-smelling gas, often dissolved in water to make a liquid which may be used for cleaning:

We put some ammonia in a bucket of water to clean the bathroom.

amnesia

(say am-**neezh**-uh or am-**nee**-zee-uh)

noun loss of memory:

Because of his amnesia, he no longer remembers where he lived.

analgesic

(say an-uhl-**jee**-zik)

noun a medicine that removes or lessens pain:

She took an analgesic and soon her headache improved.

analytical

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say an-uh-**lit**-ik-uhl)

adjective pertaining to analysis:

Her analytical mind helps her solve problems.

anomaly

(say uh-**nom**-uh-lee)

noun a variation from what is normal:

She never misses school so her absence from school was an anomaly.

antibiotic

(say an-tee-buy-**ot**-ik)

noun a drug capable of killing bacteria and other germs:

The doctor prescribed an antibiotic for my chest infection.

antiquated

(say **an**-tuh-kway-tuhd)

adjective old-fashioned or out of date:

We thought that Grandma's washing machine was quite antiquated.

antiseptic

(say an-tuh-**sep**-tik)

noun a chemical used to kill germs that produce disease:

We cleaned the cut with antiseptic before putting a bandage on it.

antithesis

(say an-**tith**-uh-suhs)

noun the direct opposite:

Her confident manner was the antithesis of her brother's shyness.

archaic

(say ah-**kay**-ik)

adjective characteristic of an earlier period of time:

'Forsooth' and 'begone' are two archaic English words.

archetype

(say **ah**-kuh-tuyp)

noun a typical example:

He is the archetype of thoughtfulness.

aristocracy

(say a-ruh-**stok**-ruh-see)

noun in some societies, the people of highest rank:

In Europe, the aristocracy once ruled the so-called 'lower' classes.

armistice

(say **ah**-muh-stuhs)

noun a temporary agreement between countries at war to stop fighting so they can talk about peace:

The World War I armistice was signed in 1918.

asbestos

(say uhs-**bes**-tuhs)

noun a grey substance which is mined and does not burn; it was once used as a building material:

Many countries have banned the use of asbestos because it can cause serious illness.

aspersion

(say uh-**sper**-zhuhn or uh-**sper**-shuhn)

noun a harmful remark or criticism:

He was quick to cast an aspersion on my character.

asphalt

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **ash**-felt or **ass**-felt)

noun a black, sticky substance, mixed with crushed rock and used for making roads:

The council had to lay new asphalt to repair the road.

assassin

(say uh-**sass**-uhn)

noun someone who undertakes murder for a reward:

The assassin and those who had hired him were all prosecuted.

asterisk

(say **ass**-tuh-risk)

noun a star shape (*) used in printing or writing to show that something has been written as a note at the bottom of the page, or been left out:

An asterisk is a small, star-shaped symbol.

atrocious

(say uh-**troh**-shuhs)

adjective very bad or unpleasant:

His treatment of his animals is atrocious.

auctioneer

(say ok-shuh-**near**)

noun someone whose job is to sell things by auction:

The auctioneer sold the vase to the highest bidder.

augment

(say awg-**ment**)

verb to make larger:

He works at night as a cab driver to augment his income.

auspicious

(say aw-**spish**-uhs)

adjective Formal favourable or showing signs of success:

Winning their first match was an auspicious start to the season.

authoritarian

(say aw-tho-ruh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective An **authoritarian** government or ruler is one which controls a country strictly and does not allow people to have freedom and individual rights:

Some countries have flourished economically under authoritarian rule.

awry

(say uh-**ruy**)

adverb turned to one side:

The fence posts were leaning awry.

axiom

(say **ak**-see-uhm)

noun a statement that is generally accepted as true:

You should remember the old axiom that crime doesn't pay.

bailiff

(say **bay**-luhf)

noun a law officer employed to deliver court orders, collect payments of debts, and so on:

The bailiff handed the judge the evidence.

bankruptcy

(say **bangk**-rup-see)

noun the state of being unable to pay your debts:

He knew he would be facing bankruptcy unless the business started to make a profit.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

barrister

(say **ba**-ruhs-tuh)

noun a lawyer whose main work is presenting cases in court:

The barrister questioned the witness for nearly an hour.

beautician

(say byooh-**tish**-uhn)

noun someone who works in a beauty salon:

Her lifelong dream was to be a beautician and work in Paris.

beneficiary

(say ben-uh-**fish**-uh-ree)

noun someone who receives assistance, especially money left in a will:

My aunt was the only beneficiary in the will.

betrothed

(say buh-**trohdhd**)

noun engaged to be married:

My grandmother was betrothed to my grandfather for a year before they married.

bibliography

(say bib-lee-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun a list of all the books, websites, etc., read or used by a writer when writing a book or essay:

We lose marks if we don't include a complete bibliography with our work.

bilingual

(say buy-**ling**-gwuhl)

adjective able to speak two languages:

She is bilingual, speaking both English and Japanese.

bipartisan

(say buy-**pah**-tuh-zuhn or buy-**pah**-tuh-zan)

adjective supported by two (otherwise opposing) parties, especially political parties:

There was bipartisan support for the new law, because both sides of parliament agreed that it would benefit children.

botulism

(say **boch**-uh-liz-uhm)

noun a disease of the nervous system caused by a toxin developed especially in spoiled preserved and other foods, often causing death:

Botulism is a rare but often fatal disease.

brontosaurus

(say bron-tuh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a large plant-eating dinosaur with a long neck and tail, that died out millions of years ago:

The brontosaurus is also known as the apatosaurus.

cachet

(say **kash**-ay or kash-**ay**)

noun prestige or distinction:

She invited her famous friend along, because she thought he would add a certain cachet to the party.

cafeteria

(say kaf-uh-**teer**-ree-uh)

noun a cheap self-service restaurant:

We had a coffee in the hospital cafeteria.

candescence

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kan-**dess**-uhnt)

adjective glowing from great heat:

The candescent meteor hurtled through space.

carbohydrate

(say kah-buh-**huy**-drayt)

noun a chemical compound containing oxygen, hydrogen and carbon:

Sugar is a carbohydrate.

carcinoma

(say **kah**-suh-noh-muh)

noun a growth in the body:

A carcinoma can spread to surrounding tissues and organs.

catacomb

(say **kat**-uh-kohm or **kat**-uh-koohm)

noun a series of underground tunnels and caves or rooms, once used as burial places:

Archaeologists stumbled across an ancient catacomb beneath the streets of Cairo.

cauliflower

(say **kol**-ee-flow-uh)

noun a vegetable with a large round head of white flowers:

We had cauliflower and cheese sauce with our roast beef.

cavalier

(say kav-uh-**lear**)

noun a soldier or knight on horseback:

The cavalier rode towards the enemy, brandishing his sword.

cellophane

(say **sel**-uh-fayn)

noun a transparent, waterproof, paper-like product, used to wrap sweets, gifts, and so on:

The flowers were wrapped in clear cellophane.

cemetery

(say **sem**-uh-tree)

noun a burial ground:

We sometimes go to the cemetery to visit my grandfather's grave.

cerebral

(say **se**-ruh-bruhl or suh-**ree**-bruhl)

adjective having to do with the brain:

The doctors said they could detect cerebral activity in the unconscious patient.

chagrin

(say **shag**-ruhn)

noun a feeling of anger and disappointment:

I realised, to my chagrin, that my foolishness had cost our team the honour of winning the competition.

chasm

(say **kaz**-uhm)

noun a deep hole or opening in the ground:

The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.

chemotherapy

(say kee-moh-**ther**-uh-pee)

noun the treatment of disease using chemicals as drugs, especially in treating cancer:

Nausea and vomiting are some of the side effects of chemotherapy.

chiffon

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(say shuh-**fon** or **shif**-on)

noun sheer fabric of silk, nylon, or rayon in plain weave:

Kelly wore a dress made of white chiffon to the dance.

chromosome

(say **kroh**-muh-sohm or **kroh**-muh-zohm)

noun a tiny threadlike body found in the nucleus of all living cells, which carries the genetic codes for the characteristics of the organism:

We used a microscope to examine a chromosome.

circumstantial

(say ser-kuhm-**stan**-shul)

adjective **Circumstantial** evidence is secondary or indirect:

All the evidence against the accused woman was circumstantial, so she was not convicted.

clandestine

(say klan-**dess**-tuhn)

adjective secret and unlawful:

The rebels were holding clandestine meetings in the hills.

coalition

(say koh-uh-**lish**-uhn)

noun a combination of two or more political parties with similar goals:

The coalition presented a united front in their approach to free trade.

coherent

(say koh-**hear**-ruhnt)

adjective clear and well thought out:

She presented a coherent argument for building a new school hall.

conciliation

(say kuhn-sil-ee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the working out of a dispute with the help of a person (the conciliator) who is not involved in it, especially between trade unions and employers:

The dispute was resolved through a conciliation process.

concoction

(say kuhn-**kok**-shuhn)

noun the product of combining a group of ingredients:

He made a delicious concoction of different fruit juices and soft drinks.

conductive

(say kuhn-**dyooh**-siv)

adjective leading to or helping to bring about a result:

Lots of exercise is conducive to good health.

consciousness

(say **kon**-shuhs-nuhs)

noun mental awareness:

She regained consciousness when the anaesthetic wore off.

consignment

(say kuhn-**suyn**-muhnt)

noun property sent to an agent for sale, storage, or shipment:

The shop is expecting a consignment of the new phones next week.

contagious

(say kuhn-**tay**-juhs)

adjective easily spread from one person to another:

Measles is contagious, but most people in Australia are vaccinated against it.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

contentious

(say kuhn-**ten**-shuhs)

adjective characterised by argument:

The government's contentious new policy has caused many arguments in the community.

convalesce

(say kon-vuh-**less**)

verb If someone is **convalescing**, they are growing stronger after an illness:

They took her to the mountains so she could convalesce in the cool, clean air.

copha

(say **koh**-fuh)

noun a white waxy solid derived from coconut flesh used as a shortening in cookery; coconut butter:

*We made chocolate crackles out of rice bubbles and copha. Also, **copha butter**.*

cornucopia

(say kawn-yuh-**koh**-pee-uh)

noun an overflowing supply of anything:

A cornucopia of fresh ideas resulted from the conference.

culottes

(say kuh-**lots**)

plural noun trousers which are cut wide to look like a skirt:

My mother used to wear culottes when she was young.

curriculum

(say kuh-**rik**-yuh-luhm)

noun a set of courses of study:

The art curriculum includes a segment on photography.

dachshund

(say **daks**-uhnd or **dash**-uhnd)

noun a small dog with a long body and very short legs:

The dachshund is a friendly breed of dog.

debacle

(say day-**bah**-kuhl or duh-**bah**-kuhl)

noun a disastrous failure:

Unfortunately, the restaurant's opening night was a complete debacle with the chef storming out in a rage.

debauchery

(say duh-**bawch**-uh-ree)

noun over-indulgence in sensual things:

The ageing politician was accused of debauchery when he was seen with numerous young girls.

denunciation

(say duh-nun-see-**ay**-shuhn)

noun an open and harsh condemnation of someone or something you think is bad:

His angry denunciation of the government was heard by many at the rally.

desiccated

(say **dess**-uh-kayt-uhd)

adjective dried thoroughly, often in order to preserve:

After icing the lamingtons, we rolled them in desiccated coconut.

differentiate

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(say dif-uh-**ren**-shee-ayt)

verb to see that one thing is different from another:

It is hard for colourblind people to differentiate between red and green.

discourteous

(say dis-**ker**-tee-uhs)

adjective lacking politeness; impolite; uncivil; rude:

Discourteous behaviour is not tolerated in my house.

discrimination

(say duh-skrim-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun unfair treatment of a person because of something such as their gender, nationality or religion:

Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated in our school.

discriminatory

(say dis-**krim**-uh-nuh-tree)

adjective showing an unfair prejudice for one person or group over another:

The new laws were revised because people found them discriminatory and inconsistent.

disintegrate

(say dis-**in**-tuh-grayt)

verb to break up into small parts:

The meteor began to disintegrate when it entered the earth's atmosphere.

disorientate

(say dis-**o**-ree-uhn-tayt)

verb to confuse, especially about where you are or which direction you are facing:

*The winding roads often disorientate tourists. Also, You can also use **disorient**.*

dissociate

(say dis-**oh**-shee-ayt)

verb to separate or break a connection:

After the fight, Sam's mother wanted him to completely dissociate himself from the gang.

distinguished

(say duhs-**ting**-gwisht)

adjective important and famous:

We had a distinguished guest over for dinner.

duress

(say dyooh-**ress**)

noun the use of threats or force:

The man claimed he had only signed the confession under duress.

dyslexia

(say dis-**lek**-see-uh)

noun a medical condition that makes it difficult to learn to read:

Despite his dyslexia, Hans Christian Andersen became a famous writer of fairytales.

egalitarian

(say uh-gal-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn or ee-gal-uh-**tair**-ree-uhn)

adjective showing or believing in the equality of all people:

In an ideal world, society would be completely egalitarian.

elixir

(say uh-**lik**-suh)

noun an alchemic preparation formerly believed to be capable of transmuting base

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

metals into gold:

The elixer did not change the piece of iron into gold.

embezzlement

(say em-**bez**-uhl-muhnt)

noun a crime where someone who has been entrusted with money or property uses it for themselves:

The bank official was found guilty of the embezzlement of customers' money.

embryo

(say **em**-bree-oh)

noun a young animal or human in the very early stages of growing in the womb:

It's amazing to think that each of us was once a tiny embryo.

emissary

(say **em**-uhs-uh-ree or **em**-uhs-ree)

noun someone sent on mission:

It was the emissary's role to make a pact with the enemy.

entourage

(say **on**-tooh-rahj)

noun a group of people attending and helping someone, especially an important person:

The prime minister's entourage was transported in a bus.

equilateral

(say eek-wuh-**lat**-ruhl)

adjective having equal sides:

It is easy to draw an equilateral triangle if you have a compass.

equilibrium

(say eek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm or ek-wuh-**lib**-ree-uhm)

noun equal balance:

The two children managed to keep the seesaw in equilibrium.

esplanade

(say **es**-pluh-nayd or **es**-pluh-nahd)

noun a path or road by the sea:

We like to go for walks along the esplanade on sunny afternoons.

exaggerate

(say uhg-**zaj**-uh-rayt)

verb To **exaggerate** is to make something out to be greater than it is:

You always exaggerate so it's hard to know what really happened.

excerpt

(say **ek**-serpt)

noun a piece quoted from a book or shown from a film:

The teacher read us an excerpt from the new Harry Potter book.

excruciating

(say uhks-**krooh**-shee-ay-ting)

adjective very painful or causing great suffering:

The pain from her burns was excruciating.

exhibitionism

(say ek-suh-**bish**-uh-niz-uhm)

noun the tendency to try to attract attention to oneself or one's abilities:

The last thing the teacher wanted in front of the inspector was a display of exhibitionism from the pupils.

exorbitant

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(say uhg-**zaw**-buh-tuhnt)

adjective going beyond what is normal, right, or reasonable:

I avoid that shop because it charges exorbitant prices.

exquisite

(say ek-**skwiz**-uht)

adjective delicately beautiful:

This plant produces exquisite golden flowers.

extortionate

(say uhk-**staw**-shuhn-uht)

adjective excessively high:

The price of limes was extortionate because they were out of season.

extraneous

(say ek-**stray**-nee-uhs)

adjective unrelated, or not belonging:

We need to keep extraneous thoughts from our minds and concentrate on our task.

extrapolate

(say ek-**strap**-uh-layt)

verb to make a guess about something you don't know using the things you do know as a basis:

You can extrapolate from this survey that about one in twenty people won't vote at all.

extrasensory

(say eks-truh-**sen**-suh-ree)

adjective outside the normal senses:

He had what appeared to be an extrasensory understanding of what people were thinking.

extravagance

(say uk-**strav**-uh-guhns or ek-**strav**-uh-guhns)

noun the spending of too much money:

Buying an outfit that she only planned to wear once was an extravagance.

exuberant

(say uhg-**zyooh**-buh-ruhnt)

adjective full of energy or high spirits:

The exuberant puppy jumped up and licked her face.

facsimile

(say fak-**sim**-uh-lee)

noun a way of sending documents or pictures along a telephone line:

She sent a copy of her dental records by facsimile to her new dentist.

fascism

(say **fash**-iz-uhm)

noun a government system with strong centralised power, which permits no opposition:

Fascism is a system of government which gave rise to dictatorships last century.

fictitious

(say fik-**tish**-uhs)

adjective imaginary or made up:

The characters in this film are fictitious -- they are not based on real people.

fiefdom

(say **feef**-duhm)

noun a powerful person's area of control:

Wales was once considered a fiefdom of English aristocrats.

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focaccia

(say fuh-**kah**-chuh or fuh-**kah**-chee-uh)

noun flat Italian bread which can be eaten with various fillings or toppings:

We had focaccia with cheese and olives for lunch.

follicle

(say **fol**-ik-uhl)

noun a small cavity or gland in your body:

A hair grows from a follicle.

fractious

(say **frak**-shuhs)

adjective bad-tempered and uncooperative:

The fractious child needed a good night's sleep.

fraught

(say frawt)

adjective involving or full of:

The journey across the mountains was fraught with danger.

fugitive

(say **fyoo**h-juh-tiv)

noun someone who is running away:

Police are still hunting for the fugitive who escaped from prison.

fuselage

(say **fyoo**h-zuh-lahzh)

noun the body of an aircraft:

The aircraft's fuselage was damaged on landing.

gangrenous

(say **gang**-gruh-nuhs)

adjective affected by gangrene:

The surgeon had to amputate the gangrenous leg before the infection spread.

gargantuan

(say gah-**gan**-chooh-uhn)

adjective huge or enormous:

I could only manage to eat a fraction of the gargantuan meal.

gargoyle

(say **gah**-goyl)

noun a spout, often carved in the shape of an ugly head with an open mouth, which carries rainwater off a roof:

Each corner of the old building was decorated with an ugly gargoyle.

gauche

(say gohsh)

adjective clumsy and awkward:

His gauche manners embarrassed everybody.

gelatinous

(say juh-**lat**-uh-nuhs)

adjective jelly-like:

Jellyfish have gelatinous bodies, which is how they got their name.

gelignite

(say **jel**-uhg-nuyt)

noun an explosive substance used in mining:

The miners kept their store of gelignite locked away safely.

gerrymander

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(say **je**-ree-man-duh)

noun in politics, an arrangement of the political divisions of an electorate so as to give one party an unfair advantage in elections:

The electoral backlash overcame the gerrymander which had kept the party in power for a decade.

gondolier

(say gon-duh-**lear**)

noun the person who rows a gondola:

The gondolier used a long pole to move the gondola through the water.

gratuity

(say gruh-**tyooh**-uh-tee)

noun a gift, usually of money, for service given:

He was given a gratuity of \$5 for carrying the luggage.

gyrate

(say juy-**rayt**)

verb to move in a circle or spiral:

The children watched the spinning top gyrate for minutes until it finally came to a stop.

hallucinate

(say huh-**looh**-suh-nayt)

verb to see and experience things that are not really there:

The heat, the lack of water and the endless sandhills caused her to hallucinate.

harlequin

(say **hah**-luh-kwuhn)

noun a clownish character, usually wearing a mask and multicoloured tights:

He came on stage dressed as a harlequin in multicoloured tights.

hypothetical

(say huy-puh-**thet**-ik-uhl)

adjective assumed by hypothesis; supposed:

The intern was asked how he would treat a hypothetical case of pneumonia.

idolatry

(say uy-**dol**-uh-tree)

noun worship of idols:

Idolatry is a part of some ancient religions.

impeccable

(say im-**pek**-uh-buhl)

adjective without any faults:

The principal said she was proud of our impeccable behaviour on the excursion.

imperceptible

(say im-puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be seen:

The grey cat was almost imperceptible in the dark corner.

inaugural

(say in-**awg**-yuh-ruhl)

adjective having to do with a formal beginning:

The inaugural concert in the new hall was a great success.

inauspicious

(say in-aw-**spish**-uhs)

adjective unfavourable:

The black clouds were inauspicious for the outdoor wedding.

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incomprehensible

(say in-kom-pruh-**hence**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be understood:

After all the help we had given her, her angry outburst was incomprehensible.

inconceivable

(say in-kuhn-**seev**-uh-buhl)

adjective unimaginable or incredible:

Ten years ago it would have been inconceivable that people would equip new houses with water tanks.

inconsequential

(say in-kon-suh-**kwen**-shuhl)

adjective of little or no importance:

They have already made the decision, so it's really inconsequential what you recommend.

indistinguishable

(say in-duhs-**ting**-gwish-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be made out or identified:

Her face was indistinguishable in the darkness.

insinuate

(say in-**sin**-yooh-ayt)

verb to suggest or hint slyly:

He always seems to insinuate things, rather than being straightforward.

instantaneous

(say in-stuhn-**tay**-nee-uhs)

adjective immediate:

There was instantaneous cheering when the winner was announced.

interrogation

(say in-te-ruh-**gay**-shuhn)

noun the act of questioning someone closely to find out something:

The interrogation of the suspect took more than four hours because he wouldn't name his accomplices.

interstellar

(say **in**-tuh-stel-uh)

adjective between the stars:

The science fiction novel was about interstellar travel.

intricacy

(say **in**-truh-kuh-see)

noun intricate character:

We admired the intricacy of her embroidery.

irrefutable

(say i-**ref**-yuh-tuh-buhl or i-ruh-**fyoo**-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be disproved; incontrovertible:

She presented irrefutable logic that there was life on Mars.

irrepressible

(say i-ruh-**pres**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be put down or repressed:

Even when things were at their worst, her optimism was irrepressible.

irresistible

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(say i-ruh-**zist**-uh-buhl)

adjective so tempting that you cannot fight against it:

She found the sweets and cakes on the table irresistible.

jurisdiction

(say jooh-ruhs-**dik**-shuhn)

noun If a person or legal body has **jurisdiction** in a particular matter, they have the authority to make a judgement about it:

The industrial court does not have jurisdiction to decide on that kind of dispute.

jurisprudence

(say jooh-ruhs-**prooh**-duhns)

noun the science or philosophy of law:

Jurisprudence asks questions like what is the goal of law and whether we should obey the law.

kibbutz

(say kib-**oots**)

noun (plural **kibbutzim**)

an Israeli farming settlement whose management, work and products are shared:

He spent six months on a kibbutz not far from Jerusalem.

knapsack

(say **nap**-sak)

noun an old-fashioned word for a backpack:

The camper carried water and food in her knapsack.

languid

(say **lang**-gwuhd)

adjective drooping or flagging from weakness or fatigue:

The sick woman sent him away with a languid wave of her hand.

lassitude

(say **las**-uh-tyoohd)

noun **U** Formal weariness of your body or your mind:

A feeling of lassitude overwhelmed them after the meal.

legionnaire

(say lee-juh-**nair**)

noun a member of a legion, especially the French Foreign Legion:

The legionnaire had fought in many parts of the world.

liaise

(say lee-**ayz**)

verb to communicate and act together:

We will have to liaise with other groups to present a stronger argument to the council.

liaison

(say lee-**ay**-zuhn)

noun a connection or communication between people or groups:

The council works in liaison with local bush regeneration groups.

liege

(say leej or leezh)

noun a lord entitled to loyalty and service:

In medieval times, serfs used to work the land for their liege.

lineage

(say **lin**-ee-ij)

noun descent from a line of ancestors:

Tom's aunt thinks her family is of royal lineage.

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liquidator

(say **lik**-wuh-day-tuh)

noun a person appointed to carry out the closing down of a company and the settling of its debts:

The manager had to hand over the company's records to the liquidator so debts could be settled.

longevity

(say long-**jev**-uh-tee)

noun length of life:

People that keep healthy increase their chance of longevity.

lymphatic

(say lim-**fat**-ik)

adjective relating to lymph, one of the important fluids in our bodies:

Doctors have to know how the lymphatic system works to be able to treat many illnesses.

macabre

(say muh-**kahb** or muh-**kah**-buh or muh-**kah**-bruh)

adjective horrible in a gruesome way:

The newspaper article gave details of the macabre murders.

maelstrom

(say **mayl**-struhm)

noun a large whirlpool:

In the past, many ships were wrecked in the maelstrom off the coast.

magnanimous

(say mag-**nan**-uh-muhs)

adjective nobly unselfish and generous:

It's very magnanimous of you to give me your ticket to the concert.

maintenance

(say **mayn**-tuh-nuhns)

noun the act of maintaining or keeping something in good condition:

The maintenance of his motorbike took up much of his time.

malleable

(say **mal**-ee-uh-buhl)

adjective easily worked into a different shape:

Plasticine is easy to shape because it is malleable.

marshmallow

(say mahsh-**mal**-oh)

noun a type of sweet with a spongy texture, usually containing gelatine, sugar, and flavouring:

I like to put a marshmallow in my hot chocolate.

masquerade

(say mas-kuh-**rayd** or mahs-kuh-**rayd**)

noun a party at which the guests wear fancy dress:

I wore a pirate costume to the masquerade.

mathematician

(say math-uh-muh-**tish**-uhn)

noun an expert in mathematics:

Grace was good with numbers and wanted to be a mathematician.

mediocre

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(say mee-dee-**oh**-kuh)

adjective neither good nor bad:

My report said my work was mediocre and that I could do better.

memorabilia

(say mem-uh-ruh-**bil**-ee-uh)

plural noun things collected for the sake of memory:

The school hall was full of memorabilia donated by students from years ago.

meningitis

(say men-uhn-**juh**-tuhs)

noun a disease which causes the lining of the brain to swell up:

Meningitis can be a serious illness.

milliner

(say **mil**-uh-nuh)

noun someone who makes or sells hats:

My grandmother is a milliner and is busy every year making hats for the Melbourne Cup.

mimicry

(say **mim**-uh-kree)

noun the act of mimicking or copying something or someone:

His mimicry of the politician's unusual way of walking had us all laughing.

minestrone

(say min-uh-**stroh**-nee)

noun a kind of soup containing vegetables, herbs and pasta:

The more ingredients you add to minestrone soup, the better it tastes.

necessitate

(say nuh-**sess**-uh-tayt)

verb to make necessary:

A continuation of the drought will necessitate further water restrictions.

neuralgia

(say nyoooh-**ral**-juh)

noun a sharp and paroxysmal pain along a nerve:

Her face was wrapped up in a towel and she explained she had violent neuralgia.

nirvana

(say ner-**vah**-nuh or near-**vah**-nuh)

noun a term used in Buddhism to describe a state of being completely peaceful and calm in the body, mind and spirit:

According to Buddhist belief, it takes practice to achieve the state of nirvana.

nonchalant

(say **non**-shuh-luhnt)

adjective calm and indifferent:

He shrugged his shoulders in a nonchalant way.

notoriety

(say noh-tuh-**ruy**-uh-tee)

noun the condition of being well-known, often for something bad:

The visiting cricket team had gained notoriety for their bad sportsmanship.

noxious

(say **nok**-shuhs)

adjective harmful or hurtful:

A noxious chemical leaked from the damaged tanker.

nuance

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(say **nyoooh**-ons)

noun a slight variation of colour, meaning, expression or feeling:

We knew every nuance of her voice and could tell that she was worried.

obsolescent

(say ob-suh-**les**-uhnt)

adjective becoming out of date:

The typewriter is obsolescent now that so many people have computers and printers.

occurrence

(say uh-**ku**-ruhns)

noun the action or fact of occurring, or happening:

The occurrence of rain after a drought is cause for great celebration.

opulently

(say **op**-yuh-luhnt-lee)

adverb in a rich or visibly wealthy manner:

The king dressed opulently in velvet robes and jewelled crowns.

orchestrate

(say aw-kuhs-**trayt**)

verb to put together in a well-planned way:

It is a challenge to orchestrate a large conference.

orthodox

(say **aw**-thuh-doks)

adjective accepted or conventional:

He has very orthodox ideas, so he won't shock anyone when he gives his speech.

osteopath

(say **oss**-tee-uh-path)

noun a person who cures diseases by realigning bones in the body:

The osteopath examined the patient thoroughly before treating her.

oxymoron

(say ok-see-**maw**-ron)

noun a saying which contains a seeming contradiction:

Some would say that the phrase 'enjoyable homework' is an oxymoron.

panacea

(say pan-uh-**see**-uh)

noun a solution to all problems:

Some people look to technology as a panacea that can solve all our problems.

panache

(say puh-**nash**)

noun a stylish way of doing things:

The show was put together with great panache.

pandemonium

(say pan-duh-**moh**-nee-uhm)

noun wild and noisy confusion:

There was absolute pandemonium when we heard that we had made the finals.

paparazzi

(say pap-uh-**raht**-see)

plural noun news photographers who seek sensational but trivial material with great persistence:

Most celebrities hate their privacy being invaded by the paparazzi.

paradigm

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(say **pa**-ruh-duym)

noun a pattern or example:

Dad regards his elder brother as the paradigm of a successful businessman.

parochial

(say puh-**roh**-kee-uhl)

adjective having a very narrow field of interest or activity:

She's very parochial in her outlook, and not interested in wider issues.

parquetry

(say **pah**-kuh-tree)

noun mosaic work of wood often used for floors:

We found parquetry on the floor when we stripped back the carpet.

penchant

(say **pen**-chuhnt or **pon**-shon)

noun a taste or liking for something:

Her clothes reflect her penchant for bright colours.

perfunctory

(say puh-**fungk**-tuh-ree)

adjective done only as an uninteresting or mechanical duty:

She uttered a perfunctory greeting as she strode into the room.

permissible

(say puh-**mis**-uh-buhl)

adjective allowed or permitted:

Surfing the internet is only permissible once all our homework is completed.

pharmaceutical

(say fahm-uh-**syooht**-i-kuhl)

adjective relating to the preparation of drugs used in medicine:

The pharmaceutical company is about to release a new asthma medication.

pheasant

(say **fez**-uhnt)

noun a kind of large, long-tailed bird, often eaten as food:

Pheasant is a popular item on menus in Europe.

physician

(say fuh-**zish**-uhn)

noun a medical doctor, especially one who does not do surgery:

The physician examined the boy's painful leg.

piquant

(say **pee**-kuhnt)

adjective pleasantly sharp in taste:

Radishes add a piquant taste to a salad.

pistachio

(say puh-**stah**-shee-oh)

noun the nut of the fruit of a small tree of southern Europe and western Asia:

The colour of a pistachio is a delicate green.

placebo

(say pluh-**see**-boh)

noun a substance which has no medicinal content but which a patient believes to be a medicine:

One half of the experimental group was given a placebo instead of the test medication but were not told of this.

polyunsaturated

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(say pol-ee-un-**sach**-uh-ray-tuhd)

adjective having to do with certain types of fats or oils which are thought to be better for your health than other types:

Foods containing polyunsaturated fats are an important part of a healthy diet.

precocious

(say pruh-**koh**-shuhs)

adjective more advanced than others of the same age:

Anyone who composes music at the age of four, as Mozart did, could be thought of as precocious.

predecessor

(say **pree**-duh-sess-uh)

noun someone who had the job before someone else:

Governor Macquarie arrived in New South Wales shortly after his predecessor had left.

premises

(say **prem**-uh-suhz)

plural noun a building or house with the land belonging to it:

The business will move to new premises next month.

prerequisite

(say pree-**rek**-wuh-zuht)

adjective something that is needed beforehand:

A knowledge of French was the only prerequisite for obtaining the job.

pretentious

(say pruh-**ten**-shuhs)

adjective having an exaggerated outward show of importance, wealth and so on:

She is so pretentious, always talking about her large house at the beach.

primordial

(say pruy-**maw**-dee-uhl)

adjective existing at the beginning of the world:

Scientists have tried to discover what life existed in Earth's primordial oceans.

privilege

(say **priv**-uh-lij)

noun a special right or advantage enjoyed by only a limited number of people:

The sign said that it was a privilege to view the penguins and people should look after the site.

prodigious

(say pruh-**dij**-uhs)

adjective Something **prodigious** is extremely great in size, amount or force:

He has a prodigious appetite for fantasy fiction and is always at the library.

prophecy

(say **prof**-uh-see)

noun a statement telling what is going to happen in the future:

His prophecy of rain raised the farmers' hopes.

proprietary

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tree)

adjective insistent on your ownership of something:

He is very proprietary about his car and won't let anyone else drive it.

prospectus

(say pruh-**spek**-tuhs)

noun a statement or pamphlet which advertises something new or gives more details

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about things like a school, university or commercial company:

Because of the latest prospectus, they decided to invest their money in the company.

psychic

(say **suy**-kik)

adjective If someone is **psychic**, they apparently have supernatural mental powers, such as the ability to see the future or to know what other people are thinking:

Sometimes I think it would be very useful to be psychic, especially on Melbourne Cup day.

psychoanalyst

(say suy-koh-**an**-uh-luhst)

noun someone who tries to help people with mental problems by examining their unconscious mind:

She consulted a psychoanalyst about her extreme anxiety.

quadrilateral

(say kwod-ruh-**lat**-ruhl)

noun a closed, plane figure with four sides:

A parallelogram is an example of a quadrilateral.

querulous

(say **kwe**-ruh-luhs)

adjective irritable and complaining:

'Is dinner ever going to be ready?' she asked in a querulous voice.

rapacious

(say ruh-**pay**-shuhs)

adjective very greedy:

The tycoon was known for his rapacious business methods.

ravioli

(say rav-ee-**oh**-lee)

noun small squares of pasta wrapped around minced meat or vegetables, cooked, and served in a sauce:

The pasta we had for dinner was ravioli, served in a tomato sauce.

rebellious

(say ruh-**bel**-yuhs)

adjective fighting against a government or other organised authority:

Soldiers were sent to control the rebellious mob.

reconciliation

(say rek-uhn-sil-ee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the achievement of harmony between people or groups:

In her speech the prime minister said that our goal should be reconciliation.

regrettable

(say ruh-**gret**-uh-buhl)

adjective causing you to feel sorry or sad:

He apologised for his regrettable behaviour.

reminiscent

(say rem-uh-**niss**-uhnt)

adjective awakening memories of something else:

Today's game was reminiscent of the great Grand Final of 1975.

resplendence

(say ruh-**splend**-uhns)

noun splendour:

The resplendence of the ceremony matched the importance of the occasion.

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rheumatic

(say rooh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having to do with rheumatism, a condition which causes your joints to ache:

He had a rheumatic condition which caused pain in his neck and shoulders.

rhomboid

(say **rom**-boyd)

noun a four-sided shape like a diamond:

Each tile had four sides and was in the shape of a rhomboid.

salmonella

(say sal-muh-**nel**-uh)

noun a type of bacterium causing sickness in humans and animals, by food contamination:

The testing found the presence of salmonella in the food which had caused the food poisoning.

sapphire

(say **saf**-uy-uh)

noun a clear blue gem:

Her sapphire earrings matched the colour of her eyes.

sequester

(say suh-**kwes**-tuh)

verb to place in a position of solitude:

The movie star decided to sequester himself on an island, and lived alone for a year.

shanghai

(say **shang**-huy)

noun a Y-shaped stick with an elastic strip between the prongs for shooting stones:

He practised with his shanghai by aiming stones at the tree in the backyard.

slough

(say sluf)

verb to be shed or thrown off, as the slough of a snake is:

Their homework was to find out if some types of snakes slough their skin more frequently than others.

sojourn

(say **soh**-jern or **soj**-ern)

noun a temporary stay:

They had a pleasant sojourn in Tasmania after the conference.

solicitous

(say suh-**lis**-uh-tuhs)

adjective anxiously caring about something:

They were solicitous for the new girl's wellbeing.

solitaire

(say **sol**-uh-tair)

noun a card game played by one person:

Dad usually has a game of solitaire in front of the fire before bed.

souvlaki

(say soohv-**lah**-kee)

noun a Greek dish made with diced lamb on skewers:

We both ordered souvlaki for lunch.

spherical

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(say **sfe**-ruh-kuhl)

adjective having the shape of a sphere or ball:

Soccer is played with a spherical ball, unlike Rugby.

stanchion

(say **stan**-shuhn or **stan**-chuhn or **stahn**-shuhn or **stahn**-chuhn)

noun an upright bar, beam, post or support:

The train left the tracks and hit the stanchion supporting the bridge.

statutory

(say **stach**-uh-tree or **stach**-uh-tuh-ree)

adjective required or fixed by law:

It is a statutory requirement that you submit a tax return.

stereophonic

(say ste-ree-uh-**fon**-ik)

adjective using two channels and two speakers to transmit and broadcast sound:

Joshua listened to his MP3 player with stereophonic headphones.

stupefied

(say **styoooh**-puh-fuyd)

adjective astounded or amazed:

We were stupefied to hear who had committed the murder.

successor

(say suhk-**sess**-uh)

noun someone or something that comes after and takes the place of:

I am leaving the job in the capable hands of my successor.

succinct

(say suhk-**singkt**)

adjective expressed in a few words:

Our teacher advised us to write succinct answers as we did not have a lot of time.

suffragette

(say suf-ruh-**jet**)

noun one of an association of women in the early 20th century who agitated for the right of women to vote:

Her grandmother was a suffragette because she felt it was a woman's right to vote.

suggestible

(say suh-**jes**-tuh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **suggestible**, they are easily influenced:

I'm so suggestible that I start shivering when someone just talks about snow.

superannuation

(say sooh-puh-an-yoooh-**ay**-shuhn)

noun a pension or allowance paid to a person, especially someone who has retired from work:

It's important to plan your superannuation, so that you have money to live on when you retire.

swathe

(say swaydh)

verb to wrap something up with strips of material or other wrappings:

She decided to swathe her neck with a scarf before going out into the cold night.

sycamore

(say **sik**-uh-maw)

noun a shady tree sometimes grown for its wood:

The children ate their lunch under the sycamore tree.

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syllabus

(say **sil**-uh-buhs)

noun a plan of what is to be taught in a course of lessons:

After pressure from the students, they have added cooking to the syllabus at the local boys' school.

symmetry

(say **sim**-uh-tree)

noun the arrangement of the parts of something so that they are all balanced in size and shape:

We marvelled at the perfect symmetry of the butterfly's wings.

symptom

(say **simp**-tuhm)

noun something that shows that you have a disease or illness of some kind:

A high temperature is a symptom of the flu.

synopsis

(say suh-**nop**-suhs)

noun a short version or summary:

I will give you a synopsis of what we have done so far.

tarantula

(say tuh-**ran**-chuh-luh)

noun a large, furry spider of mostly tropical areas:

She saw a huge tarantula, with eight long hairy legs.

technician

(say tek-**nish**-uhn)

noun someone skilled in the technical aspects of something:

We called a technician when the photocopier broke down.

teleprompter

(say **tel**-uh-promp-tuh)

noun a device used especially by television performers, on which words to be spoken appear while the speaker reads them:

When the teleprompter broke down, the TV host didn't know what to say.

thermodynamics

(say ther-moh-duy-**nam**-iks)

noun the science concerned with the relationship between heat and mechanical energy:

Thermodynamics is a subject studied at university.

thesaurus

(say thuh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a book of words arranged in groups which have a similar meaning:

We used the thesaurus to find a more interesting word for 'nice'.

titanium

(say tuy-**tay**-nee-uhm)

noun a dark grey metal used to remove oxygen and nitrogen from steel and to toughen it:

Titanium can make steel extremely strong.

tortilla

(say taw-**tee**-yuh)

noun a thin, round, unleavened cake made from cornmeal:

We wrapped some chicken and salad in a tortilla for lunch.

transcendental

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(say tran-sen-**den**-tuhl)

adjective surpassing everything else:

His five days of meditation at the temple was a transcendental experience.

trapezium

(say truh-**pee**-zee-uhm)

noun a four-sided figure, two of whose sides are parallel:

He based his table design on a trapezium.

tryst

(say trist)

noun a planned meeting, especially a secret one:

They held a tryst under the apple tree.

tyranny

(say **ti**-ruh-nee)

noun complete or unchecked power:

Many of his subjects suffered because of his tyranny.

unaccompanied

(say un-uh-**kum**-puh-need)

adjective playing an instrument or singing alone, without an accompaniment:

She played a Bach piece for unaccompanied cello.

unaccustomed

(say un-uh-**kus**-tuhmd)

adjective unused:

Pete had been treated like a prince since he was born and was unaccustomed to hardships.

uncoordinated

(say un-koh-**aw**-duh-nay-tuhd)

adjective lacking in physical coordination:

He felt gawky and uncoordinated but enjoyed the dance anyway.

unwarranted

(say un-**wo**-ruhn-tuhd)

adjective not reasonable or justified:

That sort of punishment for such a little thing was entirely unwarranted.

upholsterer

(say up-**hohl**-stuh-ruh)

noun someone whose business is to make or repair the coverings of chairs, cushions, and so on:

Our couch needed recovering, so we took it to an upholsterer.

vaccinate

(say **vak**-suh-nayt)

verb to give a vaccine to in order to prevent illness:

The nurse is at the community hall to vaccinate against measles.

valedictory

(say val-uh-**dik**-tuh-ree)

adjective relating to saying goodbye or farewell:

As a farewell gift, he was given a gold watch at his valedictory dinner.

ventriloquist

(say ven-**tril**-uh-kwuhst)

noun someone who can speak with little or no lip movement:

The children thought the puppet was speaking but it was really the ventriloquist talking without moving his lips.

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vestibule

(say **vest**-uh-byoohl)

noun an entrance hall:

We met in the vestibule and then went upstairs to a meeting room.

veterinary

(say **vet**-uh-ruhn-ree or **vet**-uhn-ree)

adjective relating to the study, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and injuries:

She wants to study veterinary science so she can treat sick animals.

vigilance

(say **vi**j-uh-luhns)

noun the quality of being watchful and alert:

Their vigilance was rewarded on the fifth night when they saw the fox stalking the hen house.

vivacious

(say vuh-**vay**-shuhs)

adjective lively or energetic:

It's always a pleasure to be with such a happy, vivacious person.

warranty

(say **wo**-ruhn-tee)

noun a formal promise or assurance of reliability:

The computer's one-year warranty covered replacement of faulty parts.

wrangle

(say **rang**-guh)

verb If two people **wrangle**, they argue or quarrel noisily:

They used to wrangle over how much Tim should pay for the rent.

wreckage

(say **rek**-ij)

noun the broken parts of something that has been destroyed:

They could see the wreckage of the plane from where they stood.

writhe

(say ruydh)

verb to twist, as if in pain or embarrassment:

The terrible pain of her broken leg made her writhe in agony.

zygote

(say **zuy**-goht)

noun a fertilised egg cell:

A zygote can be seen only under a microscope.

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Senior General Level 6

abalone

(say ab-uh-**loh**-nee)

noun a type of shellfish that is good to eat:

Dad makes a delicious stir-fry with abalone and lots of chilli.

abattoir

(say **ab**-uh-twah)

noun a place where animals are killed for food:

The cattle were herded into the abattoir.

abominable

(say uh-**bom**-uh-nuh-buhl)

adjective hateful or disgusting:

Selling people into slavery is an abominable thing.

abscess

(say **ab**-suhs)

noun an infected swelling in a part of the body:

The mosquito bite had become a nasty abscess on his leg.

agoraphobia

(say ag-uh-ruh-**foh**-bee-uh)

noun an extreme fear of being in open or public spaces:

Agoraphobia is an illness which can make people afraid of leaving their homes.

alchemy

(say **al**-kuh-mee)

noun the medieval form of chemistry which tried to find ways of changing all metals into gold:

Many people tried alchemy, but no-one succeeded in turning another metal into gold.

algorithm

(say **al**-guh-ridh-uhm)

noun a procedure for solving a particular mathematical problem in a finite number of steps:

The programmer worked out the algorithm for solving the problem.

allegiance

(say uh-**lee**-juhns)

noun loyalty or faithfulness:

Mum was thanked for her allegiance to the company over many years.

apothecary

(say uh-**poth**-uh-kuh-ree)

noun an old-fashioned word for a chemist:

In the Middle Ages, people would go to the apothecary for medicines.

appropriation

(say uh-proh-pree-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the act of setting something apart for some specific purpose or use:

There was an appropriation of funds for setting up more schools in disadvantaged areas.

autocracy

(say aw-**tok**-ruh-see)

noun the government or power of a ruler who has uncontrolled or unlimited authority over others:

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The people hated the autocracy under which they lived but were not sufficiently organised to rebel.

auxiliary

(say og-**zil**-yuh-ree)

adjective relating to extra equipment that is kept in case it is needed:

The hospital has an auxiliary power supply in case of a blackout.

bruschetta

(say broos-**ket**-uh or broosh-**et**-uh)

noun grilled slices of bread brushed with olive oil and a topping such as diced tomato:

Bruschetta is not difficult to make, and tastes delicious with a tomato and basil topping.

bureaucrat

(say **byooh**-ruh-krat)

noun a member of a body of administrative officials:

She has worked as a bureaucrat with the Department of Defence for many years.

cacophony

(say kuh-**kof**-uh-nee)

noun a loud, unmusical sound:

There was a cacophony of car horns as the truck continued to block the road.

capillary

(say kuh-**pil**-uh-ree)

noun one of the smallest vessels for taking blood around the body:

A capillary is smaller than a vein or an artery.

cardiothoracic

(say kah-dee-oh-thuh-**rass**-ik)

adjective of or relating to the medical science with deals with the treatment of diseases of the organs within the thorax:

When my grandfather had a heart attack, he was looked after in the cardiothoracic section of the hospital.

catacombs

(say **kat**-uh-kohmz or **kat**-uh-koohmz)

plural noun a series of underground tunnels and caves or rooms, once used as burial places:

I'm reading a scary book about a group of children lost in the catacombs under Paris.

caterwaul

(say **kat**-uh-wawl)

verb to cry or howl like fighting cats:

The twins would bellow and caterwaul at each other for hours on end.

centrifuge

(say **sen**-truh-fyoohj or **sen**-truh-fyoohzh)

noun a machine used to separate two substances by spinning them around very fast in a rotating container:

A centrifuge is used to separate serum from blood.

charlatan

(say **shah**-luh-tuhn)

noun someone who claims to have knowledge or skill that they do not really have:

That charlatan promised these pills would cure my allergy, but it is as bad as ever.

collectivism

(say kuh-**lek**-tuh-viz-uhm)

noun the socialist principle of control by the people collectively of all means of

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production or economic activities:

Collectivism is a principle which stresses people working together rather than the importance of separate individuals.

conjunctivitis

(say kuhn-jungk-tuh-**vuy**-tuhs)

noun in medicine, a painful disease of the very fine membrane that covers and protects the inside of the eyelid and the surface of the eye, causing redness and swelling:

Conjunctivitis is sometimes called 'pink eye' because it causes redness and swelling of the eye.

consensus

(say kuhn-**sen**-suhs)

noun general agreement:

After hours of discussion, the committee reached consensus on which design would be adopted for the new building.

diagnostician

(say duy-uhg-nos-**tish**-uhn)

noun an expert in making diagnoses:

The doctor consulted a specialist diagnostician to find out what was wrong with the sick man.

effervescent

(say ef-uh-**vess**-uhnt)

adjective If a drink is **effervescent**, it is fizzy:

The bubbles from the effervescent drink tickled my nose.

entrepreneur

(say on-truh-pruh-**ner**)

noun a person who organises a business enterprise, especially a risky one:

The entrepreneur started a business making automatic lawnmowers and soon became a millionaire.

epiglottis

(say ep-ee-**glot**-uhs)

noun a thin piece of cartilage that covers the opening to the larynx during swallowing:

The epiglottis prevents food and drink from entering your larynx.

formaldehyde

(say faw-**mal**-duh-huyd)

noun a chemical substance used as a disinfectant and preservative:

Formaldehyde is a chemical used in the manufacture of resins and plastics.

guacamole

(say gwah-kuh-**moh**-lee)

noun a dip consisting of mashed avocado, seasonings, and lemon or lime juice:

She served the guacamole mixed with sour cream and a plate of chips.

halcyon

(say **hal**-see-uhn)

noun in mythology, a bird, usually said to be the kingfisher, supposed to have the power of calming winds and waves. Also, calm, tranquil and peaceful.

She looked forward to a halcyon retirement after her busy career.

hieroglyphics

(say huy-ruh-**glif**-iks)

plural noun writing in which words or sounds are represented by pictures:

The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics as their writing system.

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hypochondriac

(say huy-puh-**kon**-dree-ak)

noun someone who is so anxious about their health that they often think they have an illness when they don't:

He is a hypochondriac and imagines he has every disease he hears about on TV.

hypotenuse

(say huy-**pot**-uhn-yoohz)

noun the side opposite the right angle in a triangle:

Only a right-angled triangle has a hypotenuse.

loquacious

(say luh-**kway**-shuhs)

adjective liking to talk a lot:

He was a loquacious guest and his stories kept us entertained for hours.

mademoiselle

(say mad-uhm-wuh-**zel**)

noun the French title of respect for a girl or unmarried woman:

During our trip to France, the waiters all called me 'mademoiselle'.

manoeuvre

(say muh-**nooh**-vuh)

noun a clever move:

The team won with a brilliant manoeuvre that ended in a magnificent goal.

mortgagee

(say **maw**-guh-jee)

noun someone to whom property is mortgaged:

The mortgagee of my house is the bank.

nomenclature

(say nuh-**men**-kluh-chuh or **noh**-muhn-klay-chuh)

noun a set or system of names or terms, especially those used in a particular science or art:

You have to know the nomenclature of botany to fully understand the plants that are being described.

omniscient

(say om-**nis**-ee-uhnt)

adjective knowing everything:

Not being omniscient, I have no idea what I will be doing in ten years time.

oscillate

(say **oss**-uh-layt)

verb to move or swing to and fro:

The satellite dishes oscillate on the control towers.

parabola

(say puh-**rab**-uh-luh)

noun in geometry, a special kind of even curve, like the path of an object when it is thrown forward into the air and falls back to the earth:

The catapult projected the stone in a perfect parabola.

parallelogram

(say pa-ruh-**lel**-uh-gram)

noun a four-sided figure whose opposite sides are parallel to each other:

A square is an example of a special type of parallelogram.

paralysis

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(say puh-**ral**-uh-suhs)

noun an inability to move:

The bite of the tick caused paralysis in the dog's legs.

penicillin

(say pen-uh-**sil**-uhn)

noun a strong germ-fighting substance used in medicine:

In 1940, Australian scientist Howard Florey discovered how penicillin could be used as a medicine.

pertinacious

(say per-tuh-**nay**-shuhs)

adjective persistent, or refusing to give up something you have made up your mind to do:

Some pertinacious bargain hunters will travel kilometres to save a few dollars.

piranha

(say puh-**rah**-nuh)

noun a small South American fish which swims in schools that attack animals:

The piranha is a hazard to animals in many parts of the Amazon River.

posthumous

(say **poss**-chuh-muhs)

adjective published, given or happening after someone's death:

The firefighter died saving the children and was awarded a posthumous award for bravery.

prerogative

(say pruh-**rog**-uh-tiv)

noun a right or privilege:

Sally said it was her prerogative to choose who would come to her party.

propriety

(say pruh-**pruy**-uh-tee)

noun good manners or proper behaviour:

My grandmother always tells me that it is important to act with propriety.

psychedelic

(say suy-kuh-**del**-ik)

adjective having patterns of extremely bright colours:

Bright psychedelic wallpaper was popular in the 1960s.

puerile

(say **pyooh**-ruyl)

adjective childishly foolish:

The principal said that their puerile behaviour had brought dishonour to the school.

recalcitrant

(say ruh-**kal**-suh-truhnt)

adjective resisting authority or control:

Her recalcitrant attitude often got her into trouble.

sacrilege

(say **sak**-ruh-lij)

noun lack of respect for sacred objects or places:

It is regarded as sacrilege to paint graffiti on the walls of the war memorial.

sauerkraut

(say **sow**-uh-krowt)

noun a vegetable dish made with cabbage:

The recipe for sauerkraut calls for lots of chopped cabbage.

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scintillating

(say **sin**-tuh-lay-ting)

adjective witty, and stimulating one's interest:

The scintillating conversation at the dinner table kept us all entertained.

surveillance

(say suh-**vay**-luhns)

noun a watch kept over someone, especially someone who is suspected of doing something wrong:

The police have had him under surveillance for several weeks.

susceptible

(say suh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective easily affected by:

Since he suffered from a tropical disease as a young man, he has been more susceptible to stomach complaints.

tyrannosaurus

(say tuh-ran-uh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a great meat-eating dinosaur which walked upright on its powerful back limbs:

The tyrannosaurus was probably the most vicious of the dinosaurs.

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Senior General Level 7

androgynous

(say an-**droj**-uh-nuhs)

adjective having both male and female parts or characteristics:

Most flowers are androgynous -- they have both male and female reproductive parts.

anemometer

(say an-uh-**mom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument for indicating wind velocity:

A pilot needs an anemometer because knowing wind speed is vital when flying a plane.

cerebellum

(say se-ruh-**bel**-uhm)

noun the back part of the brain, controlling voluntary movements, posture, and balance:

We are studying the part of the brain called the cerebellum in our anatomy class.

chihuahua

(say chuh-**wow**-wuh or chuh-**wah**-wuh)

noun a Mexican breed of very small dog:

My friend carries his chihuahua in his backpack!

cirrhosis

(say suh-**roh**-suhs)

noun a disease of the liver:

Cirrhosis is a disease which damages the liver.

dodecahedron

(say doh-dek-uh-**heed**-ruhn)

noun a figure with 12 sides:

We drew a dodecahedron with a ruler and compass, keeping all 12 sides even.

nasturtium

(say nuh-**ster**-shuhm)

noun a garden plant with red, yellow or orange flowers and round leaves:

The brightly coloured flowers of the nasturtium are sometimes used in salads.

onomatopoeia

(say on-uh-mat-uh-**pee**-uh)

noun the use of a word or words which sound like the thing or sound they are describing, such as 'crunch', 'splash' or 'buzz':

Onomatopoeia is used by poets to bring life to what they are describing.

paraphernalia

(say pa-ruh-fuh-**nay**-lee-uh)

plural noun goods, equipment, baggage or other articles, especially unnecessary ones:

There is a lot of useless paraphernalia in the garage that could be thrown out.

poltergeist

(say **pol**-tuh-guyst)

noun a troublesome ghost or spirit who shows its presence by making noises and moving things about:

There is a local legend that the old community hall is haunted by a poltergeist.

proscenium

(say pruh-**see**-nee-uhm)

noun the part of a theatre stage in front of the curtain:

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The narrator of the play delivered her opening speech standing on the proscenium and then the curtain went up.

quintessential

(say kwin-tuh-**sen**-shuhl)

adjective pure or ultimate:

He looks the quintessential surfer, with his blond hair and tan.

reconnaissance

(say ruh-**kon**-uh-suhns)

noun careful examination of an area or situation before taking action:

After some reconnaissance of the mountainous area, the general decided not to attack.

sepulchre

(say **sep**-uhl-kuh)

noun a tomb or grave:

The archaeologist discovered a sepulchre that had been used as a royal burial chamber over 1000 years ago.

strychnine

(say **stri**k-neen or **stri**k-nuhn)

noun a poison which attacks the central nervous system:

She was charged with trying to poison her neighbour's dog with strychnine.

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Senior Arts Level 2

accent

(say **ak**-sent)

noun a stress or stronger tone given to a part of a word or musical note, to make it different from the rest:

The music had a strong rhythm with an accent on the first note of each bar.

batik

(say **bah**-tik or **bat**-ik)

noun a way of dyeing cloth in which the parts not to be coloured are covered with wax:

We used batik to make the wall hangings in our school hall.

carol

(say **ka**-ruhl)

noun a joyful song, especially a Christmas song or hymn:

'Silent Night' is my favourite Christmas carol.

cello

(say **chel**-oh)

noun a stringed instrument which is held upright on the floor between the knees of the player:

The cello is an instrument with a lovely deep sound.

creative

(say kree-**ay**-tiv)

adjective good at making or inventing things:

She was very creative and often made her own clothes.

debut

(say **day**-byooh or **day**-booh or duh-**booh**)

noun a first appearance in public, on stage, etc.:

She made her debut in the chorus of 'Swan Lake'.

eraser

(say uh-**rayz**-uh or ee-**rayz**-uh)

noun An **eraser** is a small piece of soft rubber used to rub out pencil marks:

I have made a mistake. I need an eraser.

festival

(say **fest**-uh-vuhl)

noun a celebration with performances of music and dance and other displays:

Our town has an annual jazz festival.

jazz

(say jaz)

noun a type of music, first played by African Americans, with complex melodies and rhythms, often with the performers making up or varying the music as they play:

My parents enjoy listening to jazz CDs.

legend

(say lej-uhnd)

noun a story that comes from long ago in the past and which is thought by many people to be at least partly true:

Many people know of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

plaster

(say **plah**-stuh)

noun a fine white powder which swells and sets rapidly when mixed with water and is

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used in making moulds:

They attempted to make a mould of the Taj Mahal out of plaster.

review

(say ruh-**vyooh**)

noun an article which describes and gives an opinion of something, such as a book or film:

The review was so good that we're going to see the film.

tempo

(say **tem**-poh)

noun the speed of a piece of music:

The music had a very fast tempo.

trumpet

(say **trum**-puht)

noun a brass wind instrument with a flared end:

The trumpet players in the school band always played the loudest.

vocal

(say **voh**-kuhl)

adjective Something that is **vocal** has to do with the human voice:

The singer has a broad vocal range.

Senior Arts Level 3

acoustics

(say uh-**kooh**-stiks)

noun the properties of a room which affect the quality of the sounds produced in it:

We tested the acoustics of different sized rooms for our science project.

alphabet

(say **al**-fuh-bet)

noun all the letters of a language arranged in their usual order:

My little sister has just learned to say the alphabet.

animation

(say an-uh-**may**-shuhn)

noun the process of preparing animated cartoons:

He was a talented drawer and wanted to make an animation.

artisan

(say **ah**-tuh-zuhn)

noun a skilled worker who makes useful things like tools, cooking items, etc:

The medieval town had an artisan who made fine silverware.

ballerina

(say bal-uh-**ree**-nuh)

noun a girl or woman who dances in a ballet:

Sonia goes to ballet lessons every week, and wants to be a ballerina when she grows up.

castanets

(say kass-tuh-**nets**)

plural noun a pair of shell-shaped pieces of wood which you hold in your hand and click together in time to music and dancing:

The flamenco dancer played the castanets as she danced.

cellist

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(say **chel**-uhst)

noun someone who plays the cello:

The cellist had to buy a car big enough to fit his cello in.

cinema

(say **sin**-uh-muh)

noun a theatre where films are shown:

For my birthday, my friends took me to the cinema to see a movie.

classical

(say **klas**-i-kuhl)

adjective **Classical** music is usually thought of as traditional and serious:

I had to learn two classical pieces as well as a jazz piece for my saxophone exam.

descant

(say **des**-kant)

noun a tune played or sung above the main tune:

The girls in the choir sang the descant part of the song.

director

(say duh-**rek**-tuh or duy-**rek**-tuh)

noun the person in charge of a business organisation, or in charge of the making of a film or some other kind of work:

The film director told some interesting stories about the famous actors she had worked with.

dye

(say duy)

noun a liquid that is used to colour cloth, hair, and other things:

The fashion designer ordered a special dye to colour the fabric for his new collection.

exhibit

(say uhg-**zib**-uht)

verb To **exhibit** something is to put it on show:

My mother has been asked to exhibit her paintings at the art gallery.

guitar

(say guh-**tah**)

noun a musical instrument with a long neck and strings which you play by plucking or strumming:

Shane wanted to learn how to play the guitar so he could play in a band with his friends.

harmonica

(say hah-**mon**-ik-uh)

noun a small wind instrument with metal reeds, which you play by blowing:

He pulled the harmonica from his pocket and played a tune while he waited for the bus.

lexicon

(say **leks**-uh-kuhn)

noun a list of words belonging to a particular subject, language, and so on:

The term 'architrave' belongs to the lexicon of architecture.

melodrama

(say **mel**-uh-drah-muh)

noun a play or TV show in which the characters make their emotions much more obvious than in real life:

Dad couldn't resist watching the nightly melodrama on television, even though it was so unrealistic.

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microphone

(say **muy**-kruh-fohn)

noun an instrument which changes sound waves into electrical waves, often used in equipment that makes sounds louder or records them:

Hold the microphone fairly close to your mouth so it can pick up the sound of your voice.

minstrel

(say **min**-struhl)

noun a musician in the Middle Ages who sang or recited poetry while playing an instrument:

The minstrel wandered around the tavern, singing songs of brave knights.

narrative

(say **na**-ruh-tiv)

noun If you write a **narrative**, you do a piece of writing that tells a story:

Her narrative was about two children who got lost but managed to find their way home.

octave

(say **ok**-tiv)

noun a series of eight notes between two musical notes of the same name but different pitch:

Christopher played an octave on the clarinet to warm up.

playwright

(say **play**-ruyt)

noun someone who writes plays:

Shakespeare is the most famous English playwright.

projector

(say pruh-**jek**-tuh)

noun a piece of equipment for showing a film or a slide on a screen:

My grandparents love looking at pictures of the family with their old projector.

prologue

(say **proh**-log)

noun anything that introduces something else:

Hurting my tooth at breakfast was the prologue to a day of disasters!

sonnet

(say **son**-uht)

noun a poem of fourteen lines in which the lines have to rhyme in a certain way:

A wonderful sonnet that everybody should read is 'The Windhover' by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

textile

(say **teks**-tuyl)

noun any woven material used for clothing, curtains and so on:

The curtains in the music room were made of a heavy textile to improve the acoustics.

thriller

(say **thril**-uh)

noun an exciting story, especially one about a crime:

I love watching a thriller on TV when it's dark and stormy outside.

tragedy

(say **traj**-uh-dee)

noun a very sad happening:

Having their new house burn down was a terrible tragedy.

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trombone

(say trom-**bohn**)

noun a brass wind instrument, on which you play different notes by sliding a tube in and out:

Joe gets very annoyed when his sister practises her trombone while he is trying to watch television.

vocalist

(say **voh**-kuh-luhst)

noun a singer:

He was a trumpeter and jazz vocalist.

Senior Arts Level 4

adage

(say **ad**-ij)

noun a wise saying:

'It's the thought that counts' is an old adage.

adaptation

(say ad-uhp-**tay**-shuhn)

noun a literary work rewritten to be presented in a different way:

She wrote an adaptation of 'The Three Musketeers' for the stage.

alabaster

(say al-uh-**bas**-tuh)

noun a fine white stone used for carving:

Alabaster is often carved into ornaments.

anthology

(say an-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun a collection of poems, short stories or songs, each by a different author or songwriter:

I bought my mother an anthology of Australian poetry for her birthday.

applaud

(say uh-**plawd**)

verb to show that you are pleased by clapping your hands:

The crowd began to applaud as she bowed at the end of the performance.

audience

(say **aw**-dee-uhns)

noun an assembly of hearers or spectators:

The audience was very surprised to see him suddenly burst onto the stage.

biography

(say buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun the story of a person's life, written by someone else:

Writing someone's biography requires a lot of reseach.

bolero

(say buh-**lair**-roh or buh-**lear**-roh)

noun a short jacket ending above or at the waistline:

The Spanish dancer wore tight black pants and a bolero over his shirt.

cadence

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(say **kay**-duhns)

noun the sequence of notes or chords which indicates the end of a piece of music:

Part of my music exam involved having to say what sort of cadence was being played.

cairn

(say kairn)

noun a heap of stones set up as a landmark, monument, etc:

A cairn is often erected in order to mark a burial site.

cameo

(say **kam**-ee-oh)

noun a short appearance in a film by a celebrity:

The Prime Minister agreed to do a cameo in the new film about politics.

cantata

(say kan-**tah**-tuh)

noun a work for singers and instruments with words set to music but not acted:

The cantata was performed in the Opera House.

ceremony

(say **se**-ruh-muh-nee)

noun a formal event performed to mark an important occasion:

We watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on television.

chromatic

(say kruh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having to do with a musical scale that moves by semitones:

She made a mistake when she was practising chromatic scales on the piano.

clarinet

(say kla-ruh-**net**)

noun a musical instrument belonging to the woodwind family which makes a deeper sound than the flute:

Nine members of our school band play the clarinet.

collage

(say kol-**ahzh** or **kol**-ahzh)

noun a picture made from various materials, such as pieces of paper, cloth, and so on:

At school I made a collage with coloured paper and foil.

concerto

(say kuhn-**cher**-toh)

noun a piece of music for one or more solo instruments, such as a piano or violin, and an orchestra:

The concerto was performed by a famous orchestra.

conductor

(say kuhn-**duk**-tuh)

noun a person who directs the playing of an orchestra or chorus:

Everyone in the school orchestra had to watch the conductor so that they would know when to start playing.

critique

(say kruh-**teek**)

noun an article or essay reviewing something:

The newspaper featured a critique of the new film.

decibel

(say **dess**-uh-bel)

noun a measure of loudness used to show how much louder one sound is than another:

If the music got one decibel louder we were sure our ears would explode!

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dialogue

(say **duy**-uh-log)

noun a conversation between two or more people, especially in a play or story:

The actors were asked to quickly memorise the dialogue.

dissonance

(say **dis**-uh-nuhns)

noun in music, an inharmonious or harsh sound:

What is harmony to some ears may be dissonance to others.

documentary

(say dok-yooh-**men**-tree)

noun a film, television or radio program about a real event or someone's life:

We watched a documentary about World War II on SBS last night.

dramatic

(say druh-**mat**-ik)

noun having to do with drama:

Acting is the main dramatic art.

effigy

(say **ef**-uh-jee)

noun a picture or statue of a person:

A bronze effigy of the president stood at the entrance of the palace.

embroidery

(say em-**broy**-duh-ree or em-**broy**-dree)

noun the art of working ornamental designs on fabric with needle and thread:

She gained a great deal of pleasure spending hours doing embroidery.

enamel

(say uh-**nam**-uhl)

noun a very hard, shiny coating applied to metal for decoration or protection:

The sculpture was covered in bright blue enamel.

epilogue

(say **ep**-uh-log)

noun a short section at the end of a play or written work:

The epilogue gave the information that the story was based on real events.

exhibition

(say eks-uh-**bish**-uhn)

noun a show or display of something that a lot of people can go and see:

All their parents and friends came to see the students' art exhibition.

fantasia

(say fan-**tay**-zhuh)

noun a musical or literary composition in no fixed form or style:

The pianist played the Chopin fantasia with great passion.

figurine

(say fig-uh-**reen** or fig-yuh-**reen**)

noun a small statue or model:

On the shelf was a marble figurine of a young girl.

filmography

(say film-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun a list of all the films featuring a particular actor, or all the films made by a particular director, etc.:

The director's filmography was listed on her website.

finale

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(say fuh-**nah**-lee)

noun the last part of a concert, opera or ballet:

For the finale, the pianist played a spectacularly difficult piece.

harmonium

(say hah-**moh**-nee-uhm)

noun a reed organ, especially one in which the air is forced outwards through the reeds:

Helena could play the piano, but was eager to learn how to play a harmonium.

heroine

(say **he**-ruh-wuhn)

noun the female character who has the main part in a book, film or play:

The heroine jumped on her horse and raced to save the townspeople.

illustrate

(say **il**-uhs-trayt)

verb If you **illustrate** a story or a book, you provide pictures to go with the writing:

I will illustrate my essay with photographs.

inscription

(say in-**skrip**-shuhn)

noun words which have been cut into stone, or painted or written on some other hard surface:

We could just make out the words of the inscription on the old tombstone.

instalment

(say in-**stawl**-muhnt)

noun a single part of a story being published in several parts one after the other:

I can't wait to read the next instalment of the story in the school magazine.

instrumentalist

(say in-struh-**men**-tuhl-uhst)

noun a person who performs on a musical instrument:

She worked as an instrumentalist accompanying different singers.

literature

(say **lit**-ruh-chuh or **lit**-uh-ruh-chuh)

noun books, poems, plays and other forms of writing:

This year we are studying the literature of Ireland.

philharmonic

(say fil-hah-**mon**-ik or fil-uh-**mon**-ik)

adjective a term meaning 'fond of music', used in the names of some musical societies, choirs or orchestras:

The philharmonic choir was made up of hundreds of singers.

photography

(say fuh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

noun the act of producing images with a camera:

The skill involved in photography is often underestimated.

staccato

(say stuh-**kah**-toh)

adverb in music, played with the notes very short and detached from each other:

This piece should be played staccato, to sound like high-heeled shoes on the pavement.

violin

(say vuy-uh-**lin**)

noun a stringed instrument played with a bow and held between your shoulder and

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chin:

The violin is a very difficult instrument to learn to play.

vocabulary

(say voh-**kab**-yuh-luh-ree)

noun the total number of words used by someone or by a particular group of people:

She is trying to add to her vocabulary by learning one new word a day.

Senior Arts Level 5

accompaniment

(say uh-**kump**-nee-muhnt)

noun that part of a composition which provides the harmonic and rhythmic backing to a melodic line:

The pianist played the accompaniment for the flautist.

anecdote

(say **an**-uhk-doh)

noun a short story that tells about a funny or interesting person or event:

She kept us entertained with an anecdote about her family.

aural

(say **aw**-ruhl)

adjective having to do with hearing or listening:

I failed the aural test in the music exam because I had a bad cold.

autobiography

(say aw-tuh-buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun (plural **autobiographies**)

your own life story written by yourself:

There was outrage when the sports star had someone else write his autobiography.

bouzouki

(say buh-**zooh**-kee)

noun a stringed instrument from Greece, related to a mandolin, played by plucking:

The music of the bouzouki immediately transported us to a sparkling Greek island.

cerise

(say suh-**rees** or suh-**reez**)

adjective red like the colour of a cherry:

His favourite shade of red is cerise.

chartreuse

(say shah-**trerz**)

adjective light green with a yellowish tinge:

The chartreuse walls matched the pale lettuce leaves on her plate.

cinematography

(say sin-uh-muh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

noun the art of film photography:

The cinematography in that new French film is outstanding.

conservatorium

(say kuhn-serv-uh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

noun a school where you learn music:

Fran played two solo pieces in her audition for the conservatorium.

crescendo

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(say kruh-**shen**-doh)

noun an increasingly loud or forceful part in a piece of music:

The composer chose a slow crescendo for the end of his symphony.

decoupage

(say day-kooh-**pahzh**)

noun the art or process of decorating something with an arrangement of cut-out paper, cardboard, etc.:

We had to collect lots of colourful paper to cut up for our decoupage.

dulcimer

(say **dul**-suh-muh)

noun an old-fashioned musical instrument with metal strings that you strike with light hammers:

The dulcimer is played sitting down, with the instrument held on the player's lap.

elocution

(say el-uh-**kyooh**-shuhn)

noun the way you speak:

Newsreaders have to have very clear elocution.

euphemism

(say **yoo**h-fuh-miz-uhm)

noun a mild word or phrase chosen to replace one that some people might find unpleasant:

'To pass away' is a euphemism for 'to die'.

expressionism

(say uhk-**spresh**-uh-niz-uhm or ek-**spresh**-uh-niz-uhm)

noun a theory of art in which free expression of the artist's emotional reactions is more important than natural or realistic representation:

We studied expressionism in art class and looked at examples of paintings from that style.

fictitious

(say fik-**tish**-uhs)

adjective imaginary or made up:

The characters in this film are fictitious -- they are not based on real people.

glockenspiel

(say **glok**-uhn-speel or **glok**-uhn-shpeel)

noun a musical instrument with steel bars set in a frame, which you hit with hammers:

He enjoyed playing the glockenspiel in the band.

glossary

(say **glos**-uh-ree)

noun a list of special or difficult words about a particular subject, with their definitions:

There was a glossary of terms at the end of the book.

guiro

(say **gwear**-roh)

noun a percussion instrument consisting of a dried empty gourd, which has parallel notches across which a stick is drawn:

I love being the band's percussionist, because I get to play some unusual instruments, like the guiro.

haiku

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(say **huy**-kooh)

noun a Japanese form of poem which has 17 syllables and three lines:

There was a beautiful haiku poem engraved at the war memorial.

harpsichord

(say **hahp**-suh-kawd)

noun an old-fashioned musical instrument like a piano:

We listened to the sound of the harpsichord echoing through the old castle.

incidental

(say in-suh-**den**-tuhl)

noun **Incidental** music is played during the action of a film or a play, but it doesn't form an essential part of the performance:

You often don't notice the incidental music playing in the background of a film scene, but it is important for creating the right atmosphere.

madrigal

(say **mad**-rig-uhl)

noun a short poem which can be set to music, popular in the past in Europe:

The minstrel performed a madrigal for the king and his court.

manuscript

(say **man**-yuh-skript)

noun a book, letter, or piece of music, written by hand or typed:

The manuscript of my unfinished novel is in the bottom drawer.

marionette

(say ma-ree-uh-**net**)

noun a puppet which is worked by strings attached to its limbs:

Many puppets, including the original marionette used for Pinocchio can still be seen in the Disney museum.

metaphor

(say **met**-uh-faw or **met**-uh-fuh)

noun a kind of imagery used in writing or speech in which something is spoken of as if it were something else:

'Knowledge is a key that opens many doors' is an example of a metaphor.

overture

(say **oh**-vuh-choouh)

noun music played as an introduction to an opera, ballet or musical show:

The audience listened with anticipation as the orchestra played the overture.

palindrome

(say **pal**-uhn-drohm)

noun a word or expression which reads the same backwards as forwards:

The word 'Madam' is a palindrome.

pastiche

(say pas-**teesh**)

noun a work of art which consists of parts borrowed from the work or style of other artists:

The film was a pastiche of scenes from twelve different directors.

percussion

(say puh-**kush**-uhn)

noun relating to musical instruments which produce a note when they are struck:

The drum is a percussion instrument.

portfolio

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(say pawt-**foh**-lee-oh)

noun a collection of an artist's drawings or photographs, which they can show to someone as examples of their work:

The artist showed his portfolio of drawings to the gallery owner.

rhapsody

(say **rap**-suh-dee)

noun a type of musical composition:

The first track on this CD is a famous rhapsody.

saxophone

(say **sak**-suh-fohn)

noun a wind instrument with a curved brass body:

Lisa is my favourite Simpsons character because she plays the saxophone.

scrimshaw

(say **skrim**-shaw)

noun carved or scratched work on articles of bone, ivory, steel, wood, etc., traditionally made by sailors in leisure times:

The maritime museum has a collection of scrimshaw carved by sailors in the 19th century.

shawm

(say shawm)

noun an early woodwind instrument:

The shawm is an early musical instrument related to the modern oboe.

timbre

(say **tim**-buh or **tam**-buh)

noun the particular sound an instrument makes:

His voice has a rich, warm timbre which is perfect for this particular role.

topiary

(say **toh**-pee-uh-ree)

adjective the art of clipping hedges, trees, etc., into different shapes:

My neighbour is a topiary expert and there are trees in his garden shaped like dragons, lions and even giraffes!

tragedian

(say truh-**jee**-dee-uhn)

noun an actor of tragedy:

The great tragedian announced his retirement at the end of his final performance of 'King Lear'.

waltz

(say wawlts or wolts)

noun a type of dance in which you and your partner move in circles:

The bride and groom danced a waltz.

zydeco

(say **zuy**-duh-koh)

noun a style of dance music from the southern United States:

The zydeco dance band featured accordions, guitars, and violins.

Senior Arts Level 6

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amphitheatre

(say **am**-fee-thear-tuh)

noun a round building with an open area in the centre and rows of seats rising around it:

The amphitheatre at school is mainly used for plays and concerts.

capriccio

(say kuh-**prich**-ee-oh)

noun a lively musical work in a free style:

She finished the concert with a lively capriccio.

discotheque

(say **dis**-kuh-tek)

noun a place where people dance to recorded music:

Most people abbreviate the word discotheque to 'disco' these days.

embouchure

(say **om**-boosh-oooh)

noun the position of player's mouth on the mouthpiece of a wind instrument:

To learn to play the flute, you will need to learn the correct embouchure.

frontispiece

(say **frunt**-uhs-pees)

noun an illustrated page before the title page of a book:

There was a detailed map on the frontispiece of the book, showing the area where the events took place.

fugue

(say fyooohg)

noun a piece of music in which a short melody is played or sung and then repeated by other instruments or voices:

The organist was playing a fugue by the German composer Bach.

ikebana

(say ik-ee-**bah**-nuh)

noun the art of Japanese flower arrangement:

Mum loves working with flowers, so she's doing an evening course in ikebana.

pianissimo

(say pee-uh-**nis**-uh-moh)

adverb very softly:

The conductor put his finger to his lips to indicate that the violins should be playing pianissimo.

sforzando

(say sfawt-**san**-doh)

noun with force (used as a direction for the playing of a note or chord):

There were many notes in the piece that were to be played sforzando.

shakuhachi

(say shak-oooh-**hah**-chee)

noun a Japanese bamboo flute:

The music of the shakuhachi harmonised with the soft sounds of the water in the Japanese garden.

silhouette

(say sil-oooh-**et**)

noun a drawing which has an outer line filled in with black, like a shadow:

The drawing showed the silhouette of the trees against the sky.

soliloquy

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(say suh-**lil**-uh-kwee)

noun talking to yourself when you are alone, as in a play:

The teacher read out the famous soliloquy from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.

troubadour

(say **trooh**-buh-daw)

noun a singer or song-writer, especially in medieval France:

The troubadour sang a beautiful ballad about his lost love.

vignette

(say vin-**yet**)

noun a decorative design or small illustration used on the title page of a book or at the beginning or end of a chapter:

A vignette depicting a spray of wattle appeared at the beginning of each chapter.

wurlitzer

(say **werl**-it-suh)

noun a type of large electric organ, designed mainly to be played in a theatre:

The wurlitzer has a lot of sound effects which try to reproduce the sounds of an orchestra.

Senior Arts Level 7

chiaroscuro

(say kee-ah-ruh-**skyoo**h-roh)

noun the treatment of light and shade in a picture or sketch to give a feeling of depth:

The artist's use of chiaroscuro emphasised his subject's stern and rugged features.

cochineal

(say koch-uh-**neel**)

noun a dye, crimson in colour, produced from the dried bodies of a type of insect:

Cochineal is primarily used as a food colouring and for cosmetics.

lyricism

(say **li**-ruh-siz-uhm)

noun a songlike character in poetry:

There is such lyricism in her poetry that it is almost like listening to music.

pyrotechnic

(say puy-roh-**tek**-nik)

adjective relating to fireworks:

The fantastic pyrotechnic display lit up the sky on New Year's Eve.

synecdoche

(say sin-**ek**-duh-kee)

noun a figure of speech by which something particular is used to mean something general:

An example of synecdoche is the use of the name 'Romeo' to mean 'a romantic young man'.

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Senior Australian Level 2

bilby

(say **bil**-bee)

noun a type of bandicoot. It is an animal currently rated as vulnerable rather than endangered:

The bilby is quite different in appearance to other types of bandicoot.

billycart

(say **bil**-ee-kaht)

noun a toy four-wheeled cart made at home and ridden on by children as a form of amusement:

You have to wear a helmet if you want to race your billycart.

bogong

(say **boh**-gong)

noun a large Australian moth:

I got quite a shock when I saw the huge bogong on my ceiling.

boomerang

(say **booh**-muh-rang)

noun a curved, flat piece of wood that returns to you if you throw it in the right way.

Boomerangs were first used by Aboriginal people as hunting weapons:

We bought a boomerang when we visited Central Australia.

bunyip

(say **bun**-yuhp)

noun a mythical creature of Aboriginal legend, said to live in swamps and billabongs:

There is a song about a bunyip in the story 'Dot and the Kangaroo'.

bushfire

(say **boosh**-fuy-uh)

noun a big fire in the bush or forest:

Several houses were destroyed before the firefighters could control the bushfire.

convict

(say **kon**-vikt)

noun in the past, a person transported to the British colonies to serve out a prison sentence:

The life of a convict in Port Arthur was very hard.

cooee

(say **kooh**-ee)

noun a long clear call, often used in the bush as a signal to attract attention:

We heard a cooee from the direction of the homestead and knew it was time for lunch.

humpy

(say **hump**-ee)

noun a bush shelter traditionally used by Aboriginal people:

Storm Boy lived in a humpy on the beach.

jumbuck

(say **jum**-buk)

noun a sheep:

These days, you only hear of a sheep being called a jumbuck in the song 'Walzing Matilda'.

koala

(say koh-**ah**-luh)

noun a furry, grey, Australian marsupial without a tail, which lives and feeds in

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certain types of gum trees:

Lots of people think that the koala is a bear, but it isn't.

magpie

(say **mag**-puy)

noun a black and white bird with a large beak, which is found throughout Australia and New Guinea:

We wore empty ice-cream buckets on our heads to avoid being hurt if a magpie swooped while we walked through the park.

mulgara

(say mul-**gah**-ruh)

noun a small marsupial that looks like a mouse with a black, hairy tail. It lives in the Australian desert and is endangered:

You would need to be in the desert to see a mulgara.

outback

(say **owt**-bak)

noun the remote parts of the country, far from the cities and the coast:

People who live in the outback have to be self-reliant.

shearer

(say **shear**-ruh)

noun someone who shears sheep:

Each shearer had to shear eighty sheep a day.

wattle

(say **wot**-uhl)

noun a tree with small, round, yellow flowers, which grows in warm areas of the world:

You know that spring is coming when you see the yellow flowers on the wattle.

Senior Australiana Level 3

bandicoot

(say **ban**-dee-kooht)

noun a rat-like Australian marsupial which feeds at night on insects, worms and plant roots:

Dad was not happy, because a bandicoot had dug up part of his vegetable garden in the night.

banksia

(say **bangk**-see-uh)

noun an Australian shrub or tree with hard jagged leaves and spikes of tiny, coloured flowers:

The banksia outside my window attracts beautiful parrots.

bettong

(say **bet**-ong)

noun a very small kangaroo that looks like a small wallaby with a short nose:

There are many types of bettong, including the brush-tailed bettong and the northern bettong.

billabong

(say **bil**-uh-bong)

noun a waterhole which used to be part of a river:

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We pitched our tent beside the billabong. [from an Aboriginal language of New South Wales called Wiradjuri]

boobook

(say **booh**-book)

noun a small brownish owl with white-spotted back and wings:

A boobook landed on my windowsill last night.

bottlebrush

(say **bot**-uhl-brush)

noun an Australian plant with red or pink brush-like flowers:

The parrots were attracted to the flowers of the bottlebrush.

brumby

(say **brum**-bee)

noun a wild horse living freely in the bush:

The stockman's favourite horse was the brumby.

bushranger

(say **boosh**-rayn-juh)

noun in the past, someone who hid in the bush and lived by robbing travellers:

Ned Kelly was a famous Australian bushranger.

cockatoo

(say kok-uh-**tooh**)

noun a crested parrot:

He taught his pet cockatoo to whistle the national anthem.

colonial

(say kuh-**loh**-nee-uhl)

adjective relating to a colony:

When the British first came to Australia, they established colonial settlements.

colony

(say **kol**-uh-nee)

noun a group of people who have left their home and formed a settlement in a new land ruled by the parent country:

Each of the early European settlements in Australia was a colony of Britain.

coolamon

(say **kooh**-luh-mon)

noun a basin-shaped wooden dish traditionally made and used by some Aboriginal peoples:

The coolamon was full of yams and nuts.

currawong

(say **ku**-ruh-wong)

noun a large, black-and-white or greyish Australian bird with a large pointed bill and a loud ringing call:

Last spring, a baby currawong woke me every morning at six o'clock.

dillybag

(say **dil**-ee-bag)

noun a traditional Aboriginal bag made of twisted grass or fibre:

She used a dillybag to carry food.

dunnart

(say **dun**-aht)

noun a type of native mouse found only in Australia. It is endangered:

The dunnart is a little native mouse that eats mostly insects.

galah

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(say guh-**lah**)

noun an Australian cockatoo with pink and grey feathers:

We took the injured galah to the vet.

jamboree

(say jam-buh-**ree**)

noun a large gathering of Scouts:

Over 8000 Scouts attended the jamboree last year.

jarrah

(say **ja**-ruh)

noun a large tree found in western Australia with a hard, dark red wood:

The wood from jarrah trees lasts for a very long time.

lamington

(say **lam**-ing-tuhn)

noun a square of sponge cake covered with chocolate icing and grated coconut:

I sneezed and the coconut from my lamington went everywhere.

lyrebird

(say **luy**-uh-berd)

noun a type of Australian bird which can mimic other sounds and is known for the long beautiful tails which the males display when courting the females:

The lyrebird in the bush near my house has learned to mimic the ringtone of my mobile phone.

mallee

(say **mal**-ee)

noun an type of Australian gum tree which has several thin stems growing from a large underground root:

We passed several clumps of mallee as we walked through the bush.

marsupial

(say mah-**sooh**-pee-uhl or mah-**syoo**h-pee-uhl)

noun a mammal such as a kangaroo which keeps its young in a pouch for a few months after birth:

The kangaroo is a marsupial and so are the wallaby, the koala and the possum.

monotreme

(say **mon**-uh-treem)

noun an egg-laying mammal:

The only examples of a monotreme are the platypus and the echidna.

mythology

(say muh-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun all the myths of a particular culture:

According to Aboriginal mythology, the Dreaming is the time when all the landforms and waterways on the earth were created.

pavlova

(say pav-**loh**-vuh)

noun a dessert made of a mixture of sugar and egg whites baked then filled with cream and topped with fruit:

The pavlova was topped with kiwifruit, strawberries and passionfruit.

prospector

(say **pros**-pek-tuh)

noun a person who prospects for gold or other minerals:

This business was started by a prospector who came to Australia during the goldrush.

quokka

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **kwok**-uh)

noun a small wallaby, just larger than a cat, with rounded ears and a short face:
The quokka is only found on a small island off the western coast of Australia.

rosella

(say roh-**zel**-uh)

noun a parrot with bright red, green and blue feathers, common in Australia:
We put some seed out for the rosella to eat.

sundowner

(say **sun**-dow-nuh)

noun a swagman who arrived at a farm at nightfall, too late for work, but was given shelter for the night:
The sundowner was lucky to have arrived at the station in time for dinner.

wallaroo

(say wol-uh-**rooh**)

noun a large kangaroo with shaggy, dark fur that lives in rocky or hilly land:
The wallaroo has shorter back legs than the kangaroo.

Senior Australian Level 4

acacia

(say uh-**kay**-shuh)

noun a wattle tree:
In Australia, we usually refer to the acacia as a wattle tree.

ancestry

(say **an**-sess-tree)

noun descent from your ancestors or forebears:
He traced his family ancestry back to the First Fleet.

anniversary

(say an-uh-**ver**-suh-ree)

noun the time each year when you remember something that happened at the same time in an earlier year:
The anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations was marked by a ceremony in the town hall.

barramundi

(say ba-ruh-**mun**-dee)

noun a large silver-grey fish which is good to eat:
We caught a huge barramundi when we went fishing on the weekend.

bombora

(say bom-**baw**-ruh)

noun a reef of rocks below the surface of the sea:
We like to surf the waves caused by the bombora.

cassowary

(say **kass**-uh-wuh-ree)

noun a flightless Australasian bird:
The cassowary is almost as large as the ostrich.

constitution

(say kon-stuh-**tyooh**-shuhn)

noun a set of basic rules for governing a state, society, or other organisation:
The Australian constitution can only be changed by a referendum of all voters.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

corella

(say kuh-**rel**-uh)

noun a type of cockatoo with white feathers tinged with pink:

My grandmother's pet corella used to sit on her shoulder.

corroboree

(say kuh-**rob**-uh-ree)

noun an Aboriginal dance ceremony which includes singing and rhythmic music:

You could hear the singing from the corroboree from far away.

dugite

(say **dyooh**-guyt)

noun a venomous snake of central and western areas of Australia:

The dog barked frantically when it saw the dugite lying on the rock.

echidna

(say uh-**kid**-nuh)

noun a spiny, ant-eating animal which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

The echidna can be found all over Australia.

emancipist

(say uh-**man**-suh-puhst)

noun a convict pardoned by the governor in early colonial times in Australia:

This is a story about an emancipist who became an important explorer after he was pardoned.

eucalypt

(say **yoo**h-kuh-lipt)

noun a gum tree:

The wood of a eucalypt is the best wood for a camp fire.

goanna

(say goh-**an**-uh)

noun any of a number of large Australian lizards:

The goanna climbed up the tree looking for a bird's nest with eggs in it.

insectivore

(say in-**sek**-tuh-vaw)

noun a bird or animal that eats insects:

The echidna is an insectivore, and especially likes ants.

kookaburra

(say **kook**-uh-bu-ruh)

noun an Australian bird of the kingfisher family whose call sounds like human laughter:

The kookaburra flew down and grabbed the worm in its beak.

koonac

(say **kooh**-nak)

noun a freshwater crayfish of Western Australia:

The seafood platter included a koonac, yabbies and oysters.

kowari

(say kuh-**wah**-ree)

noun a small, yellow-brown animal with a black bushy tail that lives in the Australian desert:

The kowari is an endangered Australian desert animal.

lagerphone

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **lah**-guh-fohn)

noun a homemade percussion instrument made of beer bottle tops loosely nailed to a broom handle:

The busker shook a lagerphone as he sang.

larrikin

(say **la**-ruh-kuhn)

noun someone, usually young, who behaves in a noisy, wild way:

He was a bit of a larrikin when he was young, and was often in trouble.

linguist

(say **ling**-gwuhst)

noun a person who studies language:

He is a linguist and is compiling a dictionary of an Aboriginal language of western Queensland.

macadamia

(say mak-uh-**day**-mee-uh)

noun an edible nut with a very hard shell, grown in eastern Australia and South-East Asia:

The shell of a macadamia is very hard, but the nut inside is delicious.

ochre

(say **oh**-kuh)

noun a yellowish clay used in paints and dyes:

Ochre is often used in Indigenous artworks.

perentie

(say puh-**ren**-tee)

noun the largest Australian lizard, found in dry areas of northern and central Australia:

We heard a rustling in the grass and suddenly an enormous perentie was looking at us with great interest.

platypus

(say **plat**-uh-poos)

noun an Australian animal with webbed feet and a bill like a duck's, which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

We went down to the creek early in the morning to see if we could see a platypus.

population

(say pop-yuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun the people living in a country, town or other area:

The population of Australia is now over 22 million.

protea

(say **proh**-tee-uh)

noun a South African shrub with large showy flowers:

The flowers of the protea look very striking in a flower arrangement.

quartz

(say kwawts)

noun a common mineral, used in making clocks and watches:

Quartz is the most common mineral in the earth's crust.

quenda

(say **kwen**-duh)

noun a brown bandicoot with a short nose:

We saw a quenda in the Australian fauna section of the zoo.

rarrk

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say rahk)

noun the thin multicoloured crosshatched lines which feature in western Arnhem Land bark paintings:

The art collection included many Indigenous paintings which featured the rarrk style of crosshatched lines.

remembrance

(say ruh-**mem**-bruhns)

noun If something is done in **remembrance** of someone who has died, it is done as a way of remembering and honouring them:

A ceremony was held in remembrance of those who were killed in the war.

rouseabout

(say **rows**-uh-bowt)

noun someone hired to do odd jobs for which not much skill is needed:

He had worked as a shearers' labourer and then as a rouseabout on a couple of large properties.

sassafras

(say **sass**-uh-fras)

noun an Australian tree with sweet-smelling bark:

Oak and cedar were used for cabinetwork and fittings -- and sassafras for flooring.

shiralee

(say **shi**-ruh-lee)

noun a swag:

All the swagman needed was in his shiralee.

society

(say suh-**suy**-uh-tee)

noun **Society** is people as a whole:

Scientists say that people in Australian society eat too much.

spinifex

(say **spin**-uh-feks)

noun a kind of spiny grass:

The property abounded in spinifex and stunted saltbush.

squatter

(say **skwot**-uh)

noun in the past, someone who settled on crown land to run sheep or cattle, first without government permission, but later with a lease or licence:

He started off as a squatter and ended up one of the richest men in Australia.

terrestrial

(say tuh-**res**-tree-uhl)

adjective living or growing on land, rather than in the sea or sky:

Australia has many native terrestrial species as well as marine species.

tuart

(say **tyooh**-uht)

noun a large eucalyptus tree from south-western Australia:

She sat in the shade of a large tuart, reading a book.

turquoise

(say **ter**-kwoyz)

noun a greenish-blue colour:

The water in the lakes on Fraser Island is a beautiful turquoise colour.

waratah

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say wo-ruh-**tah**)

noun an Australian shrub with large red flowers:

The waratah is the floral emblem of New South Wales.

Senior Australian Level 5

acreage

(say **ay**-kuh-rij)

noun land consisting of a number of acres, especially in a rural area:

They bought some acreage about an hour from the city.

budgerigar

(say **buj**-uh-ree-gah)

noun a parakeet of the inland regions of Australia, often kept as a pet:

Many people keep a budgerigar as a pet.

circumnavigate

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

verb to sail round something:

The contestants in the sailing race had to circumnavigate the island.

colloquialism

(say kuh-**lohk**-wee-uhl-iz-uhm)

noun an expression that you use when talking and chatting, or when you're not taking your written language too seriously:

'Fair dinkum' is a colloquialism used in Australian English.

dargawarra

(say dah-guh-**wo**-ruh)

noun one of the indigenous Australian hopping mice:

The guide pointed out tracks that had been left in the sand by a little dargawarra.

dooligarl

(say **dooh**-lee-gahl)

noun (in Aboriginal legend) a yowie or manlike monster, who characteristically camps without a fire:

The dooligarl is tall manlike monster in Aboriginal legend.

eucalyptus

(say yooh-kuh-**lip**-tuhs)

noun a type of tree with many different varieties, used for its timber and its strong oil:

The Australian landscape is characterised by its eucalyptus trees.

kootchar

(say **kooh**-chuh)

noun a small bee which has no sting:

The kootchar is a little bee which has no sting.

makarrata

(say mah-kuh-**rah**-tuh or mak-uh-**rah**-tuh)

noun (in certain Aboriginal tribes) a peacemaking ceremony:

For some Aboriginal peoples, the makarrata is a traditional peacemaking ceremony.

mundarda

(say mun-**dah**-duh)

noun a small possum of mainland southern Australia:

The mundarda was smaller than the other possums he usually saw on his bushwalks.

munyeroo

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say mun-yuh-**rooh**)

noun a small succulent herb, the seeds and leaves of which were used as food by Aboriginal people in central Australia:

The Aboriginal people of central Australia traditionally grind munyeroo seeds into a paste with water.

nannygai

(say **nan**-ee-guy)

noun a handsome fish of fine flavour found around the southern half of the Australian coast:

We fished for nannygai and whiting.

ningau

(say nin-**gow**-ee)

noun a small marsupial with a flattish skull, native to Australia and New Guinea:

The ningau is a small marsupial which is named after a being in an Aboriginal myth.

noolbenger

(say **noohl**-beng-guh)

noun a small nectar-feeding possum of south-western Australia:

The noolbenger is more commonly known as the honey possum in some areas.

oondoroo

(say oohn-duh-**rooh**)

noun an Australian native evergreen shrub with purple star-shaped flowers:

The edge of the track was lined with oondoroo plants covered in purple flowers.

reconciliation

(say rek-uhn-sil-ee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the achievement of harmony between people or groups:

In her speech the prime minister said that our goal should be reconciliation.

sovereignty

(say **sov**-ruhn-tee)

noun supreme power or authority:

The British claimed sovereignty over Australia even though there were people living here before they arrived.

venomous

(say **ven**-uh-muhs)

adjective inflicting a poisonous bite or sting:

The bite from the venomous snake made me very sick.

Senior Australiana Level 6

angophora

(say ang-**gof**-uh-ruh)

noun an Australian tree related to the eucalypt, with gnarled pinkish branches and creamy-white flowers:

The huge angophora in the playground is covered in white blossoms all summer.

camaraderie

(say kam-uh-**rah**-duh-ree)

noun close friendship or mateship:

The camaraderie between the Anzac diggers in World War I became the mateship which is so much a part of the Australian character.

casuarina

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kazh-yuh-**ree**-nuh)

noun a type of Australian tree or shrub with leaves which are like the needles of a pine tree, but jointed:

The casuarina is sometimes used as a Christmas tree in Australia.

caucus

(say **kaw**-kuhs)

noun a meeting of the members of parliament belonging to a particular political party:

The first federal Labor caucus met in Melbourne in 1901.

chronology

(say kruh-**nol**-uh-jee)

noun a record of past events in order of time:

There is a chronology of Australian history on the wall of our classroom, extending from prehistoric times to the present.

cunjevoi

(say **kun**-juh-voy)

noun a type of sea animal that attaches itself to rocks:

Cunjevoi is used as bait for fishing.

dromedary

(say **drom**-uh-dair-ree or **drom**-uh-dree)

noun a camel with one hump:

The dromedary is common in desert regions of Australia.

ghittoe

(say **git**-oh)

noun a tree which provides strong, resilient timber:

The frame of the house was built with ghittoe as it was the strongest timber available.

melaleuca

(say mel-uh-**looh**-kuh)

noun an Australian tree often found on river banks or in swamps:

The melaleuca is often called a paperbark or a tea-tree.

ornithology

(say aw-nuh-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of birds and bird life:

Each weekend he would pursue his interest in ornithology by going birdwatching.

petroglyph

(say **pet**-ruh-glif)

noun a drawing or carving on rock, especially one made by prehistoric people:

We saw a petroglyph that was thousands of years old on the wall of the cave.

tarwhine

(say **tah**-wuyn)

noun a bream distinguished by golden streaks on a generally silver background:

The tarwhine was different from the bream we usually caught as it had a golden streak on it.

thylacine

(say **thuy**-luh-seen)

noun a wolf-like marsupial of Tasmania, tan-coloured, with black stripes across the back, now thought to be extinct:

The thylacine is also known as the Tasmanian tiger.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

Senior Australiana Level 7

bougainvillea

(say boh-guhn-**vil**-ee-uh)

noun a tropical climbing plant with special brightly coloured leaves:

The brilliant pink bougainvillea had grown right over the roof of the old farmhouse.

eisteddfod

(say uh-**sted**-fuhd)

noun a competition in which people sing, play music or recite poetry:

The country contestants had to travel for hours to perform in the eisteddfod.

illchiljera

(say il-**chil**-juh-ruh)

noun a small gecko with a knob shape on its tail:

The illchiljera looked just like a small lizard apart from the knob on its tail.

myxomatosis

(say mik-suh-muh-**toh**-suhs)

noun a very infectious disease which kills rabbits:

Myxomatosis is a disease of rabbits which was introduced into Australia to reduce their numbers.

tcharibeen

(say cha-ruh-**bee**-nuh)

noun a stocky, brownish tree kangaroo:

The guide pointed out the difference between the grey kangaroo and the tcharibeen on our nature walk.

Senior Environment Level 2

alpine

(say **al**-puyn)

adjective having to do with high, mountainous country:

Alpine wildflowers are very delicate.

burrow

(say **bu**-roh)

noun a hole in the ground dug by an animal, to live and shelter in:

The wombat sleeps in a burrow during the day.

carbon

(say **kah**-buhn)

noun a common element found in all living things:

Diamond is a form of carbon.

climate

(say **kluy**-muht)

noun the usual weather of a particular place:

The climate in Australia is generally quite warm and sunny.

current

(say **ku**-ruhnt)

noun the flow or movement of water:

We didn't go swimming in the river because the current looked too strong.

delta

(say **del**-tuh)

noun the flat rich land between outspreading river branches at the mouth of a river:

Mosquitoes abounded in the delta of muddy islands and waterways.

downpour

(say **down**-paw)

noun a heavy fall of rain:

I got caught in the downpour on my way home from school.

greenhouse

(say **green**-hows)

noun a building, chiefly of glass, for the cultivation or protection of plants:

We grow lettuces in the greenhouse all year long.

jungle

(say **jung**-guhl)

noun the thick trees and plants which grow in warm, slightly wet, tropical conditions:

Monkeys love living in the jungle because they can swing on the vines.

landfill

(say **land**-fil)

noun material as garbage, building refuse, etc., deposited under layers of earth to raise the level of the site:

Landfill can be used as an energy source, and many rubbish tips are already being used to generate electricity.

mangrove

(say **mang**-grohv)

noun area where trees grow on mud flats:

The mangrove supports a huge diversity of animal life.

planet

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **plan**-uht)

noun any of the large bodies in space revolving around the sun or around any star:
Astronauts have landed on the moon but no-one has yet stood on another planet.

reptile

(say **rep**-tuyl)

noun a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs, such as a lizard or snake:
Because a reptile is cold-blooded, it needs to lie in the sun to warm up.

strait

(say strayt)

noun a narrow strip of water connecting two large bodies of water:
The island was separated from the mainland by a strait which was used by many ships.

thunderstorm

(say **thun**-duh-stawm)

noun a storm of thunder and lightning, and often rain:
We ran for cover when the thunderstorm suddenly hit.

Senior Environment Level 3

abyss

(say uh-**biss**)

noun a hole or space that is too deep to measure:
The hikers inched nervously along the edge of the abyss.

activist

(say **ak**-tuh-vuhst)

noun someone who works very hard for something they believe in:
My uncle is an activist for the environment.

agrarian

(say uh-**grair**-ree-uhn)

adjective having to do with the land or farming:
An agrarian economy is based on farming.

algae

(say **al**-jee or **al**-gee)

plural noun a type of green plant found in or near water:
Seaweed is a type of algae.

aphid

(say **ay**-fuhd)

noun a small insect which sucks the juice from certain plants:
Mum says if I see an aphid on her roses I should squash it!

arboreal

(say ah-**baw**-ree-uhl)

adjective having to do with, or living in trees:
Koalas are arboreal animals, so are more comfortable up a tree than on the ground.

artesian

(say ah-**tee**-zhuhn)

adjective relating to water from a kind of well which is sunk through a layer of rock holding water:
The cattle drank artesian water that came from a thousand metres below the surface.

beech

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say beech)

noun a tree with smooth, grey bark, and hard wood which is often used for making furniture:

Our new dining table is made from the wood of the beech tree.

biocontrol

(say buy-oh-kuhn-**trohl**)

noun a method of controlling pests by introducing one of their natural enemies:

Biocontrol can be an alternative to the use of harmful chemicals in the control of pests.

blizzard

(say **bliz**-uhd)

noun a violent storm with strong winds and driving snow:

We got caught in a blizzard on the way back from our skiing trip.

botany

(say **bot**-uh-nee)

noun the study of plants:

He loves plants and is going to study botany at university.

carnivore

(say **kah**-nuh-vaw)

noun an animal that eats mostly meat:

The lion is a well-known carnivore.

conifer

(say **kon**-uh-fuh)

noun an evergreen tree which produces cones, like the pine or fir:

The cedar, cypress and pine are examples of conifer trees.

disaster

(say duh-**zah**-stuh)

noun any sudden happening which causes great suffering and damage:

The oil spill was a disaster for marine life in the area.

diversity

(say duh-**ver**-suh-tee or duy-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun difference or variety within a group:

It is a good idea to have a diversity of plants in the garden to attract different types of birds.

earthquake

(say **erth**-kwayk)

noun tremors or earth movements in the earth's crust:

The earthquake destroyed many of the town's buildings.

ecology

(say uh-**kol**-uh-jee)

noun the balanced relationship between living things and their environment:

The arctic regions have a very fragile ecology.

erosion

(say uh-**roh**-zhuhn)

noun the process of being worn away by the weather, such as by the wind or by the flow of water:

Planting trees can help stop soil erosion because the roots hold the soil together.

forestry

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **fo**-ruh-stree)

noun the act of establishing and managing forests:

The government has a department of forestry which looks after the state's forests.

glacier

(say **glay**-see-uh)

noun a river of ice which moves very slowly down a mountain:

The glacier has receded dramatically in the last decade because temperatures have increased.

habitat

(say **hab**-uh-tat)

noun the place where a plant or animal naturally lives or grows:

When we went camping in the bush, we saw some kangaroos in their natural habitat.

irrigate

(say **i**-ruh-gayt)

verb To **irrigate** land is to supply it with water using a system of canals and pipes:

They pump water from the river to irrigate the crops.

larva

(say **lah**-vuh)

noun the young of any insect which changes the form of its body before becoming an adult:

In our science class, we looked at the larva of a fly, which is called a maggot.

millibar

(say **mil**-ee-bah)

noun a metric unit of measurement for air pressure, especially in the atmosphere:

A millibar is a unit of atmospheric pressure.

organic

(say aw-**gan**-ik)

adjective having to do with farming without chemicals:

They only use organic fertilisers on their crops.

pesticide

(say **pest**-uh-suyd)

noun a chemical for killing animals that are dangerous or harmful:

They had to use a pesticide to get rid of the termites.

species

(say **spee**-seez)

noun one of the groups into which animals and plants are divided according to their characteristics:

Chimpanzees are a species of monkey.

vertebrate

(say **ver**-tuh-bruht)

noun A **vertebrate** is an animal with a backbone:

A human is a vertebrate and so is a dog, because both have a backbone.

wastewater

(say **wayst**-waw-tuh)

noun water that has been used in a house, office, factory, etc., so it contains waste such as soap, faeces, chemicals:

The wastewater from the factory has to be treated before it can be used on the garden.

wilderness

(say **wil**-duh-nuhs)

noun a natural area of country, such as forest, desert, and so on, without roads or

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houses:

She used the stars to navigate her way out of the wilderness.

Senior Environment Level 4

abundance

(say uh-**bun**-duhns)

noun a plentiful amount or supply:

Because of all the recent rain, there is an abundance of water in the reservoir.

agriculture

(say **ag**-ruh-kul-chuh)

noun farming:

The dry slopes were unsuitable for agriculture.

agriforestry

(say **ag**-ree-fo-ruh-stree)

noun a combination of agricultural pursuits with forestry for commercial and environmental advantage, as by growing crops between the rows of trees:

We attended a seminar on how agriforestry could benefit the environment.

alluvial

(say uh-**looh**-vee-uhl)

adjective relating to sand or mud which has been washed down by a river:

The miners found gold in the alluvial mud.

aquamarine

(say ak-wuh-muh-**reen**)

noun a greenish-blue stone used in jewellery:

Most aquamarine is mined in Brazil.

arthropod

(say **arth**-ruh-pod)

noun one of the group of invertebrates, having jointed legs and a segmented body, as the insects, arachnids, crustaceans, and so on:

A spider is an arthropod because it has jointed legs and a segmented body.

artificial

(say ah-tuh-**fish**-uhl)

adjective not occurring naturally but made by humans:

Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin is an artificial lake created as part of the original design for the city.

avalanche

(say **av**-uh-lansh or **av**-uh-lahnsh)

noun a large mass of snow sliding or falling suddenly down a mountain slope:

Twelve people were rescued from the snow after the avalanche.

aviary

(say **ay**-vuh-ree or **ayv**-yuh-ree)

noun a large cage or enclosure where birds are kept:

The cockatoo did not like being in the aviary and was put in a cage by itself.

bacteria

(say bak-**teer**-ree-uh)

plural noun tiny living bodies with one cell, which multiply by dividing themselves in two and which can cause disease and decay:

We must make sure we wash our hands to stop the spread of harmful bacteria.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

barometer

(say buh-**rom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument that measures air pressure, used to help work out what changes in the weather can be expected:

The barometer is falling which means we are in for bad weather.

biodegradable

(say buy-oh-duh-**gray**-duh-buhl)

adjective A **biodegradable** chemical or substance is one that can be broken down by the sun or bacteria into products which are not harmful to the environment:

We buy biodegradable soap powder to minimise its effect on the environment.

biodiversity

(say buy-oh-duh-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun a diversity of species of plants and animals:

The rise in temperature is a threat to coastal biodiversity.

cicada

(say suh-**kah**-duh or suh-**kay**-duh)

noun a large flying insect which is found in trees and which makes a loud noise in hot weather:

We found the shell of a cicada on a tree trunk.

conservation

(say kon-suh-**vay**-shuhn)

noun the protection of natural areas, plants and animals, as well as buildings and objects of historical interest:

This political party is concerned about the conservation of our natural environment.

deciduous

(say duh-**sid**-yoooh-uhs)

adjective Trees which are **deciduous** lose their leaves every year:

Deciduous trees can look a little bare in winter.

desalination

(say dee-sal-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the removal of salt from sea water so that it becomes suitable for drinking or for irrigation:

Desalination is one of the ways to make sea water drinkable.

disposable

(say duhs-**pohz**-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be disposed of or thrown away:

Disposable nappies are more convenient than cloth nappies but they cannot be used more than once.

ethanol

(say **eth**-uh-nol or **ee**-thuh-nol)

noun an alcohol produced from crops and used as a biofuel:

Ethanol can be blended with other fuels for use in vehicles.

evaporation

(say uh-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn or ee-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act or process of water turning to vapour:

Evaporation increases as the temperature increases.

germination

(say jer-muh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the development of a seed into a plant:

We watched the germination of the bean seed with great interest.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

hemisphere

(say **hem**-uhs-fear)

noun half of a round shape, such as the earth:

When it's summer in the northern hemisphere it's winter in the southern hemisphere.

horticulture

(say **haw**-tuh-kul-chuh)

noun the growing of garden plants for their fruit, vegetables and flowers:

The plant nursery requires its workers to have some knowledge of horticulture.

hurricane

(say **hu**-ruh-kuhn or **hu**-ruh-kayn)

noun a violent tropical storm with a very strong wind:

The hurricane tore the roof off the football stadium.

llama

(say **lah**-muh)

noun a South American animal related to the camel and used for carrying loads:

Each hiker led a llama, loaded with gear, as they trekked through the mountains of Peru.

monolith

(say **mon**-uh-lith)

noun a single, huge rock:

Uluru in the centre of Australia is the largest monolith in the world.

omnivorous

(say om-**niv**-uh-ruhs)

adjective eating both animals and plants:

We had to list the animals as herbivorous, carnivorous or omnivorous according to what they eat.

organism

(say **aw**-guh-niz-uhm)

noun any form of animal or plant life:

She saw the tiny organism under the microscope.

perennial

(say puh-**ren**-ee-uhl)

adjective A **perennial** plant has a life cycle of more than two years:

She planted a row of perennial shrubs along the fence.

pollution

(say puh-**looh**-shuhn)

noun **Pollution** is dirt in the air, rivers, seas, or the water that people drink. It can stop people and animals being healthy:

All the factories near us have caused a lot of pollution.

predatory

(say **pred**-uh-tree)

adjective A **predatory** animal hunts other animals for food:

A predatory bird soared high above the plain looking for prey.

promontory

(say **prom**-uhn-tree)

noun a high point of land or rock jutting out into the sea:

The promontory was the obvious site for the lighthouse.

reactor

(say ree-**ak**-tuh)

noun a machine which produces nuclear energy:

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

Australia's first nuclear reactor was shut down at the beginning of 2007 to make way for a new one.

regional

(say **ree**-juh-nuhl)

adjective relating or belonging to a particular region:

Our regional environmental issues include the threatened extinction of numerous frog species.

renewable

(say ruh-**nyoo**h-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be renewed:

Renewable energy is important in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

reservoir

(say **rez**-uh-vwah)

noun a place where water is stored:

Because of the drought, the level of water in the reservoir is extremely low.

salinity

(say suh-**lin**-uh-tee)

noun the rising of salt from deep under the ground, making the water in rivers and lakes too salty to drink, and making the soil too salty for farming:

Salinity is a serious problem in many of our rivers at the moment.

sanctuary

(say **sang**-chuh-ree)

noun a place of safety:

The injured wallaby was taken to a wildlife sanctuary.

sewerage

(say **sooh**-rij)

noun the removal of waste water and waste matter using sewers:

This government minister is in charge of water and sewerage.

sierra

(say see-**air**-ruh)

noun a chain of hills or mountains, the tops of which look like the teeth of a saw:

From a distance, the peaks of the mountains in the sierra looked like the edge of a saw.

territorial

(say te-ruh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective of or relating to a territory:

Dingoes are territorial animals, and rarely venture outside their own territory.

topographic

(say top-uh-**graf**-ik)

adjective relating to a map which shows how the surface of the land varies in height:

If you look at a topographic map you can immediately see areas that are hilly.

tsunami

(say sooh-**nah**-mee or tsooh-**nah**-mee)

noun an extremely large, often destructive sea wave caused by an earthquake beneath the sea:

The tsunami killed thousands of people on the island and destroyed many buildings.

vegetation

(say vej-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

noun the whole plant life of a particular area:

Much of the vegetation was cleared for grazing animals.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

zoology

(say zoh-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the science or study of animal life:

My brother is passionate about animals and is studying zoology at university.

Senior Environment Level 5

acreage

(say **ay**-kuh-rij)

noun land consisting of a number of acres, especially in a rural area:

They bought some acreage about an hour from the city.

agapanthus

(say ag-uh-**pan**-thuhs)

noun a type of plant with big, round, blue or white flowers:

The agapanthus is often used as a border plant, along driveways and fences.

amphibious

(say am-**fib**-ee-uhs)

adjective able to live, move or operate both on land and in water:

A frog is an amphibious animal.

anthropologist

(say an-thruh-**pol**-uh-juhst)

noun someone who studies anthropology, the science of the beginnings and the development of humans:

He wants to become an anthropologist, so he can travel the world and see the different ways people live.

arachnid

(say uh-**rak**-nid)

noun one of a group of animals that includes spiders and scorpions:

An arachnid has eight legs.

assimilation

(say uh-sim-uh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun the resemblance of an animal to its surroundings, in both shape and colour:

The assimilation of snow leopards to their natural surroundings is so effective that it is almost impossible to see them.

biosphere

(say **buy**-uh-sfear)

noun the part of the earth where living organisms are to be found:

All the earth's creatures live within the biosphere.

chasm

(say **kaz**-uhm)

noun a deep hole or opening in the ground:

The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.

colliery

(say **kol**-yuh-ree)

noun a coal mine with all its buildings and equipment:

Every miner entering the colliery must wear a safety helmet and safety boots.

conservatory

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kuhn-**serv**-uh-tree)

noun a room or building made of glass, where plants are grown:

He had a conservatory full of rare and exotic plants.

constellation

(say kon-stuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun a group of stars:

The Southern Cross is the most widely known constellation in the southern hemisphere.

crevasse

(say kruh-**vass**)

noun a deep crack in a glacier or river of ice:

The glacier was enormous and we could see a large vertical crevasse slicing it down the middle.

crustacean

(say kruss-**tay**-shuhn)

noun a type of animal with a hard shell instead of a skeleton, such as a crab, usually living in water:

Krill is a tiny shrimp-like crustacean vital in the food chain.

deforestation

(say dee-fo-ruhs-**tay**-shuhn)

noun the permanent removal of forests or trees from a large area:

Extensive deforestation has a disastrous effect on the environment.

diurnal

(say duy-**er**-nuhl)

adjective active or out by day, as certain birds, insects, flowers, and so on:

It's much easier to observe diurnal animals than nocturnal ones.

equinox

(say **ee**k-wuh-noks or **ek**-wuh-noks)

noun the time when the sun is directly over the earth's equator, making night and day all over the earth of equal length:

There is one equinox in March and another in September.

fescue

(say **fes**-kyooh)

noun a type of grass:

Fescue is often used as a pasture grass, to feed farm animals.

gasification

(say gas-uh-fuh-**kay**-shuhn)

noun the process of converting a substance into gas:

Coal gasification is a way of reducing the pollution caused by the burning of coal.

geomorphic

(say jee-oh-**maw**-fik)

adjective relating to the form of the earth and its surface:

The geomorphic map showed the steep descent to the floor of the Pacific Ocean.

gerbera

(say **jer**-buh-ruh)

noun a type of flower like a large daisy:

The gerbera is a flower that comes in a wide range of bright colours.

hypothermia

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say huy-puh-**ther**-mee-uh)

noun an abnormally low body temperature:

The two children were found in the snow, suffering from hypothermia.

locavore

(say **loh**-kuh-vaw)

noun a person who eats only food that is locally produced, because they believe that fresh food is nutritionally better, and that transporting food increases greenhouse emissions:

My mother is a locavore and only eats fresh food which has been produced locally.

lucerne

(say **looh**-suhn)

noun a plant used to feed animals:

The cows love to be let into the lucerne paddock.

magnolia

(say mag-**noh**-lee-uh)

noun a large tree with spectacular flowers:

The garden is beautiful when the magnolia is in bloom.

megafauna

(say **meg**-uh-faw-nuh)

noun the largest animals existing in a particular region or in a particular geological period:

Australia's prehistoric megafauna included a giant wombat-like creature.

observatory

(say uhb-**zerv**-uh-tree)

noun a building equipped with powerful telescopes for looking at the stars, planets and weather patterns:

It is great to visit an observatory when there is a comet in the sky.

oleander

(say ol-ee-**an**-duh)

noun a pink or white flowering shrub with dark green leaves:

The oleander is a pretty plant, but it is poisonous.

quagmire

(say **kwog**-muy-uh)

noun an area of muddy or boggy ground:

The building site looked like a quagmire after the rain.

seismic

(say **suyz**-mik)

adjective relating to or caused by an earthquake:

Small seismic disturbances followed the main earthquake.

sirocco

(say suh-**rok**-oh)

noun a hot, oppressive wind:

The hot winds of the sirocco made our trip to southern Italy uncomfortable.

stalactite

(say **stal**-uhk-tuyt)

noun a deposit formed by dripping water, which hangs from the roof of a limestone cave:

While we were exploring the cave, I hit my head on a stalactite.

stalagmite

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **stal**-uhg-muyt)

noun a stick of limestone or other material that forms, little by little, on the floor of a cave, from water dripping from above:

The stalagmite in the cave was several metres high.

sullage

(say **sul**-ij)

noun dirty water from bathrooms, laundries, kitchens, etc.:

The department dealing with garbage and sullage was to be outsourced to private contractors.

sustainable

(say suh-**stayn**-uh-buhl)

adjective designed or developed to have the capacity to continue operating perpetually, by avoiding adverse effects on the natural environment and depletion of natural resources:

The development of sustainable agriculture is important for our environment.

sycamore

(say **sik**-uh-maw)

noun a shady tree sometimes grown for its wood:

The children ate their lunch under the sycamore tree.

symbiotic

(say sim-buy-**ot**-ik)

adjective relating to a relationship between two living things that is advantageous or necessary to both:

In some symbiotic relationships one organism cannot survive without the other.

synthesis

(say **sin**-thuh-suhs)

noun the mixing together of parts into a whole:

The synthesis of all the different seeds created a stunning garden of flowers.

temperature

(say **tem**-pruh-chuh)

noun a measure of the degree of heat or cold of something or someone:

The temperature is going to be 20 degrees today.

terrarium

(say tuh-**rair**-ree-uhm)

noun a closed glass container in which moisture-loving plants are grown:

We have a terrarium in our classroom as part of our study of rainforest plants.

unnatural

(say un-**nach**-ruhl)

adjective not normal, natural or usual:

We couldn't work out what was causing the unnatural light in the sky.

Senior Environment Level 6

archipelago

(say ah-kuh-**pel**-uh-goh)

noun a group of islands in a sea:

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 13,000 islands.

azalea

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say uh-**zayl**-yuh)

noun a shrub which produces attractive flowers in spring:

The azalea growing near the front gate is covered in bright pink flowers.

bioremediation

(say buy-oh-ruh-mee-dee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the use of organisms to counteract damage done to the environment by oil spills and the like:

The environmental consultant was employed after the oil spill for her knowledge on bioremediation.

brontosaurus

(say bron-tuh-**saw**-ruhs)

noun a large plant-eating dinosaur with a long neck and tail, that died out millions of years ago:

The brontosaurus is also known as the apatosaurus.

chameleon

(say kuh-**mee**-lee-uhn or shuh-**mee**-lee-uhn)

noun a lizard that can change its skin colour to blend into its surroundings:

The chameleon on the rock was completely invisible until it moved.

chrysalis

(say **kris**-uh-luhs)

noun the form that a butterfly or moth takes when changing from a grub to its adult form:

We found a chrysalis in the garden and watched it every day until a beautiful butterfly emerged.

meteorology

(say mee-tee-uh-**rol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of weather and climate:

He studied meteorology because he was interested in the physics of weather patterns.

myrrh

(say mer)

noun a sticky gum from a plant, used to make incense and perfume:

In ancient times, myrrh was very valuable and was used to make incense and perfume.

noctarium

(say nok-**tair**-ee-uhm)

noun an enclosure in a zoo, for viewing nocturnal animals:

After our eyes adjusted to the darkness in the noctarium, we could see the tiny nocturnal marsupials scurrying around in their enclosure.

phosphorus

(say **fos**-fuh-ruhs)

noun a chemical element which is used in making match heads, detergents and garden fertilisers:

The surface that you strike a match on is made of phosphorus and sand.

photosynthesis

(say foh-toh-**sin**-thuh-suhs)

noun the making of carbohydrates by plants from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of light and chlorophyll (the green colouring in plants):

The process of photosynthesis is necessary for life.

precipitation

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say pruh-sip-uh-**tay**-shuhn)

noun water that falls from the sky, whether as rain, snow or hail:

Parts of Australia may experience no precipitation for years at a time.

quarantine

(say **kwo**-ruhn-teen)

noun the separating of people or animals from others for a certain period of time to make certain they don't spread a disease to others:

Animals coming into Australia have to be kept in quarantine to prevent the spread of diseases.

sorghum

(say **saw**-guh-m)

noun a cereal grass, used especially for making molasses or syrup and for forage:

The farmers principle crop was sorghum.

subterranean

(say sub-tuh-**ray**-nee-uhn)

adjective underground:

Ants build subterranean passages for their nests.

Senior Environment Level 7

anemone

(say uh-**nem**-uh-nee)

noun a small flower, usually red, blue or white:

He picked a blue anemone and put it in his buttonhole.

axolotl

(say aks-uh-**lot**-l)

noun an amphibian with a long tail and short legs, found in Mexican lakes:

We kept our axolotl in a separate tank from our goldfish.

chrysanthemum

(say kruh-**san**-thuh-muh-m)

noun a tall plant with big white or brightly coloured flowers:

I bought Mum a single white chrysanthemum for Mother's Day.

ichthyology

(say ik-thee-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the branch of zoology that deals with fish:

He wants to study ichthyology because he is very interested in marine life.

isthmus

(say **is**-muhs)

noun a narrow strip of land, with water on both sides, joining two larger pieces of land:

The town was joined to the mainland by an isthmus no wider than a road.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

Senior Sport Level 2

ace

(say ayce)

noun a playing card with a single mark or spot:

Someone must have the fourth ace in their hand!

athlete

(say **ath**-leet)

noun someone who trains and competes in some kind of sport, especially running or jumping events:

Paul is an excellent athlete and wants to compete in the Olympic Games.

champion

(say **cham**-pee-uhn)

noun someone who holds first place in a sport or contest:

Ian Thorpe is an Australian swimming champion who won five Olympic gold medals.

compete

(say kuhm-**peet**)

verb To **compete** is to set yourself against another person or other people to win something:

Our school team will compete in the district cross-country competition -- I hope we win.

cyclist

(say **suy**-kluhst)

noun someone who rides a bicycle:

The film was based on the life of a famous Australian cyclist.

finalist

(say **fuy**-nuh-luhst)

noun A **finalist** is a person who is in the last part of a competition:

Alisha could hardly believe that she was a finalist.

gymnast

(say **jim**-nuhst)

noun someone specially trained and skilled in gymnastics:

She is the first Australian gymnast to win an Olympic medal.

injure

(say **in**-juh)

verb If something **injures** you, it causes you some harm:

Falling off your bike without a helmet can injure you badly.

innings

(say **in**-ingz)

noun a team's turn at batting:

We made 136 runs in the first innings.

pitch

(say pich)

verb If you **pitch** something such as a ball, you throw it quite hard at something:

He tried to pitch the ball straight at the batter.

scoreboard

(say **skaw**-bawd)

noun a board on which the score of a game, match, etc., is shown, as at a cricket ground:

As the game progressed, we watched the scoreboard with great interest.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

stadium

(say **stay**-dee-uhm)

noun a large sports ground, designed to hold many people:

We are going to the stadium to watch the tennis.

stopwatch

(say **stop**-woch)

noun a watch which can be stopped and started by pressing a button, used for timing races and so on:

The coach got his stopwatch ready and called 'Go!'

tackle

(say **tak**-uhl)

verb In sports such as football and hockey, if you **tackle** your opponent, you try to get the ball from them:

At soccer training we are being taught how to tackle.

umpire

(say **um**-puy-uh)

noun someone who makes sure a game is played according to the rules:

The umpire sent the player off the field because she had broken the rules.

Senior Sport Level 3

ability

(say uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun (plural **abilities**)

the power to do something:

Pui has the ability to swim across the pool.

ache

(say ayk)

noun An **ache** is a pain that goes on for a long time. It is usually not a strong pain:

Helen has an ache across her shoulders from playing too much tennis yesterday.

agility

(say uh-**jil**-uh-tee)

noun the ability to move quickly and easily:

He climbed up the rocky slope with great agility.

archery

(say **ah**-chuh-ree)

noun the sport of shooting with a bow and arrows:

We tried archery on our school camp, and it was great fun.

athletics

(say ath-**let**-iks)

noun events that take place on a track, such as running and hurdling, javelin throwing and the high jump:

The athletics at the Olympic Games are exciting to watch.

badminton

(say **bad**-min-tuhn)

noun a game in which two or four players use racquets to hit a feathered ball called a shuttlecock over a high net:

It's hard to play badminton in the wind, because the shuttlecock keeps blowing away.

baton

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **bat**-uhn or buh-**ton**)

noun a short stick, especially one handed by one runner to the next in a relay race:

I reached out to grab the baton from the first runner in the relay, but disaster struck and I dropped it.

bobsleigh

(say **bob**-slay)

noun a racing sledge with two sets of runners, one behind the other:

Bobsleigh racing has been a part of the Winter Olympic Games since 1924.

competitor

(say kuhm-**pet**-uh-tuh)

noun someone who competes:

He was the only competitor not to fall down in the skating race, so he won!

deuce

(say dyooohs)

noun a stage in a game of tennis when both players have a score of 40:

The scoreboard showed that they were exactly even -- one game each and at deuce in the current game.

doubles

(say **dub**-uhlz)

noun a game, especially tennis, played by teams of two players:

The two sisters won the doubles competition.

goalkeeper

(say **gohl**-kee-puh)

noun in soccer or hockey, a player whose special duty is to prevent the ball from going through, into, or over the goal:

In hockey practice, we all take turns at being goalkeeper.

gymnastics

(say jim-**nass**-tikz)

noun the performance of exercises to develop muscle strength and tone up your body:

We do gymnastics at school on Thursdays.

karate

(say kuh-**rah**-tee)

noun a Japanese form of self-defence which uses only hands, elbows, feet and knees as weapons:

Amy wants to do karate so she can learn to smash bricks with her hands.

marathon

(say **ma**-ruh-thon)

noun a long-distance race:

He loved long-distance running and it was his dream to compete in the Olympic marathon.

medley

(say **med**-lee)

noun a swimming race in which a competitor swims butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle in that order:

The medley is a hard race because you have to be good at all four swimming strokes.

mountaineer

(say mown-tuh-**near**)

noun a climber of mountains:

Sir Edmund Hillary was a famous mountaineer.

muscular

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **muss**-kyuh-luh)

adjective having to do with muscles:

After a day of heavy training, he had an intense muscular pain across his back.

nutrition

(say nyoooh-**trish**-uhn)

noun eating or eating habits:

Good nutrition is vital to athletes.

opponent

(say uh-**poh**-nuhnt)

noun someone who is on the opposite side to you in a competition or fight:

My opponent was much taller than me, so I was very nervous.

perspiration

(say pers-puh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun sweat:

She used the towel to wipe the perspiration from her forehead.

referee

(say ref-uh-**ree**)

noun someone who makes sure that the rules in a sporting match are followed:

He is a very good referee -- everybody thinks he is fair.

regatta

(say ruh-**gat**-uh)

noun a meeting for boat races:

Our school won the rowing regatta last year.

slalom

(say **slay**-luhm or **slah**-luhm)

noun a skiing race with a winding course:

Skiing in the slalom puts a lot of pressure on your knees.

spectator

(say **spek**-tay-tuh)

noun someone who watches something:

The injured player was unhappy to be just a spectator at the final.

stamina

(say **stam**-uh-nuh)

noun physical power or strength, especially to fight off tiredness or sickness:

She will need enormous stamina to keep up the burning pace of the marathon.

tournament

(say **taw**-nuh-muhnt)

noun a meeting for contests in sport or other games:

Clare played in a chess tournament last weekend.

trapeze

(say truh-**peeze**)

noun a short bar joined to the ends of two hanging ropes, on which gymnasts and acrobats perform:

When I grow up, I want to be an acrobat and swing from a trapeze.

triathlon

(say truy-**ath**-lon)

noun an athletic contest made up of three events straight after each other -- usually running, swimming and cycling:

I'll be competing in my first triathlon this weekend -- I've been practising all three sports.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

wetsuit

(say **wet**-sooht)

noun a tight rubber piece of clothing worn by divers and surfers to keep in body heat:

She decided to pack her wetsuit as well as her snorkel in case the water was too cold.

Senior Sport Level 4

abseil

(say **ab**-sayl)

verb to descend down a cliff using ropes:

Julian would love to abseil, but he is afraid of heights.

adversary

(say **ad**-vuh-suh-ree)

noun someone you compete against or fight with:

My old adversary beat me in the chess tournament.

aerobics

(say air-**roh**-biks)

plural noun exercises done to improve your physical fitness by stimulating your heart and lungs:

My mother does aerobics during her lunch hour.

aggregate

(say **ag**-ruh-guht)

noun the total or sum of a number of single things:

The aggregate of all their scores meant that their team won the carnival.

amateur

(say **am**-uh-tuh or **am**-uh-chuh)

noun an athlete who does not earn money from playing sport:

At the moment he plays cricket as an amateur, but he would like to be a professional player one day.

announcer

(say uh-**noun**-suh)

noun someone who announces for programs on radio or television:

The sports announcer listed the results of all the football games that day.

billiards

(say **bil**-yuhdz)

noun a game played on a long table, with hard balls hit by a long stick called a cue:

Let's have a game of billiards after dinner.

breaststroke

(say **brest**-strohk)

noun a way of swimming in which your arms move in a circle in front of your chest and your legs kick in a frog-like manner:

Swimming breaststroke always exhausts me.

catamaran

(say **kat**-uh-muh-ran)

noun a boat with two hulls:

We spent a fantastic week sailing a catamaran around the islands.

ceremony

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **se**-ruh-muh-nee)

noun a formal event performed to mark an important occasion:

We watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on television.

contortionist

(say kuhn-**taw**-shuhn-uhst)

noun a person who performs difficult gymnastic feats involving contorted postures:

The contortionist amazed us all with the postures she performed.

croquet

(say **kroh**-kay)

noun a game played by hitting wooden balls with mallets through metal arches set in a lawn:

Croquet is a sport that requires accuracy more than strength.

dais

(say **day**-uhs)

noun a raised platform at the end of a hall:

The football trophies were lined up on a table on the dais.

decathlon

(say duh-**kath**-lon)

noun a contest in which athletes compete for the highest score in ten different events:

The decathlon is an exhausting contest because it has ten different events in it.

deodorant

(say dee-**oh**-duh-ruhnt)

noun something which prevents or removes bad smells:

People who play sport need a very strong deodorant!

disqualify

(say dis-**kwol**-uh-fuy)

verb If you **disqualify** someone from doing something, you do not allow them to do it, often because they have broken some rule:

The judges will disqualify you if you start running before the whistle blows.

equestrian

(say uh-**kwess**-tree-uhn)

adjective having to do with horseriding:

Jane and her horse showed great skill and stamina to win the equestrian event.

gymnasium

(say jim-**nay**-zee-uhm)

noun a building or room specially equipped for gymnastics and sport:

The gymnasium has a lot of different equipment.

lacrosse

(say luh-**kross**)

noun a ball game played by two teams, who use long-handled racquets to try to send the ball through a goal:

Lacrosse is a team sport that was first played by Native American people.

liniment

(say **lin**-uh-muhnt)

noun an oily liquid for rubbing on bruises, sprains or sore muscles:

After tennis practice my shoulder was sore, so I rubbed some liniment onto it.

motivation

(say moh-tuh-**vay**-shuhn)

noun desire to achieve a goal:

Before every game, our coach gives us a talk to increase our motivation.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

obstruction

(say uhb-**struk**-shuhn)

noun an action where a player puts their body between an opponent and the ball so as to form an obstacle:

The referee said he was guilty of obstruction and gave the other team a penalty.

parasailing

(say **pa**-ruh-say-ling)

noun the sport of soaring in the air with the aid of a parachute while being towed by a motorboat:

Yan loved parasailing -- she felt like she was flying.

pavilion

(say puh-**vil**-yuhn)

noun an open-sided shelter at a park or sporting ground:

We sat in the pavilion to watch the cricket match.

professional

(say pruh-**fesh**-uhn-uhl)

adjective in sport, if someone is a **professional** athlete or player, they earn money from playing their sport:

If you are a professional tennis player, you don't need to have another job because you are paid to train and play tennis.

pugilist

(say **pyooh**-juh-luhst)

noun someone who fights with the fists:

The pugilist wore a guard to protect his face during the fight.

qualifier

(say **kwol**-uh-fuy-uh)

noun someone or something that qualifies:

Excitement overwhelmed him when he found out he was a qualifier for the finals.

qualify

(say **kwol**-uh-fuy)

verb If you **qualify** for a race, you have a fast enough time to compete:

To qualify for the state championships, I have to take two seconds off my personal best.

quarterfinal

(say kwaw-tuh-**fuy**-nuhl)

noun a contest which precedes the semifinals in a tournament:

The Tamworth Tigers have to win their last two games to secure a spot in the quarterfinal.

recreation

(say rek-ree-**ay**-shuhn)

noun **Recreation** is what you do to relax or have fun:

For recreation, my brother likes to ride his bike, and I like to practise shooting goals.

scholarship

(say **skol**-uh-ship)

noun a sum of money won by a student which helps to pay school or university fees:

She was a talented basketballer and won a sport scholarship.

semifinalist

(say sem-ee-**fuy**-nuh-luhst)

noun a player or team contesting a semifinal:

Gina never dreamt that she would be a semifinalist at Wimbledon.

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shuttlecock

(say **shut**-uhl-kok)

noun a thin rounded piece of plastic with feathers attached to it, which is hit from one player to another over a net as a game:

The game was declared a draw when the shuttlecock got stuck in a tree.

spinnaker

(say **spin**-uh-kuh)

noun a large triangular sail:

As soon as the spinnaker was raised, the yacht sped to the lead.

stoppage

(say **stop**-ij)

noun a stop in play, especially in team sports, for such reasons as removing injured players and referring decisions:

There was a stoppage in play until the injured player was taken from the field.

strategy

(say **strat**-uh-jee)

noun a plan or scheme which sets out how to achieve a goal:

Our coach said he had a brilliant strategy for defeating the opposition in the final.

technique

(say tek-**neek**)

noun the way of doing or performing something:

Her swimming shows good technique as well as strength.

toboggan

(say tuh-**bog**-uhn)

noun a light kind of sled used for sliding over snow or ice:

My little sister is too young to ski but she loves sliding down the slopes on a toboggan.

tricycle

(say **truy**-sik-uhl)

noun a cycle with three wheels, one at the front and two at the back:

My little sister rides a tricycle because she doesn't have very good balance yet.

velodrome

(say **vel**-uh-droh-m)

noun an arena with sloping sides used for cycling races:

We all crowded into the velodrome to watch the Olympic cycling final.

victorious

(say vik-**taw**-ree-uhs)

adjective having won a contest or battle:

The victorious swimming team was cheered when they arrived home from the Olympics.

wakeboarding

(say **wayk**-baw-ding)

noun a form of waterskiing which uses an adapted skateboard rather than skis:

Rakesh thought he'd try wakeboarding instead of waterskiing next time.

wrestling

(say **ress**-ling)

noun an exercise or sport in which two persons struggle hand to hand, each striving to throw or force the other to the ground:

Wrestling can be a dangerous sport.

wushu

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say wooh-**shooh**)

noun a sport created in China which is a hybrid of various martial arts and gymnastics:

Honi thought he would be interested in wushu as he liked both karate and gymnastics.

Senior Sport Level 5

abseiling

(say **ab**-say-ling)

noun the sport of lowering yourself down a cliff or wall, using a rope attached to a harness:

I'm looking forward to doing some abseiling at camp.

acceleration

(say ak-sel-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act of increasing speed:

A racing car needs to have powerful acceleration.

accolade

(say **ak**-uh-layd)

noun praise or honour given to someone:

She received an accolade for her victorious performance in the swimming championships.

acrobatically

(say ak-ruh-**bat**-ik-lee)

adverb in an acrobatic manner:

The fullback scored a try by leaping acrobatically over his opponent and rolling into a somersault over the line.

acupuncture

(say **ak**-uh-pungk-chuh or **ak**-yuh-pungk-chuh)

noun a Chinese type of medicine which treats illness or pain by sticking needles into certain parts of the body:

The team doctor used acupuncture to treat some of the players' aches and pains.

amateurish

(say **am**-uh-tuh-rish or **am**-uh-chuh-rish)

adjective characteristic of an amateur:

The game was amateurish but everyone enjoyed it anyway.

ambidextrous

(say am-bee-**deks**-truhs)

adjective able to use both hands equally well:

The ambidextrous player could wield a hockey stick equally well with either hand.

anchorage

(say **ang**-kuh-rij)

noun a place where you can anchor a boat:

They tried to find a sheltered anchorage for the yacht during the storm.

asthma

(say **ass**-muh)

noun a breathing disorder which causes difficulty in breathing, coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest:

She found that swimming helped her breathing and she had fewer attacks of asthma.

bantamweight

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **ban**-tuhm-wayt)

noun a boxer weighing between 51 and 54 kg (amateur):

The boxer had lost weight and was now classified as a bantamweight.

buoyant

(say **boy**-uhnt)

adjective tending to float or rise in a fluid:

This rubber ring will keep you buoyant in the water.

carbohydrate

(say kah-buh-**huy**-drayt)

noun a chemical compound containing oxygen, hydrogen and carbon:

Sugar is a carbohydrate.

catapult

(say **kat**-uh-pult)

noun a Y-shaped stick with a length of elastic joined to the prongs, used for shooting stones at things:

In some shooting competitions, a small catapult is used to launch targets into the air.

chiropractor

(say **kuy**-ruh-prak-tuh)

noun someone trained to treat back pain and other types of illness by massaging and adjusting the spine:

The footballer's back felt much better after a few sessions with the chiropractor.

circumnavigate

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

verb to sail round something:

The contestants in the sailing race had to circumnavigate the island.

guernsey

(say **gern**-zee)

noun a close-fitting knitted jumper, often worn by sailors, footballers, and so on:

Each member of the team wore a red and white guernsey.

gumption

(say **gump**-shuhn)

noun initiative or resourcefulness:

It took a lot of gumption to play again after losing so badly.

gymkhana

(say jim-**kah**-nuh)

noun horseriding events with games and contests:

Sam rode her horse every day, practising for the gymkhana.

jodhpurs

(say **jod**-puhz)

plural noun riding trousers which are close-fitting below the knee:

She pulled on her jodhpurs and walked to the stables.

muscly

(say **muss**-uh-lee)

adjective If someone is **muscly**, they have big muscles, and are usually very strong:

My brother became very muscly after several months of weight training at the gym.

nemesis

(say **nem**-uh-suhs)

noun someone or something that brings a defeat or punishment:

She had to play her nemesis in the semifinal -- she had never beaten her and was very nervous.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

oxygenate

(say **ok**-suh-juh-nayt)

verb to treat or combine with oxygen:

The therapist maintained that the exercises would help to oxygenate the blood. Also, oxygenise.

physicality

(say fiz-uh-**kal**-uh-tee)

noun physical character or presence, especially when causing a strong awareness of physical strength:

The opposing players could sense his physicality when he strode onto the oval.

physiology

(say fiz-ee-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the science concerned with the bodies of living things and how they work:

An important part of sports medicine is a thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

physiotherapy

(say fiz-ee-oh-**the**-ruh-pee)

noun the treatment of disease and injuries by physical means such as massage and exercise:

She had five sessions of physiotherapy to strengthen her injured knee.

poultice

(say **pohl**-tuhs)

noun a soft, moist mass of bread, meal, linseed, and so on, applied to the body as a means of curing an ailment:

He applied a poultice to his wound to reduce the swelling.

quadriceps

(say **kwod**-ruh-seps)

noun the great muscle of the front of the thigh, which stretches the leg and is considered as having four heads or origins:

He strained his quadriceps during the football game.

recruitment

(say ruh-**krooht**-muhnt)

noun the act of enlisting people to join some kind of organisation:

Her job involves the recruitment of new players for the team.

respiratory

(say **res**-pruh-tree or res-**pi**-ruh-tree)

adjective relating to respiration or breathing:

The swimmer did breathing exercises to increase her respiratory capacity.

somersault

(say **sum**-uh-solt)

noun A **somersault** is a way of putting your head down and rolling your body forward over your head:

She could do a triple somersault off the diving board.

spherical

(say **sfe**-ruh-kuhl)

adjective having the shape of a sphere or ball:

Soccer is played with a spherical ball, unlike Rugby.

statistician

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say stat-uh-**stish**-uhn)

noun someone who compiles statistics:

A statistician analysed the cricket results from the past twenty years.

strenuous

(say **stren**-yooh-uhs)

adjective needing a great effort:

Weightlifting is a very strenuous exercise.

therapeutic

(say the-ruh-**pyooh**-tik)

adjective relating to the treatment of disease or pain:

The physiotherapist used therapeutic massage to treat the gymnast's sore back.

trifecta

(say truy-**fek**-tuh)

noun a form of betting in which the first three placegetters in a particular race must be selected in the correct order:

My dad won the trifecta at the Melbourne Cup.

Senior Sport Level 6

adjudicator

(say uh-**jooh**-duh-kay-tuh)

noun someone who acts as a judge, especially in a debate or other competition:

The adjudicator for the gymnastics competition is a former world champion.

annihilate

(say uh-**nuy**-uh-layt)

verb to destroy or defeat completely:

Our coach told us the aim was to enjoy the game, not to annihilate the opposition.

arabesque

(say a-ruh-**besk**)

noun a position in ballet in which one leg is stretched behind and the body lowered forward:

A ballet dancer has to do a lot of practice to master the perfect arabesque.

buoyancy

(say **boy**-uhn-see)

noun the power to float or rise in a liquid:

The way a canoe floats is a good example of buoyancy.

cartilage

(say **kah**-tuh-lij)

noun a firm elastic tissue found in various parts of the body:

The basketball player was in a lot of pain when he tore the cartilage in his knee.

commentator

(say **kom**-uhn-tay-tuh)

noun a writer or broadcaster who comments on news, or describes sporting events, etc:

The cricket commentator knew an amazing amount of detailed information about the game and the players.

diaphragm

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **duy**-uh-fram)

noun the sheet of muscle inside your body between the chest and abdomen:

The weightlifter did some exercises for his diaphragm before the contest.

elimination

(say uh-lim-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the state of being removed from something such as a contest:

If we lose this game we face elimination from the competition.

orienteering

(say o-ree-uhn-**teer**-ring)

noun a sport in which you have to find your way as quickly as possible over a difficult course, using maps and compasses:

Bring a compass and running shoes for the orienteering competition.

parachute

(say **pa**-ruh-shooht)

noun a large piece of cloth which opens out in a round shape, used to slow down the fall of someone jumping from an aircraft:

The skydiver's parachute drifted towards the ground.

physique

(say fuh-**zeek**)

noun the shape of someone's body:

After months of working out at the gym, his physique had become quite muscular.

pirouette

(say pi-rooh-**et**)

noun a quick turn in a dance, often on tiptoe:

He managed to execute a wobbly pirouette, but decided that ballet was not for him.

relegation

(say rel-uh-**gay**-shuhn)

noun being sent to some lower position, place, or condition:

If we lose Saturday's game, we face relegation to a lower division.

ricochet

(say **rik**-uh-shay)

verb to hit something, bounce away and fly off in another direction:

His bad aim caused the ball to hit the wall and ricochet into the bushes.

rogaining

(say roh-**gayn**-ing)

noun a competitive sport involving cross-country navigation over long distances and entailing movement both by day and night:

*In rogaining, teams of two to five people visit as many checkpoints as they wish in a set time period. Compare **orienteering**.*

thoroughbred

(say **thu**-ruh-bred)

adjective of pure or unmixed breed, as a horse or other animal:

She was an experienced breeder of thoroughbred racehorses.

Senior Sport Level 7

impuissance

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Senior Wordlists Annotated.

(say im-**pwee**-suhns)

noun feebleness or weakness:

He had a feeling of impuissance in the face of his much larger and stronger opponent.

indefatigable

(say in-duh-**fat**-uh-guh-buhl)

adjective incapable of being tired out:

The marathon runner continued at her steady pace, seemingly indefatigable.

indomitable

(say in-**dom**-uh-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be subdued or overcome:

She trained for hours each day with indomitable determination.

sciatica

(say suy-**at**-ik-uh)

noun pain and tenderness in the hip and thigh:

He has suffered from sciatica since he fell from his horse.